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years of
community service



N Touch Reunion

Portland
musician brings
back original
players

See Metro, page 9



Ballots Due

Make your
vote count

See Local
News, page 3



Portland Observer

Volume XLVII • Number 18



www.portlandobserver.com
Wednesday • May 9, 2018



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PHOTO BY DANNY PETERSON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Shawn Penney directs planning for Good in the Hood from the King Neighborhood Facility next door to Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary school. To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the naming of the school after King and the 50 years since the civil rights leader's assassination, the multicultural and community wide event will return to adjacent King School Park for this year's celebration in late June.

Multicultural festival
sets course for
annual event

BY BEVERLY CORBELL
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The Good in the Hood music festival and community celebration is making plans for this year's event with a new added focus, a return to a previous venue and a legendary R & B performer.

The multicultural gathering has been going strong for 26 years, but this year to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the naming of Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary school for King and to pay tribute to Portland's civil rights history in the 50 years since King's assassination, the festival will return to adjacent King School

New Focus for Good in the Hood

Park in northeast Portland, June 22-24.

Good in the Hood is also rebounding from racist threats from a year ago when an anonymous letter threatened a bloodbath at the event, which led to increased security by police and event officials, but thankfully no violence resulted.

Shawn Penney, president of Good in the Hood, said the festival was held at King School Park in the past, but then moved

to the larger Lillis Albina City Park to accommodate larger crowds. Last year an estimated 25,000 to 30,000 people attended.

The upcoming celebration won't be pared down and planners expect just as much or more activities, including live bands every day, a big kid's area, multicultural food, crafts, marketplace vendors, the Portland Farmers Market, free health screens, and a lot more.

"It is a smaller park – but we're going to use every square inch and all the streets around will be blocked out," Penney said. "We're looking forward to another great year of bringing communities and families together."

Security will be tight again this year. Last year, police traced a phone call threatening violence to an elderly woman, but determined it was not a credible threat. The source of the threatening letter, however, hasn't been solved and is still under investigation.

The entire King School Park, including the streets on its perimeter will be fenced in and Portland Police as well as private security will make sure fest-goers are safe, Penney said.

"They usually bring their big mobile

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

FRIDAY-SUNDAY JUNE 22-24, 2018

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PHOTO BY DANNY PETERSON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A portrait of the late Kendra James goes up as part of a makeshift memorial created over the weekend on the North Skidmore Street overpass above I-5. It marked the 15th anniversary of the fatal police shooting of the unarmed 21-year-old Portland woman during a traffic stop.

Activists Remember Her Name

A memorial for Kendra James was put up on the Skidmore Street overpass above I-5 over the weekend in the same section of road where she was killed in a officer involved shooting 15 years ago. The tribute featured flowers, candles, a large portrait of James, and loving messages written in chalk.

Signs that read "Say her name Kendra James" and "Black Lives Matter" were displayed and the words "Black loved ones

murdered by cops" were written in chalk, with hearts drawn and the names of other police shooting victims written beneath it.

Saturday marked the 15th anniversary of James' death in 2003. She was 21-years-old and unarmed at the time. After arresting a man who was driving the car, James jumped from the back seat of the car to the front and got into a struggle with police.

The officer said he shot her to save his life and was not removed from the force.

VOTE > D. BORA HARRIS MAY 15, 2018 MULTNOMAH COUNTY CHAIR

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The Week in Review

OHSU Selects New President

Oregon Health and Science University's board of directors unanimously approved the selection of Dr. Danny Jacobs, 63, as its new president, the school announced Tuesday. Jacobs, an African American, is the current executive vice president, provost, and dean of the School of Medicine at the University of Texas Medical Branch and will succeed Dr. Joe Robertson on Aug. 1.



Trump Backs Out of Nuclear Deal

President Trump announced Tuesday that he is withdrawing from the Iran nuclear deal and re-imposing sanctions on Iran's oil sector that were lifted under former President Barack Obama. Iran had complied with dismantling huge portions of its nuclear program, with international inspections, in exchange for the lifted sanctions.

Assault Report Sinks NY Leader

New York State Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman resigned Monday in the wake of a report released hours earlier in which four women accused him of physically assaulting them. Schneiderman, a

vocal opponent of President Trump and supporter of the Me Too movement, denied the allegations.

Judge Violated Victim's Rights

Multnomah County Circuit Judge Kenneth Walker, an African American, violated a crime victim's constitutional right to give an impact statement when he prevented her from finishing her remarks in court, the Oregon Supreme Court ruled Wednesday. A new sentencing hearing for the defendant, who was found guilty of assaulting ex-girlfriend, has been ordered.



Hawaii Volcano Wreaks Havoc

1,800 of Hawaii's Big Island residents have been evacuated from their homes due to an eruption of lava from the island's Kilauea volcano Thursday. The cataclysm, which has been captured on cell phone video from various eyewitnesses, has destroyed 35 structures through at least 12 fissures that have spewed lava up to 300 feet in the air.

Hardesty Criticizes Mayor

Portland City Council candidate Jo Ann Hardesty criticized Mayor Ted Wheeler Sunday for opposing an initiative to tax large retailers, benefits people of color, create eco-friendly jobs. The petition, which Hardesty helped craft and promote, would levy a one percent surcharge on business with at least \$1 billion in profits and half a million in Portland.

Nike Executives Dismissed

At least nine and as many as 14 senior managers at Nike are being dismissed in the midst of executive misbehavior claims by the company. The largest company in Oregon apologized to its workers at a rare all-employee meeting last Thursday.

The Portland Observer Established 1970

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FOOD



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PHOTO COURTESY MULTNOMAH COUNTY

A voter casts her ballot at one of Multnomah County's eight 24-hour election drop boxes. Election officials recommend dropping off vote-by-mail ballots at official drop off sites like these if you can't get them into the mail by Thursday in order for it to have time to be delivered by the voting deadline of Tuesday, May 15 at 8 p.m.

Countdown to Vote

Ballots due by Tuesday, 8 p.m. deadline

As the deadline to cast ballots for the May 15 Primary nears, voters are pressed to make their decisions on not only city and county governing contests, but on races for Oregon governor, state judges and representatives and

members of Congress. In Portland, a children's levy is up for renewal.

Election officials say Thursday is the last day to safely mail in the ballots to ensure they reach the Elections Office by the Tuesday,

May 15 8 p.m. voting deadline. Otherwise they can be dropped off at 24-hour official ballot drop box sites, Multnomah Public Libraries, and elections offices.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Controversial Judge Pick Gets Hearing

A controversial judicial pick from Oregon for the U.S. Ninth Circuit of Appeals will have his nomination considered by the Senate Judiciary Committee on Wednesday despite opposition by Oregon's two U.S. Senators.

Ryan Bounds, a U.S. Attorney for Oregon, nominated for a lifetime appointment to the bench by President Trump, has come under fire for writings back in college in which he made racist, sexist and homophobic attacks on multiculturalism.

On Monday, Sens. Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley, both Democrats, called Bounds an unqualified nominee. In a joint statement, they said he was dishonest for failing to disclose his inflammatory writ-



Ryan Bounds

ings to an Oregon judicial selection committee. They also accused Republican leaders of moving forward on changing the rules on who the Senate considers for judicial appointments in order to stack

the courts in their favor, citing an unfairness that Republican objections from home state senators in the past prevented President Obama's judicial nominations.

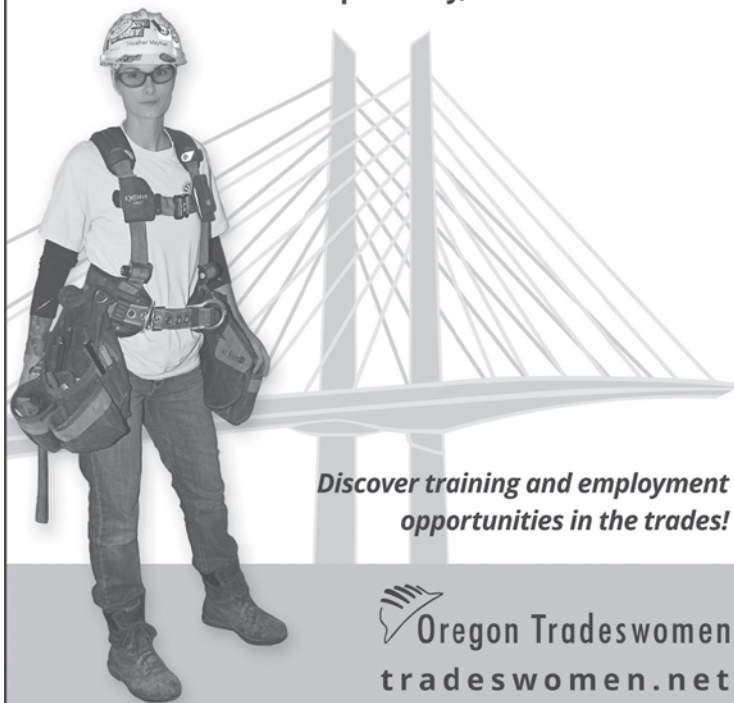
Back in February, the progressive activist group Alliance for Justice, attacked Bounds' fitness for the judge vacancy, citing his writings at Stanford University in the 1990s in which he said race-focused groups should not be allowed on campus and used racist and offensive language to describe people with backgrounds and beliefs that were different from his own.

Bounds, 44, apologized for the writings earlier this year, calling them misguided sediments from his youth.

Oregon Tradeswomen's 26TH ANNUAL Career Fair

Saturday, May 19
9 am – 3 pm

NECA-IBEW Electrical Training Center
16021 NE Airport Way, Portland



Countdown to Vote

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

It's shaping up to be a historic midterm with a record number of candidates who are women and people of color running for the Portland City Council and Multnomah County Board of Commissioners. Loretta Smith and former state representative and activist Jo Ann Hardesty, both African Americans, and current City Hall employee Andrea Valderrama, who is of Peruvian descent, are among some of the leading candidates.

As of Tuesday, 13 days since ballots were first mailed, the turnout was 10 percent of Multnomah County's 520,749 registered voters, according to the county's election division website. That's about the same, percentage-wise, compared to the 2014 primary.

For non-partisan contests like the city council and county commissioner races, anyone who gets more than 50 percent of the vote wins automatically. Otherwise, the top two will face off in a November General Election runoff.

This year there are a whopping

16 candidates running for Oregon governor, including incumbent Kate Brown. Brown ran just two years ago in a special election after former Gov. John Kitzhaber resigned.

A Portland Children's Levy, which supports programs for children experiencing poverty, abuse and other conditions that put them at a disadvantage, will be up for renewal by voters this year. First passed in 2002, Measure 26-197 is a property tax of about 40 cents per \$1,000 valuation to raise approximately \$118 million over the next five years to go into "proven and effective programs" to aid children.

Campaign spokesperson Aisling Coghlan told the Portland Observer that in the previous 15 years, over \$150 million has been invested in over 50 organizations from the levy.

In Beaverton, voters will be asked to approve a property tax levy to pay for added teachers and limit class sizes.

Voters can sign up to track their ballots to see that it is received and counted. They can

also receive a virtual "I Voted" sticker, which can be shared on social media. Visit Multnomah.ballottrax.net to sign up.

Voters who have not received their ballot are advised to call 503-988-3720. Lost ballots can also be replaced. In Gresham, a new Voting Express Center is located inside the new Multnomah County East building on 600 N.E. Eighth St.

In addition, 27 drop sites throughout the county, including all Multnomah county Libraries and eight 24-hour drop boxes can collect ballots up until 8pm on election night. More information can be found at bit.ly/MultCo-DropSites.

Unofficial results of the election will be available starting at 8 p.m. on election night. As counting continues into the next day, the results will be updated, Multnomah County Elections Office Spokesperson Eric Sample told the Portland Observer.

"Results are unofficial until we certify the election, which is 20 days after the election," Sample said.

Results can be viewed online at multco.us/elections/may-15-2018-election-results.

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Engineering Major Finds Success

Mt. Hood Community College student Victor Ogelle has long had a fascination with computers and robotics, stemming back to his secondary school days in Lagos, Nigeria. However, attending school in Nigeria also meant he needed to “make hay while the sun shined,” as he put it. Or, in other words, he and his classmates at Lagos’ Deburuss School used their time wisely as regular rolling blackouts could quickly shut down their computers and robotics engineering activities.

“I learned to be independent at a fairly young age,” Ogelle said. “There weren’t a lot of amenities and you learned to really appreciate what you had.”

The Portland-born Ogelle spent his first year in the United States and the next 15 years in Nigeria, where most of his family lives today. In 2016, he returned to Oregon to attend college while living with relatives. He enrolled in MHCC and settled into college life while adjusting to the new culture.

Ogelle reactivated the college’s



Victor Ogelle is from the Class of 2018 at Mt. Hood Community College.

dormant Engineering club and built up membership. He served as a work-study student became a tutor.

As Ogelle finishes his final term at MHCC and begins looking at four-year and graduate programs in electrical engineering and economics, he has a plan in mind. His goal: to help establish stable, efficient energy sources in his home-nation of Nigeria and in countries like it.

“It’s part of why I came here to the United States,” he says. “To pursue a career in these fields and to one day support my community back in Nigeria and communities struggling with similar issues.”

And he credits MHCC – with its affordable tuition, variety of degree programs, supportive campus community and diversity of student activities – as better preparing him to achieve that goal.

Learn more at mhcc.edu

Thursday, May 24th @ DoubleTree by Hilton Portland
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Activists Form Mother’s Day Bail Out

The activist group Portland’s Resistance started a crowd funding campaign Sunday to bail out moms so they can reunite with their children on Mother’s Day.

The group is hoping to raise \$25,000 by Mother’s Day, which is Sunday, to secure the release of at least five black women from jail. By Tuesday, they had raised almost \$9,000.

“Our focus is on Black women and mothers trapped in the unjust system of pay-to-play civil liberties. Women should have the opportunity to be free from jail and in the company of their families

on Mother’s Day, and every day,” a message from Portland Resistance’s campaign website stated.

As the freed women appear for their future court dates, their bail amounts would be released and plans call for the monies to be returned to Portland’s Resistance. The group has vowed to apply 100 percent of the funds to their next bail out campaign scheduled for Father’s Day on June 17 and on June 19 for Juneteenth, the festival held by African Americans to celebrate emancipation from slavery.

More information can be found at fundly.com/black-mama-bail-out-portland-or-area.



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A new generation of youth entrepreneurs learn state-of-the-art video technology through the Green Lighting Black Lives Matter Youth Media Project.

Youth Media Film Screenings

A showcase of final films produced by local youth to inspire their own stores of what it means to grow up black in Portland is ready for a night of public screenings.

The Soul District Business Association presents the 2nd annual Green Lighting Black Lives Matter Youth Media Project Film Screening event

on Wednesday, May 16 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Instrument, located at 3529 N. Williams Ave. Admission is free. To reserve a space call Fawn Aberson at 503-841-5032 or email outreach@nnebaportland.org

Now in its second year, this groundbreaking program is presented by professional black filmmakers who recruit and train

the next generation of youth entrepreneurs, ages 16-26, in the operation and purposeful application of state-of-the-art video technology, film and video production equipment.

The skills gained in the learning process can then be leveraged to propel students forth into careers in the exploding film, video and tech industries.

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Free Fishing Clinics Begin

The Mt. Hood National Forest will be hosting its annual Free Youth Fishing Clinics starting on Saturday, May 12 for the Barlow Ranger District and Saturday, May 19 for the Hood River Ranger District, both kicking off at 8 a.m. and ending at 1 p.m. The Clackamas River Ranger District will host its fishing clinic on June 2 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and the

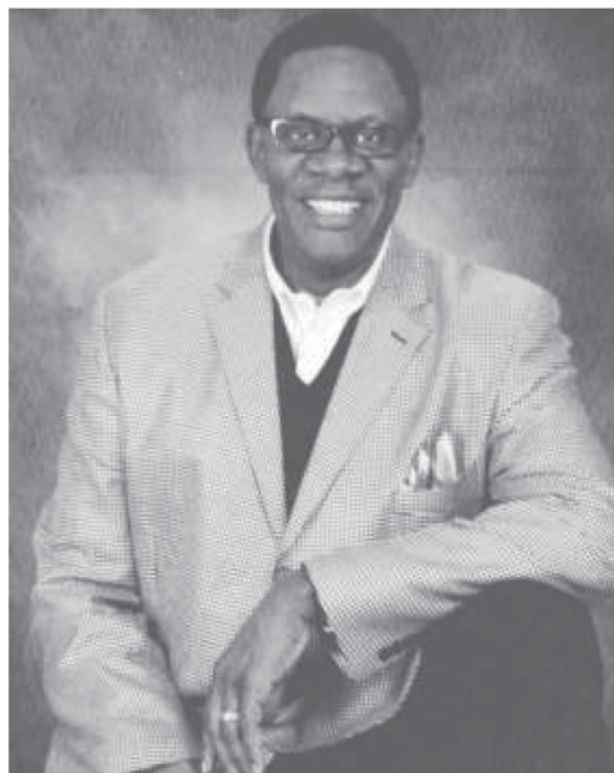
Zigzag Ranger District's clinic is June 23 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The clinics are free and are intended for kids 11 and younger, but young adults and parents will also find the events both fun and interesting! Children will also have the opportunity to fish with an expert angler, to learn "catch and release" techniques and to learn how to cast.

"This is a great event for the

whole family, and an opportunity for kids to not only have fun fishing, but to also learn about the aquatic environment and to be in the outdoors," said Darcy Saiget, fish biologist for the Mt. Hood National Forest.

For more information, contact the Clackamas district at 503-630-8798; the Barlow district at 541- 467-5119, the Hood River district at 541-352-1217 or the Zigzag district at 503- 622-2002.



Dr. Billy R. Flowers

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being flexible and well rested. If you have had problems with muscle stiffness, trouble resting or if waking up gives you the feeling that you've been through World War II, it's a great time to wake up to the feeling of Chiropractic! Call today for an appointment. Isn't it time you stepped up to Chiropractic?

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Library Book Sale at Beaverton

Thousands of used books, movies and music will be available for purchase at unbeatable prices at the first ever spring book and media sale at the Beaverton City Library Main branch. Book-lovers will enjoy a huge selection of fiction and non-fiction titles in all genres and areas of interest. The Friends of the Beaverton City Library will have a large offering of children's books and some foreign language items for sale, too. A members-only night kicks off the sale on Wednesday, May 9 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. with memberships available at the door. The sale continues Thursday, May 10 from 10 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.; Friday, May 11 from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; and Saturday, May 12 from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. On Sunday, May 13 from 1 to 4:30 p.m., everything is half-price!



Obituary



In Loving Memory

James Ray Burns

A homecoming memorial service for James Ray Burns, who passed away April 11, 2018, will be held Saturday, May 26 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Genesis Community Fellowship, 5425 N.E. 27th Ave.

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Happy Birthday George!

George Kelly of Portland (seated, center) celebrates his 94th birthday with his family and friends, including (pictured from left) Brenda Prevot, Kevin Kelly and Gail Lane, who came from Texas and Tennessee, and Tony Holman of Portland.

*Celebrating the memories
of these wonderful mothers that have
transitioned on, put here in Spirit*

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Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



PHOTO BY MICHAEL DURHAM, COURTESY OF THE OREGON ZOO

A guest feeds an apple slice to Josie the two-toed sloth during one of the Oregon Zoo's new behind-the-scenes animal encounters.

Close Encounters at the Zoo

Visitors can get up-close and personal with even more of the Oregon zoo's residents,

New behind-the-scenes animal encounter tours range from a painting session with macaw artists Pele and Makani to a meet-and-greet with the zoo's lively Humboldt penguin colony. All encounters include a talk from a zookeeper and the chance to ask

questions, take photos and spend time with the animals in an intimate setting.

"People have been completely enthralled," said Bree Winchell, who leads the encounters with Josie, the zoo's two-toed sloth.

In addition to meeting Josie, guests can pet Beбето the porcupine or take selfies with sea otters — and Instagram stars — Eddie,

Juno and Lincoln. For a fuzzier experience, behind-the-scenes tours are also available with the goats and ducks of the Family Farm and the tarantulas of the Insect Zoo.

All animal encounters require tickets and reservations in advance, and some member discounts are available. More information can be found at oregonzoo.org/encounters.

*In memory of Joyce Washington and Charles Washington
for their tireless work in the Portland Community.*



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N Touch Reunion

Saxophonist brings back original players

BY DANNY PETERSON
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

After 17 years apart, the original members of a popular band that started in north Portland, N Touch, will reunite for a one night only performance at the Alberta Rose Theatre in northeast Portland Friday.

The jazz group, led by saxophonist Eldon “T” Jones, was comprised of mostly Jefferson High School alumni from its hey-day when the school was a thriving arts and culture hub. Jones, who grew up listening to his mom sing and play piano, also studied music at Mt Hood Community College.

Pianist Patrick Cooper, keyboardist Chris Turner, and Jones’ brother percussionist Anthony Jones were some of the first people Jones started to jam with. Later they would become some of the inaugural members of N Touch.

Jones and Cooper were both musicians at a local church when they hatched the idea to start a band. They turned their neighborhood jam sessions into rehearsals, along with guitarist David Allen, percussionist Darius Fentress, and bassist Donovan Fairly.

Jones, 49, fondly remembered jamming sessions he held in his family home in the Boise neighborhood of a pre-gentrified north Portland with friends.

“We were able to get together all within like walking distance from each other. We were part of a community and the music kind of reflects that same sound,” Jones told the Portland Observer. “For us to get back together, the original group, after all these years, is going to be quite a celebration,” he added.

Culturally infusing different styles from jazz to gospel to popular R&B and funk, the band went from playing small gigs at Friday’s Café in Kenton in the mid-90s to playing festivals and opening for big name acts like Tower of Power and Earth, Wind, & Fire under the management of George Brown. They released their self titled CD in 2001.

As the years wore on N Touch continued as a band, and is still active today, but with differing members as the original mu-



Jazz saxophonist Eldon “T” Jones will reunite with the original members of N Touch, a band formed mostly from Jefferson High School alumni in the 1990s, for a one-night-only reunion show Friday, May 11 at the Alberta Rose Theatre.

sicians enjoyed career successes.

Turner played with the late pop superstar Prince in his later years, Fentress toured with gospel singer Fred Hammond, Anthony Jones played in billboard topping records as well as played with renowned Portland based jazz ensemble Pink Martini, and Cooper worked with a number of artists including pianist Bobby Lyle.

“Most of the guys from just starting in the band has been able to achieve a great amount of success in the music industry. But we kind of all started from here, cut-

ting our teeth, honing our skills,” Jones said.

Jones, too, has enjoyed success since those first jam sessions over 20 years ago. He’s worked with the Blazers and Nike for events, performed with the Grammy nominated artist Najee, and done music for the comedian Sindad, who is his friend, among many other artists.

In January 2017 Jones was honored with a lifetime achievement award for community service from the World Arts Foundation at the 32nd Annual Martin Luther King

Tribute, an event he performs regularly for.

The N Touch Reunion Show will be Friday at 8pm, doors open at 7 p.m., at the Alberta Rose Theatre, 3000 N.E. Alberta St. Opening acts include singer Ronnie Wright and bay area saxophonist Kevin Moore.

Tickets are available \$19 in advance, \$23 at the door, and \$30 VIP an online through Alberta Rose Theatre and over the phone at 503-764-4131. Find the N Touch Reunion Show event on Facebook for more information. Their self-title CD, N Touch, is available at cdbaby.com.

All proceeds leftover from the **Joyce Washington Classic** basketball game will be donated to an athletic program by submitting a **100 word essay**; on why your team (*soccer, basketball, football, swim team, etc, etc*) would qualify for this donation.

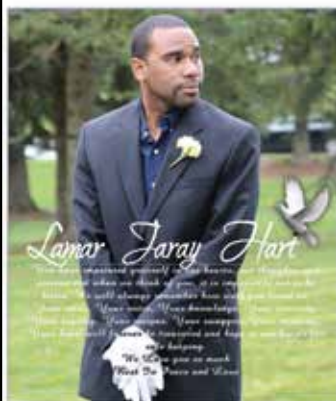


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Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

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The 1980s get some kind of wonderful when Staged! Productions revisits the "Say Anything" generation through the fresh eyes of the next generation, with their world premiere "John Hughes High: The 1980s Teen Musical," now playing through May 20 at the Alder Stage in Artists Repertory Theatre, downtown.

This inventive comedy flips the

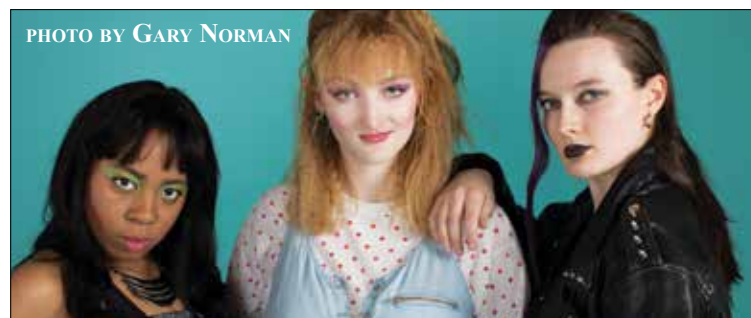


PHOTO BY GARY NORMAN

The inventive comedy 'John Hughes High: The 1980s Teen Musical' flips the script on the 'Say Anything' generation. Now playing through May 20 at the Alder Stage in Artists Repertory Theatre.

script on the John Hughes decade, using gender-blind casting to subvert the 80's teen clichés of adolescent ennui and outsider status, channeling Cyndi Lauper style while tackling the tricky challenges of the teen years with Staged!'s

trademark depth and humor.

Performances are on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 pm and Sundays at 2:00 pm. Tickets are \$18 - \$25 and can be purchased online at stagedpdx.org.

Classical Singer to Front Benefit

A benefit concert featuring an acclaimed spiritual and classical singer and her exciting choral group will highlight a special benefit to support the rebuilding fund for Allen Temple CME Church, a historic black church in northeast Portland that was severely damaged by two electrical fires in 2015.

The concert with Mrs. Peggy Houston Shivers and her Celebration Multicultural Ensemble will be held Sunday, May 20 at 6 p.m. at Maranatha Church, 4222 N.E. 12th Ave. The mission of the ensemble is preserving the rich history and her-



Peggy Houston Shivers

itage of the Negro Spiritual through education and performance.

Shivers grew up in Portland

where she was the only African American in the music department when she attended Portland State University. She graduated from PSU in the late 1950s and later from Ball State University. She has been guest soloist with the Colorado Springs Symphony, the Colorado Spring Chorale, the Tabor Concert Series, and the Fine Arts Center to name a few.

All proceeds from the concert will go to Allen Temple CME Church restoration. For more information, call 503-852-1758 or TicketTomato.

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Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



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CALENDAR May 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
		1 Mother Goose Day Hawaiian Lei Day May Day Worthy Wage Day	2 Dr. Benjamin Spock Born in 1903	3 National Sun Day Constitution Memorial Day in Japan	4 Space Day National Weather Observers' Day	5 Kentucky Derby takes place today Cinco de Mayo Children's Day In Japan	
	6 Eiffel Tower opens to the public in 1889	 7 1st Stamp Collection Started Pulitzer Prize Established (1917)	8 National Teacher Day No Socks Day	9 National School Nurse Day First USA Newspaper Cartoon, 1754	10 Clean Up Your Room Day	11 Twilight Zone Day Louis Farrakhan, born 1933; National Leader of The Nation Of Islam	12 International Nurses Day Kite Day Limerick Day
	13 Mother's Day Tulip Day Stevie Wonder; born 1950; legendary music artist	14 Lewis and Clark Expedition, 1804 Dance Like a Chicken Day	 15 Frank L. Baum Author of The Wizard of Oz - born in 1856	16 Ramadan Begins First US Nickel Minted In 1866	17 First Kentucky Derby In 1875	18 International Museum Day Visit Your Relatives Day	19 Miniature Golf Day Armed Forces Day
	20 Lindbergh Flight Day in 1927 Mary Pope Osborne born, 1949	 21 American Red Cross Founded Founded by Clara Barton in 1881	22 Buy-A-Musical Instrument Day Bernard Shaw; 1856-1950; journalist and anchor of CNN News	23 Lucky Penny Day Scatman Crothers; 1910-1986; best known for "Chico and the Man"	24 Patti LaBelle; born 1944; R&B legend known for her many hits	25 National Missing Children's Day National Tap Dance Day	26 Blueberry Cheesecake Day Pam Grier; born 1949; actress, played "Foxy Brown"
27 Golden Gate Bridge Opens, 1937 Masking Tape Patented in 1930	28 Memorial Day Jim Thorpe Born in 1888	 29 John F. Kennedy Born in 1917 Dr. Henry McBay; 1914-1995; chemist, professor at Morehouse College	30 Lincoln Theodore Monroe Andrew Perry; 1902-1985; actor	31 World No Tobacco Day Shirley Verrett; born 1931-2010; renowned Soprano			

OPINION

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.

Police Using Lethal Force with Impunity

Victims and families in double bind

BY LAURA FINLEY

The family of Stephon Clark, a 22-year-old unarmed black man who was shot by Sacramento police, has filed a lawsuit in federal court, denouncing his death as yet one more police-perpetrated murder.

The officers were responding to complaints about a car prowler when they fired 20 shots in fewer than five seconds at Clark. Eight bullets struck him, primarily in the back, raising tremendous doubt about the officers' claims that he was a threat. The autopsy indicates that Clark lived for 3 to 10 minutes after being shot, which brings up additional concerns about the six minutes it took for



him to receive medical treatment.

While the case is a horrific but not surprising example of police shooting first and asking questions later—or more accurately, creating narratives later, it is far from guaranteed that the family will receive any kind of recompense from the officers who killed him.

Police have what is known as qualified immunity, which means it is very difficult to win lawsuits against them.

The idea of qualified immunity makes a certain sense, as it intended to ensure that police do not have to worry about frivolous lawsuits, but in the last several decades the Supreme Court has expanded its protections so dramatically it is, as Justice Sonia Sotomayor has said, a license to kill and an “absolute shield for law enforcement officers.”

Just recently the Supreme Court ruled on another qualified immunity case, reversing a lower court's denial of immunity in a case in which an officer shot a woman four

times who was not posing a threat to anyone in her yard.

Despite her unthreatening behavior toward the officers and her roommate, Sharon Chadwick, who was there, and the account from another officer on site who said he was still trying to use verbal commands to get Hughes to drop the knife, the Court relied on its usual logic to say that no lawsuit could continue. At least in this case Hughes survived, but that Officer Kisela acted rashly in shooting her seems quite clear.

The Civil Rights Act of 1871, 42 U.S.C. §1983 is a judicial remedy to individuals who suffer deprivations of their constitutional rights. An exception is qualified immunity, which shields state and local law officers from personal financial liability if they acted in an objectively reasonable manner and did not violate clearly established federal law.

In an odd piece of what seems little more than literary wrangling, the Court has determined that officers can act unconstitution-

ally but not violate established constitutional rights, as it is on plaintiff's to show those “clearly established” rights through, guess what? Previous court decisions.

If the Court is unwilling to ever rule that constitutional rights are violated in these excessive force cases, then no one can ever document those decisions to build a case. The Court has not ruled in favor of the plaintiff in more than a decade, despite hearing more than 18 cases related to qualified immunity. More than one-third of the cases resulted in summary reversals, meaning the Court did not even hold a briefing or conduct oral arguments.

The Supreme Court has used qualified immunity to deny damages to an eighth-grade girl who was strip-searched by school officials who thought she had a rogue ibuprofen pill. It denied damages to a man who was held in a maximum-security prison for 16 days and on supervised release for 14 months, without cause for arrest nor intent to use him as a material

witness. In another case qualified immunity protected officers who engaged in a clearly unconstitutional no-knock home raid. In all these cases, the court stressed that, while the Constitution had indeed been violated, the government officer could not be held liable.

Ending police abuse is going to take continued vigilance and a multi-faceted approach. But one important way to hold police accountable is for citizens to be able to bring and win civil suits. Today, the playing field for doing so is so deeply tilted toward protecting police that there is no semblance of accountability in the legal realm.

Congress can and should remove the “clearly established” interpretation of qualified immunity, at a minimum. Police officers cannot continue to be given free rein to harass, assault, wound and kill simply because others before them have gotten away with it.

Laura Finley, Ph.D., teaches in the Barry University Department of Sociology and Criminology and is syndicated by PeaceVoice.

Wrong Time to Cut Back on Public Housing

Rent hikes will make matters worse

BY EBONY SLAUGHTER-JOHNSON

Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Ben Carson has answered President Trump's call to shrink the social safety net. Carson recently offered a proposal that would triple the rent some of America's poorest families have to pay before they get housing assistance.

Housing advocates are appalled. If they're pushed out of public housing, many low-income families could face housing instability at every turn. That could mean a lifetime of poverty, tenuous employment, and an unstable environment for kids.

As of March 2018, the median cost of a new home is \$337,200, placing home ownership out of the reach of many Americans.

Even for those who try to reach it, redlining and discriminatory lending on the part of banks can render the possible impossible. An analysis from Reveal by the Center for Investigative Reporting found that black Americans in particular — even 50 years after the Fair Housing Act — were denied



home loans at rates higher than whites in 48 cities.

Challenges abound in the private rental market, too.

pacted by gentrification are seeing rising rents and housing insecurity.

According to the National Low Income Housing Coalition, the average minimum wage required to afford a one-bedroom rental — at a time when the federal minimum wage refuses to budge beyond

That's no doubt due to the fact that HUD has witnessed budget cuts that go back well before the Trump administration, but have gotten no better since. Carson's plan fits within a long trajectory of decreased access to assistance from HUD — which, as of 2014, had reduced its offering of public

per minute.

Carson's proposed rent hikes could mean homelessness for those unable to pay. Housing instability is associated with depression, reduced access to basic necessities, and absenteeism and low test scores in children.

On the other hand, the stability provided by public housing positively correlates to increased income. According to a 2016 analysis from the National Bureau of Economic Research, each year a teenager spent receiving public housing assistance resulted in their earning hundreds more in income as an adult.

Lack of affordable housing, rising rents, discriminatory lending, gentrification, and homelessness: These are the instabilities, chronicled in a new report by the Poor People's Campaign and the Institute for Policy Studies, that Carson would foist upon already vulnerable families.

Such cruelty isn't surprising — this is, after all, a man who claimed that poverty was a “state of mind” — but it is disappointing.

Ebony Slaughter-Johnson is an associate fellow at the Institute for Policy Studies who covers history, race, and the criminalization of poverty. Distributed by OtherWords.org.

According to the National Low Income Housing Coalition, the average minimum wage required to afford a one-bedroom rental — at a time when the federal minimum wage refuses to budge beyond \$7.25 — was \$17.14. There's not a single city in the country where a full-time minimum wage job can get you a market-rate apartment.

In many American cities, de facto segregation has replaced de jure segregation in the form of gentrification. With rents rising, many low-income Americans are either displaced altogether or forced to compete for more expensive housing options geared toward the gentrifiers better able to afford it.

Even those not directly im-

\$7.25 — was \$17.14. There's not a single city in the country where a full-time minimum wage job can get you a market-rate apartment.

Even before Carson's proposed changes, many low-income Americans were having a hard time getting access to housing help. Just 35 out of 100 extremely low-income renters find public housing with affordable rent.

housing units by 200,000 since the mid-1990s.

America is in the midst of a housing crisis, which resulted in more than 553,000 Americans facing homeless on any given night in 2017. That's the size of a large city. In 2016, evictions, which sociologist Matthew Desmond called a “direct cause of homelessness,” were filed at a rate of four

OPINION



King's 'Poor People's Campaign' Revisited

Fighting back in the war on the poor

BY NIJMIE DZURINKO

What's the first thing that you think of when you think of Martin Luther King, Jr.? Perhaps the "I have a dream speech"?

That's what we learn about in school. But what was King's dream at the end of his life?

It was to build a massive movement of all poor people, united across lines of division, challenging conditions of poverty, systemic racism, and militarism — which sucks our resources into endless wars. Shortly before he was assassinated, King and many allies launched the first Poor People's Campaign.

In many ways, the first Poor People's Campaign marked a departure from the broader civil rights movement up until that point.

For King, it was a transformation in his thinking from a focus on the civil rights of African Americans to the human rights shared by

all. It meant no longer addressing racism as an isolated issue, but instead recognizing that systemic racism, poverty, and militarism are closely connected. Together they keep people of all races down.

It marked a shift from a period of reform to what he called a period of revolution. These might sound like radical words — and indeed many people around King at the time felt that this new campaign was a bit too radical.

But King and his allies could see that despite the huge victories of the civil rights movement, major societal problems still weren't resolved. They realized that it would take a broad-based movement of all struggling people to change the conditions in our communities.

In many ways, conditions are worse now that they were 50 years ago.

According to a new Institute for Policy Studies report, 140 million Americans are poor or low-income. Yet 53 cents of every discretionary tax dollar goes to the military, compared to just 15 cents to fight poverty. Meanwhile, nearly half of all states have passed

laws making it harder for poor people and people of color to vote.

People are definitely feeling that in my state of Pennsylvania.

The most recent State of Working PA report finds that the bottom 70 percent of Pennsylvania workers saw their wages decline between 2009 and 2014, during what was termed the so-called "recovery." Pennsylvania is in the top four states for opioid overdoses, and over 3 million people in our state are living below or close to the federal poverty line.

Pundits and politicians like to preach about what we should do to get out of poverty while blaming us for experiencing it. But they haven't explained how it's possible to have an economic recovery without things getting better for our families.

If "the economy" can recover without real people recovering, then whose economy is it really?

What can we do about all this? The first thing we can do is to change our mentality, and drop the shame and stigma that's associated with not being able to make ends meet.

The second thing that we can do is to connect with others. A new Poor People's Campaign is being organized to fight back against the war on the poor today, and it's coming to over 30 states — including mine and maybe yours — this spring. To learn more, check out poorpeoplescampaign.org.

Nijmie Zakkiyyah Dzurinko is a lifelong Pennsylvanian who believes in the power and potential of everyday people. Distributed by OtherWords.org.

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New Focus for Good in the Hood

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

unit and it will be very secure," he said. "We will check everyone who comes in through the entrance ways. We will check bags and everything that comes in will be checked."

Portland Police also bring in dogs to sweep the grounds before the festival opens and watch the grounds overnight to make sure the park is safe.

Plans already call for Good in the Hood to kick off with an opening night party on Friday, June 22, with a live band and a chance for event sponsors to meet and greet the community. The next day, the Good in the Hood parade will start at Dawson Park at 11 a.m. and will make its way to King Park via Russell Street and Martin Luther King Boulevard.

The parade will be bigger than ever, Penney said, but with lots of local groups, bands, floats, sponsors and other folks.

"We have some big groups of



Legendary R & B singer and songwriter Howard Hewett, the former lead vocalist from the 1980s group Shalamar, will headline the annual Good in the Hood music festival returning to King School Park, June 22-24.

50 to 60," Penney said. "We will have tons of people in the parade."

The festival is sanctioned and promoted by the Portland Rose Festival, and is volunteer-driven with many community sponsors.

The University of Oregon is the

main sponsor, according to Penney, while Legacy Health will sponsor the entertainment stage and Wells Fargo is sponsoring the Good in the Hood Parade.

The festival will have between 15 and 20 bands, playing all week-

end long, Penney said. The headliner, famed R&B singer-songwriter Howard Hewett, former lead vocalist of Shalamar, will appear Sunday afternoon.

Penney said the music will feature "live jazz, blues, R&B, Latin, pop and Neo-soul, plus conscious hip-hop."

Planning for Good in the Hood now goes on year-round, Penney said. In addition, he said a primary focus of the event is on the scholarships that are handed out every year to prospective college students. Penney said he hopes to see scholarships of \$5,000 offered to between 5 and 10 young people this year.

The festival will also host an Information Village with free information from about 50 vendors ranging from prospective employers to college recruiters.

At the Legacy Pavilion, people will be able to have their blood pressure checked and other health screenings, including an AIDS test, Penney said. And at the Kids

Space, kids will be able to watch puppet shows, jump in a bouncy house, get their faces painted and get a bicycle helmet for only \$6 from the "Trauma Nurses Talk Tough" booth.

While returning the free festival to King School Park is symbolic, what began as a small music festival started by a small group of nuns at Holy Redeemer School, remains true to its original purpose for bringing families and communities together, Penney said.

"They were trying to bring something positive to the neighborhood because there was so much gang activity," Penney said, "And parents got an opportunity to work the event to pay off their kid's tuition who attended Holy Redeemer... It's come a long ways. Back then it was just coming together having a little music festival. But now we go year-round and we're involved in the community."

To donate, volunteer or learn more about how to get involved with Good in the Hood go to their website at goodinthehood.org or call 971-302-6380.

Salvation Army Plant

Sale -- The Salvation Army in Gresham invites local gardeners to their 27th annual plant sale where all proceeds benefit The Salvation Army's work in East Multnomah County! The sale takes place Saturday, May 12 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the East Hill Church at 701 N. Main Ave. in Gresham. All plants are donated from local nurseries, so the selection is sure to be exciting and unique!



Sister Act -- Portland actress Kristin Robinson performs the title role in "Sister Act," the feel-good musical based on the 1992 smash hit film, now playing at the Lakewood Center for the Arts in Lake Oswego. Shows run through June 10. Tickets are \$39 for adults and \$37 for seniors. Call the box office at 503-635-3901 or visit Lakewood-center.org.

Journey to the Trail of Tears -- Cherokee performance artist and activist DeLanna Studi performs her powerful memoir play "And So We Walked: An Artist's Journey Along the Trail of Tears" at the Armory, downtown. Studi retraces the path that her great-great grandparents took in the 1830s during the forced relocation of 17,000 Cherokee from their homelands. Now showing through Sunday, May 13. Regular tickets start at \$25. Visit pcs.org or call 503-445-3700.

Norman Sylvester -- 'Boogie Cat' Norman Sylvester plays Friday, May 11 at the Rogue Pub in North Plains; Saturday, May 12 at the Spare Room; Friday, May 18 at the Vinyl Tap; and Saturday, May 19 at C I Bar and Grill in Tualatin.

ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

Q Doc Festival --

The only festival in the U.S. devoted exclusively to LGBTQ documentaries is coming to the Hollywood Theatre, May

17-20. The films were selected to creatively engage core issues of queer identity -- politics, history, culture, diversity, sexuality, family, aging, and coming-out issues.

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.

Robot Revolution -- A new exhibit at OMSI brings some of the most innovative robots from all over the world. Learn about the skills robots possess that mimic and often surpass human capabilities in "Robot Revolution," now showing through Sept. 7.



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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FOOD

Chicken-and-Vegetable Hand Pies

Ingredients

- 14 ounces white whole-wheat flour (about 3 1/2 cups) plus 2 Tbsp., divided
- 1 tablespoon kosher salt, divided
- 1 teaspoon baking powder 10 tablespoon ice-cold water
- 2/3 cup plus
- 2 Tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil, divided
- 1 1/2 pounds ground chicken
- 4 ounces haricots verts (French green beans), cut into 1/4-in. pieces (about 1 cup)
- 3/4 cup finely chopped carrot
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh thyme
- 1 tablespoon minced garlic
- 1/2 cup fresh or frozen green peas, thawed
- 1 1/2 cups unsalted chicken stock (such as Swanson)
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley, plus more for garnish
- 3/4 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 1 large egg, beaten
- 1 teaspoon water Cooking spray

Directions:

Step 1: Place 3 1/2 cups flour, 1 1/2 teaspoons salt, and baking powder in a food processor; pulse until combined. Stir together 10 tablespoons ice-cold water and 2/3 cup oil. With processor running, slowly pour water-and-oil mixture through food chute, processing until dough is crumbly. Turn dough out onto a lightly floured surface. Knead 1 minute.

Press into a 5-inch disk; wrap in plastic wrap, and chill 30 minutes.

Step 2: Preheat oven to 400°F. Heat 1 tablespoon oil in a large nonstick skillet over medium-high. Add chicken; cook, stirring often, until no longer pink, about 5 minutes. Place chicken and pan drippings in a bowl.



Step 3: Without wiping pan, heat remaining 1 tablespoon oil over medium-high; add haricots verts, carrot, thyme, and garlic; cover, and cook, stirring occasionally, for 5 minutes or until tender. Add chicken and drippings back to pan; stir in peas. Sprinkle with remaining 2 tablespoons flour; stir to coat. Add chicken stock and bring to a boil; cook for 3 to 4 minutes or until thickened. Fold in parsley, pepper, and remaining 1 1/2 teaspoons salt.

Step 4: Whisk together egg and 1 teaspoon water in a small bowl. Remove dough from refrigerator; let stand 5 minutes. Divide dough into 12 equal portions (about 2 ounces each), shaping each into a ball. Roll each ball into a 6-inch circle on a lightly floured surface. Spoon 1/3 cup chicken mixture onto center of each circle. Brush edges of dough circles with egg wash; fold dough over filling to form half-moons. Press edges together to seal. Brush remaining egg mixture over tops of pies and score tops to vent, or follow freezing instructions. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper; lightly coat paper with cooking spray. Place pies on prepared pan.



WE'RE LISTENING.

May 17 — Join us at the White Stag Building (70 NW Couch St.) from noon to 1 p.m. to share your ideas, concerns and questions about TriMet with our new general manager, Doug Kelsey, and board member Joe Esmonde.

(Or you can just show up for the free lunch and a \$5 Hop card.)

trimet.org/hello

