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## Spring Forward

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Sunday for  
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Time*



## A Pathway to Return

*Housing  
reserved for  
displaced  
residents*

See story, page 5

# Portland Observer

Volume XLVII • Number 10



www.portlandobserver.com  
Wednesday • March 7, 2018



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PHOTO BY BEVERLY CORBELL/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Estefania Tapia (left), one of the music teachers helping keep alive an after-school band program at Jefferson High School, fills in on vocals during a dress rehearsal of the Pacific Northwest Show Band, held recently at the school, drawing students from all over the metro area. Tapia is also director of the Sounds of Jefferson band, created just for Jefferson High students.

# School Band on a Lifeline

## Sounds of Jefferson is back; but program needs funds

BY BEVERLY CORBELL  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

In the 1970s, Jefferson High was a performing arts school with a thriving school band, the Sounds of Jefferson. Today, the focus is on college prep academics and the school's highly-rated dance program is the only remnant of those days.

Back then, the school's music program was created and run by Jim Little. He said the school band was

a huge success with hundreds of kids involved, from elementary school on up. Now he's trying to do it all over again, but this time, as an after-school program.

"The reality is that it's going to be a long time before it's an in-school program (at Jefferson), so the best shot we have is for an after-school program, and I'm a believer in after-school programs," he said.

Serving inner north and northeast Portland, Jefferson High has traditionally been a school that has in-

cluded and attracted African American students, who comprise more than half the student body.

Luwam Solomon, who is black, rides a bus for an hour each day just to go to Jefferson, and now as a singer with the Sounds of Jefferson, she's getting a music education as well, Little said.

But the band is in danger of folding because of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



# The Week in Review



## The Shape of Water Wins Big at the Academy Awards

The love story fantasy 'The Shape of Water' snagged four Oscars at the 90th Academy Awards Sunday, including best picture and best director. Frances McDormand won best actress for her role in 'Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri,' Gary Oldman won best actor for 'Darkest Hour,' and Kobe Bryant won an Oscar for his short animated film 'Dear Basketball.'

## Downtown O'Bryant Square Plaza Closed for Safety

O'Bryant Square, a small downtown park, will be closed indefinitely due to safety concerns with the parking garage below the site, city officials announced Monday. The parking structure was temporarily closed back in September, but engineers recently found additional problems.

## Hundreds of Students Rally at Capital for Gun Control

Hundreds of high school students, carrying signs and clamoring for gun control, traveled to Oregon's state capital in Salem Monday as they joined a swelling tide of activism in the wake of the recent deadly Florida school shooting.

## Gov. Brown Signs Law to End Gun Loophole

On Monday, Gov. Kate Brown signed into law a bill banning possession of guns and ammunition by people convicted of domestic abuse and under restraining orders. The bill closed a loophole in a 2015 law that excluded some abusers from the ban, such as boyfriends who abuse partners they don't live with.

## TriMet Begins Service for Three New Bus Lines

TriMet launched three new bus lines on Monday, with services to Beaverton, east Portland and Gresham. Ribbon cutting ceremonies were held to celebrate the largest expansion of bus service the public transportation agency has had in years.

## Hardesty Steps Down from NAACP for Election Race

Activist Jo Ann Hardesty resigned as president of the Portland NAACP last week to avoid a conflict with the organization's rules as she runs for election to the Portland City Council. The civil rights group has a policy requiring its officers to step aside if they run for political office.

## Net Neutrality in Oregon Passes Legislature

A local version of net neutrality passed both houses in the Oregon Legislature last week and is headed for the governor's desk. The bill would prevent public bodies such as state and local governments and school districts, from contracting with broadband providers that engage in "paid prioritization." Three students from Mt. Tabor Middle School testified in support of the measure.



Jordan Peele became the first African American to win an Oscar for best original screenplay for his film 'Get Out,' at Sunday's 90th annual Academy Awards. (AP photo)

# 'Get Out' Writer Wins Oscar

Writer and director Jordan Peele, 39, made movie history Sunday by becoming the first African American to win an Academy Award for best original screenplay for the movie 'Get Out.'

"I stopped writing this movie about 20 times...I thought it was impossible," the former sketch comedy star said while accepting

the award. "I want to dedicate this to all the people who raised my voice and let me make this movie."

The film, which satires racism, was a box office smash and critical darling when it hit theaters one year ago. It was also the first time a black writer-director hit \$100 million in revenues with their debut film.

"Get Out" previously brought Peele a Directors Guild award; best feature and best writer awards at the Independent Spirit Awards; and for best original screenplay by the Writers Guild of America.

The Academy also nominated "Get Out" for best picture and Peele for best director.

# Rebuke to Arming Teachers

## Union leaders speak out against the idea

BY DANNY PETERSON  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The idea of arming some teachers with guns as a response to the rising number of school shootings across the country is drawing a rebuke from community leaders, including the union presidents of



Daryl Turner



Suzanne Cohen

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

The Portland Observer

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PUBLISHER: Mark Washington, Sr.

EDITOR: Michael Leighton

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Office Manager/Classifieds: Lucinda Baldwin

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This page  
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What's on your list today?



PHOTOS BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Pastor Rose Franks of Hughes Memorial United Methodist Church delivers a sack lunch to Paul Joseph as part of a feeding and clothing drive for the homeless.

## Feeding the Hungry

### Church helps by fixing hundreds of sandwiches

The Hughes Memorial United Methodist Church congregation in northeast Portland is upping the ante when it comes to their assistance feeding and clothing the homeless.

Under the leadership of Pastor Rose Franks, church volunteers have been able to increase the number of lunches they prepare each month to ease hunger from their shelter-less neighbors, from 50 lunch sacks, to up to 200 bags, in

addition to occasional socks, hats, gloves, and coats.

Since December 2015, church members have been meeting every fourth Saturday of the month to prepare and deliver the meals to homeless areas around town.

"After so many years of watching homeless and hungry people outside in our community it was time now to stop talking and watching and act," said Janette Rucker,

pastor assistant. "Our goal is end the homelessness."

In the future, the church wishes to increase its monthly outreach to once a week, also on Saturdays.

To inquire about the Hughes Memorial homeless outreach program, visit the church at 111 N.E. Failing St. or get in touch with Pastor Franks at 503-200-0846, or visit [hughesmemorialumc.org](http://hughesmemorialumc.org) for more information.



Hughes Memorial United Methodist Church volunteers prepare sandwiches every fourth Saturday of the month for donations to the homeless. The northeast Portland church hopes to expand the effort to as much as weekly in the future.

## Portland Teams Play for State

Four Portland schools are competing for a state championship in basketball this week with the Oregon 6A tournaments for boys and girls being held at the University of Portland in north Portland.

On the boys' side, defending champion Jefferson (24-3) will face off against Jesuit (21-5) on Thursday at 1:30 p.m. The Dem-

ocrats will be without star player, junior guard Marcus Tsohonis, because of a broken finger he sustained in a playoff win last Saturday against Grants Pass.

Lincoln (12-5) will face off against Southridge (23-3) at 6:30 p.m. Thursday; and Grant (22-4) will follow the contest with an 8:15 p.m. matchup against West

Salem (18-7). On the girls' side, Benson (21-5) faces Tigard (23-3) on Wednesday at 8:15 p.m.

Quarterfinal and final games will be played Friday and Saturday, March 9 and 10. All games will be carried live by the Oregon School Activities Association. Visit [osaa.org/media](http://osaa.org/media) to view the streams and broadcasts.





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Angela Jenkins, Executive Director, KBMS-AM 1480 Radio Station

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# School Band on a Lifeline

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

lack of funding. The Sounds of Jefferson had about 14 members last year, but this year the number has dropped to five. Little hopes that more funding can get more kids to join up and encourage more parental and staff support.

But there's more to the story. After several years at Jefferson, Little went on to head the music program at Portland Community College's Cascade Campus. He then moved to California to work in the music industry and started a performing band for young people, the Heatwave Jazz and Show Band, which toured regularly and in 2016, and even performed at the Newport Jazz Festival.

The Heatwave band performed at Jefferson about four years ago at the invitation of Vice Principal Ricky Allen, and about a year later Little started a Portland chapter, the Pacific Northwest Heatwave Show Band, based at Jefferson. Then he re-started the Sounds of Jefferson at the school.

The 15 members of Heatwave come from all over the Portland metro area, and although the Heatwave organization is nonprofit, there is still a \$75 monthly charge for high school students. Graduates are welcome for free. But Little wants to keep the Sounds of Jefferson free for all kids.

The problem is lack of money. Fundraisers and a gofundme campaign last year raised only about half the \$10,000 needed annually, so Heatwave has been underwriting Sounds of Jefferson.

But Heatwave is going into

debt as a result even though resources are shared, said Sounds of Jefferson Director Estefania Tapia. To raise funds to help keep both programs alive, a gofundme account has been set up at [gofundme.com/heatwavemusicproject](http://gofundme.com/heatwavemusicproject).

"We feel like if we get the funding it would get the Jefferson band off the ground," she said. "And if we had a general startup to fund both bands, it would benefit everyone."

Money raised would be used for instruments and repairs, instructor's salaries, funding for Pacific Northwest Heatwave to go on tour this spring, and to start funding for Sounds of Jefferson to tour in 2019, she said.

The program is also good for students because they can learn and perform music as an extracurricular without affecting their academic standards.

Little said many who went through the earlier Jefferson music program went on to successful careers in music, and two members of last year's Sounds of Jefferson band are now majoring in music at the University of Oregon.

Tyler Barcos, who graduated from the Vancouver School of Arts and Academics last year, said being involved with both Sounds of Jefferson and Heatwave is also helping him pursue his dreams. He has a little studio in his room where he composes and records, he plays trombone and trumpet, and he like jazz and funk.

"I'm one of the more senior people, so I can help others," he said. "My ultimate goal is to start working on the technical side of the music industry, producing and being a sound technician, and still composing,"

he said.

Jefferson High junior Daria Stallions, who plays flute and saxophone, came out of a classical music background at Hosford Middle School in north Portland and is a member of Sounds of Jefferson. Although she's not planning a career in music, she said the benefits are far reaching for other fields.

"Just the experience of performing and gigs and setting things up and taking them apart, you develop skills to know how to do that, and it helps you in life," she said.

Little said the experience the kids get performing and practicing can have similar end results to that all-time favorite extracurricular activity — sports.

"It's like athletics. If you want to get any kind of baseball scholarship, or basketball, or girls' volleyball ball or swimming, you have to be on a traveling team," he said. "I've seen other (after school) music programs that are unbelievable successful, throughout the country."

The gofundme campaign is just part of fundraising, and Heatwave will present a showcase fundraiser at Jefferson on Saturday, March 10.

A dress rehearsal at the school auditorium proved that the band is performance ready. As an R&B cover band, the flawless performance rivaled any Las Vegas show band, with Tapia belting it out as one of the vocalists.

There were only a dozen or so folks in the audience, but if the performance had been before a packed auditorium, the applause would have been deafening for outstanding renditions of classics like "Proud Mary" and "Signed, Sealed, Delivered" as well songs from Bruno Mars and Tower of Power.

When Pacific Northwest Heatwave hits the road next month for a March 29 through April 3 tour, they'll perform mostly in schools, but will also have a recording session at EastWest Studio in Hollywood. Their biggest event will be a performance at the famed Whisky A Go Go in Los Angeles, Little said.

"It's a huge rock and roll venue and we're a R&B cover band, so we're really excited to get that gig," he said.

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# A Pathway to Return



PHOTO BY DANNY PETERSON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A ground breaking ceremony on North Williams Avenue celebrates the future site of four new townhouses reserved for low and moderate income families displaced from north and northeast Portland. Pictured (from left) are Travis Phillips and Maxine Fitzpatrick of Portland Community Reinvestment Initiatives, Inc. (PCRI), Albina Construction Co-owner Dennis Harris, and Architect Brett Schultz.

## Housing reserved for displaced residents

BY DANNY PETERSON  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Portland Community Reinvestment Initiatives, Inc. (PCRI) has broken ground on the future site of four new townhomes at North

Williams Avenue and Emerson Street that will be first homes for purchase by first-time homebuyers as part of the non-profit's Pathway 1000 initiative, a 10-year plan to construct 1,000 new affordable homes and rentals.

The housing will be prioritized to low and moderate income families who were involuntarily displaced by urban renewal, redlining and gentrification from north and northeast Portland, the historic heart of Portland's Afri-

can American community. PCRI, an African-American led organization, has provided affordable housing and home-owner services to low-income families since 1992.

It's estimated that over 10,000 African Americans were priced out and displaced from their historic neighborhoods from 2000 to today, the most recent chapter in a decades-long history of displacement in the area, PCRI President Maxine Fitzpatrick recounted in

her opening address at the ceremony.

"Today we start the process of addressing those wrongs and implementing a process of justice. Today we celebrate," she said.

In 2015, PCRI worked with Portland's Housing Bureau to try and atone for the city's gentrification sins by adopting a "right to return" policy to give preference for affordable housing and home loans in the historically black areas to those who've been displaced from there—the first policy of its kind in the nation. The initiative provides city loans of up to \$100,000 for a down payment.

Five households have been able to purchase homes under the experimental policy, called N/NE Neighborhood Housing Strategy.

Fitzpatrick said she and PCRI

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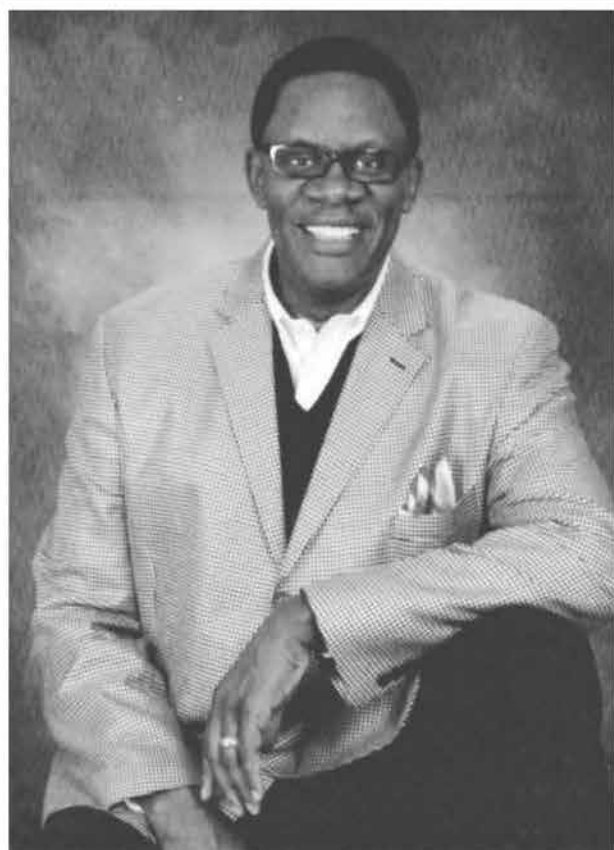
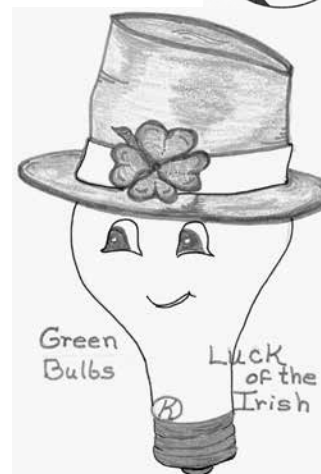


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**A:** According to a recent issue of Computer Medicine, low back surgery is one of the least effective procedures. In fact, 75 to 99% are

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# Exploring Race, Power and Justice

## Forum to address criminal justice alternatives

What if the justice system were focused on repair rather than retribution? What would a system that minimizes suffering look like?

An onstage conversation with a diverse group of Oregonians with deep knowledge of the criminal justice system will be the focus of a public forum by Oregon Humanities on Wednesday, March 14 at 6:30 p.m. at the Alberta Rose Theater, 3000 N.E. Alberta St.

Exploring race, power and justice in Oregon, Rene Denfeld, David Rodgers and Bobbin Singh will talk about alternatives to the status quo. The session is the latest installment of Oregon Humanities' "Think and Drink" series. Minors are welcome



Rene Denfeld



David Rodgers



Bobbin Singh

when accompanied by a parent or guardian. Tickets are \$10 and available at the [albertosetheatre.com](http://albertosetheatre.com). No-cost tickets are also available, and the event will be streamed live at [oregonhumanities.org](http://oregonhumanities.org).

Denfeld is the author of "The Child Finder" and "The Enchanted," two novels inspired by her work as a death penalty investigator. As a former chief investigator at a public defenders' office, she has worked hundreds of indigent cases, including exonerating innocent people from prison.

Rogers is executive director of the ACLU of Oregon. He has more than 25 years of social justice organizing and advocacy experience.

Singh is the founding executive director of Oregon Justice Resource Center, an organization that works to promote civil rights and improve legal representation for communities that have often been underserved in the past, including people living in poverty and people of color. He is a member of the Oregon Council on Civil Rights.



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12 Midnight - 3 A.M.  
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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.  
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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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Successful foster parents have two things in common: they have a desire to help children, and they are flexible – they know how to roll with the punches. Most importantly, foster families need to provide safe, stable and caring homes for children.

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# Rebuke to Arming Teachers

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Portland’s police officers and public school teachers.

Daryl Turner, the president of the Portland Police Association, said that such a move would pose serious risks and likely add to the chaos and confusion during a school shooting.

“In an active shooter incident, having teachers running around a school with guns while law enforcement enters the building could make it difficult for us to differentiate between the good guys and the bad guys. It would increase the risk of innocent people—children, other teachers, and police officers—being injured or killed,” Turner said.

Portland Association of Teachers President and educator Suzanne Cohen told the Portland Observer Tuesday that arming teachers still operates under the assumption that mass shootings in schools and other public places

is considered normal.

“When I was a kid in school, we didn’t practice hiding in closets. When I started my teaching career, we didn’t have these drills,” Cohen said.

“We all need to stop being uncomfortable to talk about ending gun violence. It’s not political to end gun violence, we need to work together to figure that out.”

Cohen said that instead of arming teachers, assault rifle bans and common sense legislation should be put in place to mitigate tragedies in the future.

President Trump and the National Rifle Association are calling for arming pro-gun teachers in response to the mass shooting at a high school in Parkland, Fla. where 17 were killed with an AR-15, semi-automatic assault rifle last month.

Turner said that because a teacher’s job is to educate children, “It would be hard for the vast majority to quickly be-

come highly skilled marksmen equipped for a confusing, rapidly unfolding crisis.”

ABC News also reported last week that a recent study conducted from the National Bureau of Economic Research discredited the “good guy with a gun” solution to gun violence. It showed that, in states that had laws allowing citizens to carry handguns, an increase of 13 to 15 percent in violent crimes occurred by the 10th year.

A study conducted by the FBI in 2014 also showed that, between the years 2000 and 2013, most civilians who safely stopped a mass shooter were unarmed.

Turner, who also represents a bi-partisan law enforcement advocacy group, calls on lawmakers to ban gun modification equipment that can make weapons more deadly, enhance sentences for those who commit mass shootings, and enforce existing gun laws.



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## Obituary

### In Loving Memory

#### Stanley Wheeler

Our beloved father and husband, Stanley Wheeler, aka Big Stan, passed away on his 67th birthday, Feb. 5, 2018 in Vancouver. He was born in Shreveport, Louisiana in 1951 to Mae Bell Bristo Wheeler.

In 1981, he married Denise, and together they raised their two daughters, Talischia and Sharnelle. After 37 years with Tri-Met, Stan retired as a road operations supervisor.

He is survived by his wife Denise Wheeler, son Imil Wheeler, daughters Talischia Tupper and Sharnelle Niedermeyer, son-in-law Luke Niedermeyer, granddaughter N’Dea Wheeler of New Jersey, and grandsons Donatello Tupper, Braylon Hall, D’Angelo Tupper, Lincoln Niedermeyer and Sawyer Niedermeyer. He is predeceased by his mother Mae Bell, sister Jessie Mae Casey, and brother Willie Clyde Gray.

A memorial service under the direction of the Terry Family Funeral Home will be held Thursday, March 8 at 11 a.m. at the North Portland Eagles Lodge, 7611 N. Exeter.



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## Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



An intimate portrait of an African-American family from Philadelphia, facing the same issues of inequality and neglect that plagues so much of America's urban landscape, is captured in the documentary "Quest," which gets a Northwest Film Center screening over three nights at the Portland Art Museum.

## Moving Portrait of Black Life

The Northwest Film Center brings one the year's most incisive, tender portraits of life in America with the screening of "Quest," a documentary that follows a black family living in Philadelphia during the Obama presidency.

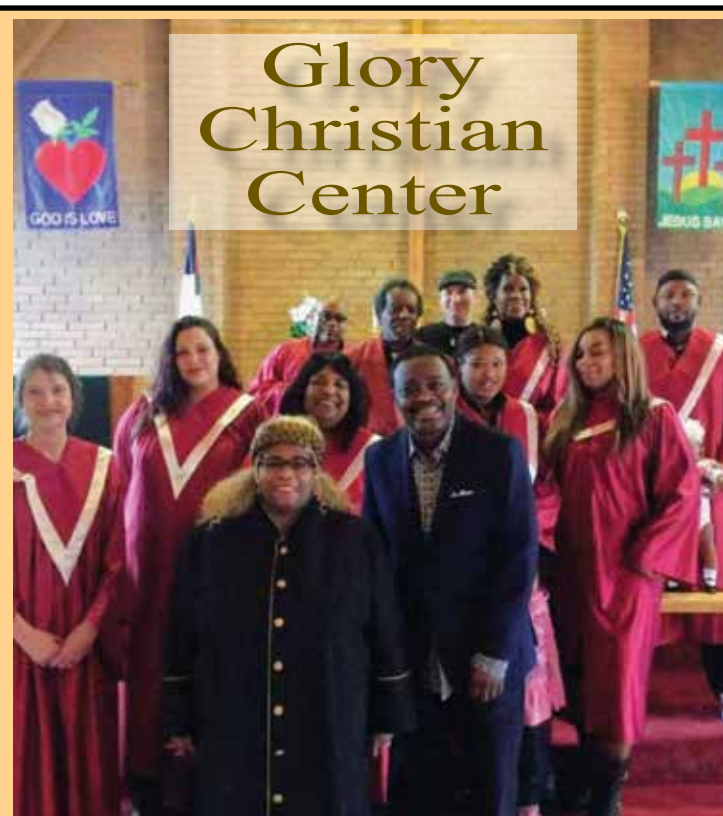
The debut documentary, by film director Jonathon Olshefski, follows Christopher "Quest" Rainey, a pillar of the local hip-

hop community who uses his basement studio to give young rappers a shot, while his wife Christine's ("Ma Quest") works at a local health care facility. Their studio space acts as a refuge from the harsh streets, but those same streets send the family into crisis at points, as random violence affects their lives.

In the end, however, the Rainey's strong familial bonds

rise above, and Quest—shot over a 10-year period—gracefully lets us in on a look at one family's deeply felt experience of this historic period in American life.

"Quest" shows at 7 p.m. on Friday, March 10, Saturday, March 10 and Sunday, March 10 at Whitsell Auditorium at the Portland Art Museum, downtown. Tickets are \$9 general, \$8 for students and seniors and \$6 for children.



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## Playhouse Reopens with 'Scarlet'

Condemned by her community, Hester fights to build a life for her and her daughter in puritan Boston in "Scarlet," the first Portland Playhouse production returning to their newly restored performance venue in northeast Portland.

Funny, sweet, and heroic; this new musical based on Nathaniel Hawthorne's "The Scarlet Letter" stars Rebecca Teran, Isaac Lamb, Susannah Mars, Darius Pierce, Dana Green and many other Portland favorites.

Opening night is Saturday, March 9 with shows to continue through March 25. Portland Playhouse is located in a former historic church at 602 N.E. Prescott St. For tickets, visit portlandplayhouse.org.



Rebecca Teran stars in "Scarlet," a new play taking a page from an American classic showing this month at the newly restored Portland Playhouse in northeast Portland.





PHOTO BY FELIPE RUIZ

# Another Undefeated Season

*Congratulations to the Portland Observer Ballers, a sixth grade youth basketball team from north and northeast Portland playing in the Portland Parks and Recreation league. The team finished the season without a loss, the second straight year it went undefeated! Pictured with the team players are coaches Mark Washington (left) and Jeff Ta (right).*



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# Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



Frank Boyd is a DJ with a burning obsession for American jazz in "the Holler Sessions," showing Thursday, March 8 through Sunday, March 11 at Artists Repertory theatre, downtown.

## Burning Obsession for Jazz

One man's burning obsession for American jazz takes center stage when Artists Rep presents "The Holler Sessions," written, directed and performed by Frank Boyd in collaboration with the Brooklyn-based theatre ensemble,

"the Team."

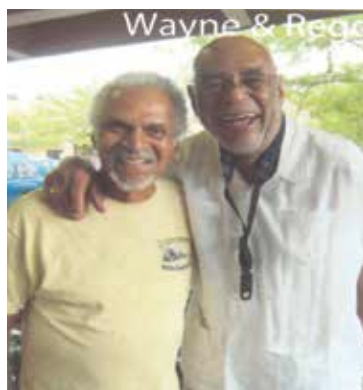
Staged as a live radio show, an explosive Kansas City DJ named Ray broadcasts his articulate, profane and impassioned love of jazz from his shoddy studio for an 80-minute music-filled interactive

experience that ends with a surprise live musical performance.

"The Holler Sessions" will run for only four performances, Thursday through Sunday, March 8-11. Tickets are \$25. For more information, visit [artistsrep.org](http://artistsrep.org).



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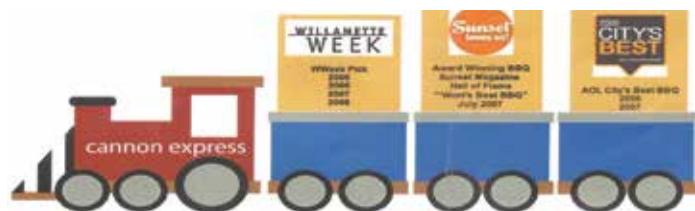


PHOTO BY MICHAEL DURHAM, COURTESY OF THE OREGON ZOO

Eddie, the Oregon Zoo's geriatric sea otter can still dunk with the best of them.

## Geriatric Otter Loves Hoops

Eddie, the Oregon Zoo's ultra-geriatric sea otter, turned 20 Friday, but keepers and basketball experts agree: He can still dunk with the best of them and might even have the highest shooting percentage in town.

"Male sea otters seldom live

past 15 years, so Eddie's among the oldest of his kind," said Nicole Nicassio-Hiskey, the zoo's senior marine life keeper. "He still loves to play hoops though, and he's definitely still got game."

Animal-care staff trained Eddie to dunk a toy basketball as thera-

py for his arthritic elbow joints in 2012. A video about his behind-the-scenes exercise routine went viral the following year, clocking more than 1.7 million views on the zoo's YouTube channel, and making him one of the most famous animals on the Internet.

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# Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

## BUSINESS Guide

### Women in Film Series

— A talented and gregarious soul singer struggles to find her health and voice again in “Miss Sharon Jones,” playing Saturday, March 10 at



9:15 p.m. and one of more than dozen movies to get a screening for Women's History Month during the month of March at the Hollywood Theater in northeast Portland.

For a complete schedule, visit [hollywoodtheatre.org](http://hollywoodtheatre.org).

### Everybody Reads

— Multnomah County Library's 16th annual community reading program is underway with 5,750 copies of Moshin Hamid's 'Exit West' now being distributed across the district so readers and students can engage with the book's themes of safety, migration, displacement and conflict. Hamid will speak on Thursday, April 5 at 7:30 p.m. at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall in a public talk presented by Literary Arts.



**Norman Sylvester** — ‘Boogie Cat’ Norman Sylvester plays Friday, March 9 at the C I Bar and Grill in Tualatin; Saturday, March 10 at the Spare Room; Friday, March 16 at the Vinyl Tap; Friday, March 23 at Clyde's; Saturday, March 24 at the Rogue Pub in North Plains; and Saturday, March 31 at the Half Penny in Salem.

### Love in Unlikely Places



ress and Ryan Vincent Anderson as the policeman in “Kodachrome,” a world premiere play about characters trying

ing to connect. Now playing through March 18 at the Armory, downtown. Tickets start at \$25.

### Collision with Gentrification

— Portland's African-American producing theater company PassinArt presents “Two Trains Running” by August Wilson, this month at the Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center, 5340 N. Interstate Ave. The play paints a vivid portrait of everyday lives in the shadow of economic de-



velopment and gentrification in the 1960s.

Shows Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 3 p.m. For tickets and more information, visit [passinart.org](http://passinart.org).

**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.

**Voyage to Vietnam** — Portland Children's Museum promotes the understanding of Vietnam culture and showcases the traditions, customs and values exemplified by the country's annual celebration of Tet with Voyage to Vietnam: Celebrating the Tet Festival. The new exhibit runs through May 6.



**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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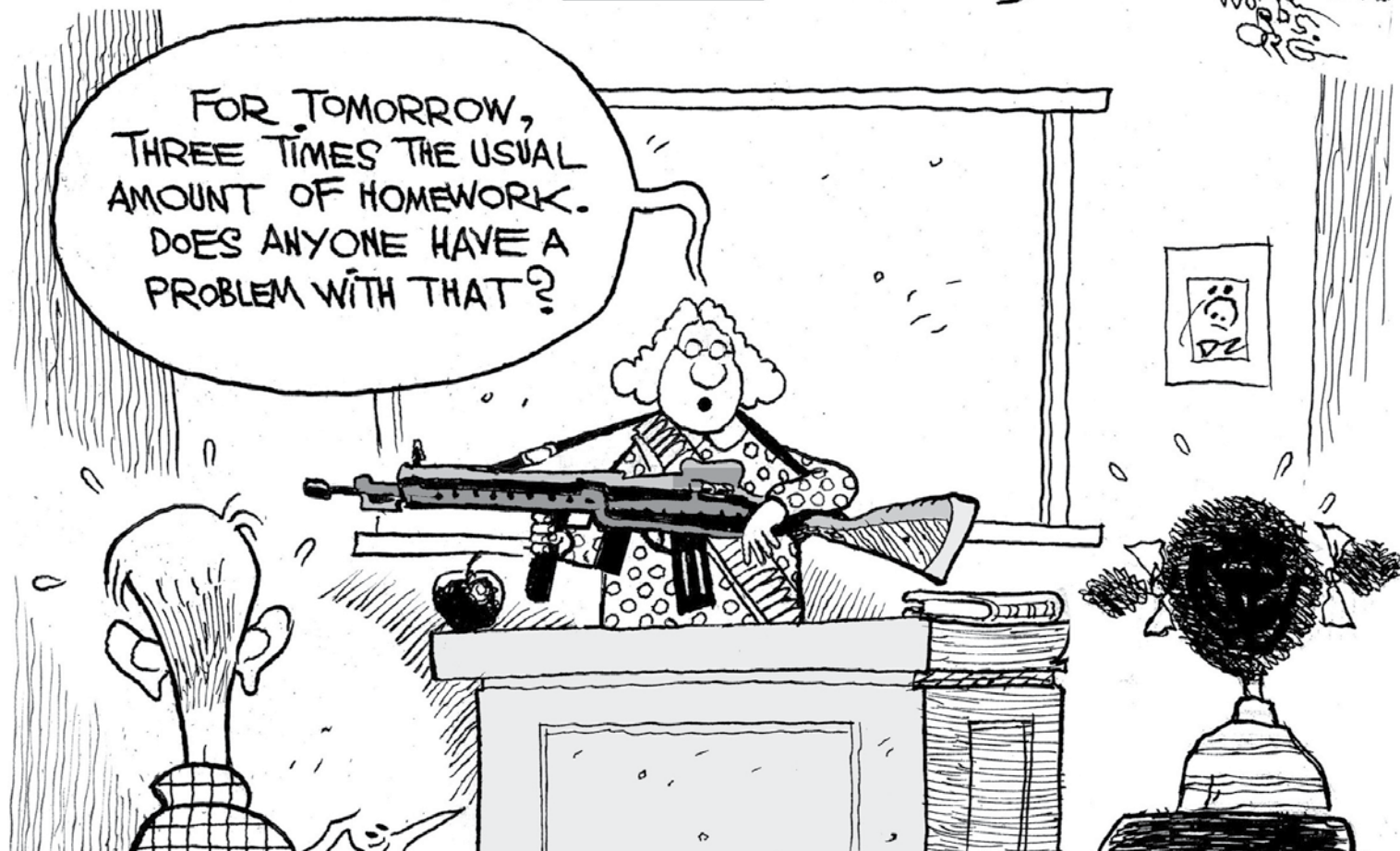
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# OPINION

MOST BRILLIANT SCHEME BY A LAW-AND-ORDER PRESIDENT EVER:

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(NOT ONLY A GAME CHANGER IN TERMS OF STUDENT SAFETY,  
BUT THINK OF THE DISCIPLINE INSTILLED!...)



## Courage and Political Will in the Gun Reform Debate

### Advocacy grows after latest school shooting

BY MARC H. MORIAL

Nearly 20 years ago, in the wake of what was then the worst school mass shooting, I led a bipartisan group of mayors urging Congress to pass major gun reform legislation.

The Gun Violence Task Force of the U.S. Conference of Mayors, of which I was president, called for reforms including raising the minimum age for purchasing and possessing a handgun from 18 to 21, requiring background checks at guns shows and limiting gun purchases to one a month per individual.

As horrified as we were then, just after the Columbine shooting in 1999, we could

not have imagined the next 19 years would bring not reforms, but even more lenient gun laws; another 200-plus school shootings, and more than 122 students, teachers and coaches slain.



The Everytown for Gun Safety coalition, to which National Urban League belongs, has tallied the number of school shootings so far in 2018 at 17. The number is disputed by those who believe accidental gunfire should not be counted, but what a tragic statistic over which to haggle.

Mass shootings garner headlines but gun violence kills an average of 96 Americans every single day. We need reform at every level. The National Urban League supports:

A criminal background check for every gun sale. States that require background checks for all handgun sales see about half the rate of firearm deaths

among domestic violence victims, law enforcement in the line of duty and suicides, and about half as much gun trafficking in cities.

Renewal of the Public Safety and Recreational Firearms Use Protection Act, commonly known as the assault weapons ban. The AR-15 rifle, used in many of the deadliest recent mass shootings, uses 30-round magazines, allowing a shooter to fire about a hundred rounds per minute.

Keeping guns out of the hands of convicted domestic abusers. Half the women killed with guns in the U.S. are murdered by their partners – about 50 women every month. More than half of mass shootings involved the killing of a partner or relative.

Education, technology and laws that keep guns out of the hands of children. American children are 16 times more likely to die via gunshot than in other developed countries,

usually as a result of playing with a gun in their own homes.

A strong federal trafficking law to crack down on illegal gun trafficking networks. Ninety percent of the guns found at crime scenes in New York City were originally bought out of state and brought to the city illegally. The current law that prohibits “selling guns without a federal license,” carries the same punishment as trafficking chicken or livestock.

For those of us who’ve long been engaged in the fight to reform our nations gun laws, the movement that has arisen in the wake of last month’s Parkland, Fla. shooting has brought both inspiration and hope.

Nothing stands in the way of common sense reform but our own lack of courage and political will. The teenagers of Parkland have both.

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



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

## Lasting Effects of Shirley Chisholm's Legacy

### Black women taking aim at the status quo



BY KELLY DITTMAR AND  
GLYNDA CARR

Fifty years ago, Shirley Chisholm campaigned successfully to become the first black woman in Congress. Four years later, she became the first woman of color and the first African American to win delegate votes at a major party presidential convention. Throughout her presidential campaign, she attracted voters to the "Chisholm Trail" with her motto and reputation of being "unbought and unbossed."

But Chisholm's trailblazing didn't end with her presidential defeat. She served in Congress for another decade and left a

legacy with lasting effects to this day.

The 2018 elections will mark another stop on the Chisholm Trail, where black women are poised to build on Chisholm's legacy of leadership, determination, and desire to disrupt the status quo. Amidst reports of the "surge" of women running in 2018 are lack women candidates at every level, including some with the potential to make history. Perhaps most notably, 2018 could see the election of the first black woman governor in the United States.

The potential to harness and expand black women's political power is not limited to candidates this year. Black women voted at the highest rates of any race and gender group in both the 2008 and 2012 presidential elections, and again in the 2017 special U.S. Senate election in Alabama. If that race is any guide, black women voters appear mobilized to turn out in high numbers again in 2018.

But before we can measure progress for black women in election 2018, we need to take

stock of black women's current political power. That's why the Center for American Women and Politics and the Higher Heights Leadership Fund teamed up again to release "The Chisholm Effect: Black Women in American Politics 2018."

The report outlines the status of black women in American politics today. Despite being 7.3 percent of the U.S. population, black women are less than 5 percent of officeholders elected to statewide executive offices, Congress, and state legislatures. Black women are 5 of the mayors in the nation's top 100 most populous cities.

Since Chisholm served as the sole black woman in Congress, 38 black women have served in Congress from 16 states, including 2 black women senators. Over the same half-century, 12 black women have been elected to statewide executive office. These numbers are small when considered within the 50-year context, but the pace of advancement in recent years marks momentum to

build upon.

Ten of the 12 black women who have served in statewide elected executive office have held office in the past two decades. In 1990, just one Black woman served in Congress; 18 years later, that number is up to 19. In just the last 5 years, 8 black women have been elected mayor in the 100 most populous cities in the U.S. And just this year, Sheila Oliver became the first Democratic black woman lieutenant governor nationwide.

This momentum will only continue - and increase - with work. Black women are doing the work every day to engage their communities in the political process, to make their own voices heard, and to take their seats at the tables of governance. Organizations like Higher Heights are working to amplify those voices and hold political leaders accountable for inclusion. And, with Higher Heights, the Center for American Women and Politics is continuing to conduct research and programs that both identify and

tackle barriers to black women's political progress.

But the work doesn't stop with us. Recognizing the imperative of black women's political inclusion is a responsibility we all share. When Chisholm was campaigning amidst war, social unrest, and crises of leadership, she argued, "At present, our country needs women's idealism and determination, perhaps more in politics than anywhere else."

Those words ring especially true today, as our country confronts significant challenges at home and abroad. In this moment, the opportunities for meeting this demand while increasing black women's political power, especially in elected office are great. And we've got some guidance on how to do it in 2018: Follow the Chisholm Trail.

*Kelly Dittmar is an assistant professor of political science and a Center for American Women and Politics scholar; and Glynda Carr is co-founder of Higher Heights for America.*

## Workers See Minimal Impact in Take Home Pay

### The tax scam starts to sink in

BY JOSH HOXIE

It's no fun being scammed.

I distinctly remember looking for my first big city apartment and finding an ad



that looked perfect. Beautiful picture, cheap rent, great location. It sounded too good to be true and, sadly, it was.

Just send a check in the mail, and don't forget to send over your Social Security number, they said. We'll mail you a key.

Fortunately, I didn't take the bait. I've also managed to dodge the countless "Nigerian royalty" looking to make me rich via e-mail, and the endless robo-calls about lowering my

utility bills.

Not everyone is so lucky. If there's one constant of scams, it's that given enough opportunities, they'll get somebody to give up the goods.

Today, that somebody is the United States.

As their W-2s arrive in the mail, U.S. workers are starting to see the minimal impact of the new tax changes passed by Congress late last year. While the budget-busting package was a boon for millionaires, it means next to nothing for ordinary people.

Still, there's a massive public relations campaign being waged right now by Republican donors backing the Trump tax cuts. Make the rich richer, they say, and we'll all benefit.

And while you're at it, they've got some swampland

in Florida for sale.

The Koch Brothers alone will spend \$20 million on ads selling the tax bill. This is a drop in the bucket compared to the \$1.4 billion they stand to gain every year in tax breaks. It's also a tiny fraction of their overall campaign spending on the 2018 midterms elections, which is projected to reach \$400 million.

The Kochs have their work cut out for them. A new poll from Politico shows most workers report seeing no increase in their take home pay after the new tax laws took effect.

This is important.

The whole premise behind adding \$1.5 trillion to the debt, giving massive handouts to the ultra-wealthy, and giving a tax break to the nation's most profitable corporations was that working folks would also get a

bit of cash.

Turns out, they're not seeing that money. But the PR push is having an impact.

While majority of the American people never supported the bill, most polls have shown an uptick in support since December. The most recent poll — from GBA Strategies — found that 44 percent of voters oppose the law, compared to just 40 percent who support it.

The GBA study had another interesting finding: Voters are incredibly susceptible to messaging on this issue. That's why the GOP donor class is spending unprecedented sums on ads.

The tax law is also getting a boost from corporations' public relations departments, who are making splashy announcements about bonuses for their workers.

Many of those bonuses, it turns out, are being doled out to garner political support for the tax bill, not for the benefit of the business or as a thank you to workers. They're also supposed to distract the public from the massive onslaught of layoffs that came in the wake of the tax cuts — from Walmart to Coca-Cola to Comcast and many more.

The Trump tax cuts are a scam, benefiting the wealthy at the expense of everyone else. If you happened to find yourself caught up in the scam, don't blame yourself. The sales pitch was mighty impressive.

But also, don't get scammed twice.

*Josh Hoxie directs the Project on Taxation and Opportunity at the Institute for Policy Studies. Distributed by OtherWords.org.*



# CLASSIFIED/BIDS

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## REQUEST FOR BIDS

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**Bid Date: 2:00 p.m., April 5, 2018**

Metro, a metropolitan service district organized under the laws of the State of Oregon and the Metro Charter, located at 600 NE Grand Avenue, Portland, OR 97232-2736, is hereby inviting sealed bids to replace the roof at the Metro Regional Center.

Sealed bids are due no later than 2:00 p.m., April 5, 2018 in Metro's business offices at 600 NE Grand Avenue, Portland, OR 97232-2736, Attention: Julie Hoffman, Procurement Analyst, ITB 3486. Bids will be opened publicly at that time.

Contractor is to provide all equipment, labor and materials necessary to remove an existing generator and replace several feeders as described in the ITB. There are several related bid alternates.

A voluntary Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled for all potential prime and sub-contractors on March 15, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. at the Oregon Zoo, located at 4001 SW Canyon Rd. Portland, OR 97221, in the Cascade Crest Building, Cascade Grill Lobby. Admission to the Zoo is not required. Please check in with Reception at the far right of the entryway

Solicitation documents can be viewed and downloaded from the Oregon Procurement Information Network (ORPIN) at <http://orpin.oregon.gov/open.dll/>

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**Bids due 2:00pm PST March 23, 2018**

Any Bid received after the specified date and time will not be considered.

Non-mandatory, Pre-Bid Conference will be located at the PDX Conference Center, 7000 Airport Way, St. Helens B Conference Room, on March 16, 2018 at 2:00 PM for answering questions regarding the Scopes of Work on the Project.



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# A Pathway to Return

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

will be working with the Portland Housing Bureau to revise the policy to be more effective and hopes Pathway 1000 will also attract more buyers.

A meeting between Mayor Wheeler and the committee overseeing the strategy is scheduled for later this month to discuss improvements that could be made.

The policy came in the wake of a city-proposed Trader Joe's at the corner of Northeast Martin Luther King Boulevard and Al-

berta Street four years ago, which sparked community outcry of further displacement, and prompted City Commissioner Dan Saltzman and then-Mayor Charlie Hales to pledge \$20 million for housing initiatives.

"We can make amends for some of the thing we've done in the past, as a community," Fitzpatrick told the Portland Observer, as to her aspirations for Pathway 1000. "If we can do this and do it right and give them an opportunity to return to their roots that would be doing the community a good

service."

A home-owner who was placed into housing through PCRI shared her journey at the ceremony of buying her first home, a three bedroom condominium in northeast Portland in July.

Arika Bridgeman-Bunyoli, a health educator for Multnomah County, said she was paying about 45 percent of her income to rent each month and was barely able to keep herself and her two young children afloat financially. In 2012, when she went to the offices of PCRI for help, she was practi-

cally in tears.

"In case there is anyone out there that is struggling on this home-ownership journey, I want you to know that it is possible," Bridgeman-Bunyoli said. "There are going to be challenges, there's going to be set-backs, it's hard. But this is a phenomenal team that's really committed to the community and that will get you through to the other side."

The building site on Williams will accommodate four townhomes with two and three bedrooms, two and three stories each, respectively, and comply with Earth Advantage green building standards.

The homes are scheduled to be completed late 2018 in part-

nership with locally owned Albina Construction, Brett Schultz Architect, and lender Beneficial State Bank, with grants from Wells Fargo Housing Foundation and the Meyer Trust helping to ensure the homes are affordable to low-and-medium-income buyers.

Fitzpatrick thanked the Portland Housing Bureau, Mayor Ted Wheeler, and Commissioner Dan Saltzman, and the PCRI team for their support.

More groundbreaking for Pathway 1,000 homes are slated to occur in the coming months, one on Balendena Avenue and one on the corner of Martin Luther King and Rosa Parks Way, Fitzpatrick said.



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# March

# 2018 CALENDAR

MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY SUNDAY



○ 1  
Share a Smile Day  
Harry Belafonte born, 1927; Singer, actor and civil and human rights activist

2  
Dr. Seuss born, 1904  
Read Across America Day

3  
National Anthem Day  
Inventor Alexander Graham Bell born, 1847

4  
First meeting of Congress (1789)

5  
Boston Massacre (1770)

6  
Artist Michelangelo born, 1475  
Shaquille O'Neal born, 1972; Four-time NBA champion

7  
National Cereal Day  
Telephone Patent Granted (1876)

8  
International Women's Day  
Robert Sabuda born, 1965

☾ 9  
Floyd B. McKissick, Sr. born, 1922; Civil Rights activist, first Black student at the Univ. of N. Carolina

10  
Abolitionist Harriet Tubman Day  
1st Paper Money Issued in 1862

11  
Daylight Savings Time Begins  
Johnny Appleseed Da

12  
Anniversary of the Death of Anne Frank (1945)

13  
Good Samaritan Day  
Uranus Discovered (1781)

14  
Pi Day (3.14)  
Scientist Albert Einstein born, 1879

15  
Absolutely Incredible Kid Day  
Funk music legend Sly Stone born, 1943

16  
James Madison born, 1751 (4th President)

● 17  
St. Patrick's Day  
Nat King Cole born, 1919; Legendary jazz musician and singer

18  
First Walk in Space (1965)  
Grover Cleveland born, 1837 (22nd & 24th President)



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