



Writing to Make a Difference

Local playwright finds groove after hiatus

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2018
Washington
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SECTION B

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'Left Hook' to Displacement



PHOTO BY SHAWNTE SIMS

Displacement of African-Americans in 1970s Portland is captured in 'Left Hook,' a new play inspired by the Knott Street Boxing Club and the urban renewal projects that forced people out of their historical neighborhoods. The production premieres for the Vanport Mosaic Festival, a community wide festival that commemorates the 1948 Portland flood that displaced thousands of people of color. Pictured are cast members (top row, center) Shareen Jacobs; (middle row from left) Tonea Lolin and Jasper Howard; and (bottom row from left) Anthony Armstrong, Kenneth Dembo, and Jame Savannah.

New play premieres for Vanport Mosaic

BY DANNY PETERSON
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A new play that touches on the history of displacement in 1970s Portland, where hundreds of homes and businesses were razed in historical black neighborhoods, will debut next week as part of the Vanport Mosaic Festival.

"Left Hook" is inspired in part by the history of the Knott Street Boxing Club and the urban renewal projects that disrupted a once vibrant neighborhood. It is a follow up to playwright Rich Rubin's 2016 play "Cottonwood in the Flood," which was about Vanport and the May 30, 1948 Memorial Day flood that destroyed the Portland town 70 years ago.

The new play focuses on a hub of thriving African American businesses and homes in the Albina District of north and northeast Portland where many former Vanport residents resided. Several blocks of the neighborhood were eventually razed when urban renewal projects spurred the expansion of Emanuel Hospital and prompted the demolition of about 300 homes of mostly African American families who were then forced to relocate.

"Left Hook" has an all African-American and local cast and uses the story of Knott Street to tell a story about a fictitious boxing gym whose future is made uncertain by the changes.

Damaris Webb, a Portland native and African American theater maker, is once again helping the role of director for Rubin's play after bringing his Cottonwood in the Flood to life on the stage two years ago.

She is the co-founder and director of the Vanport Mosaic, a non-profit that engages the community through storytelling, art, education, and media about forgotten local histories. The effort was first started by Laura Lo Forti, a self-described 'story midwife' and 'recovering journalist,' who began working with elders in the commu-

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The Week in Review



Embassy Protesters Killed

More than 60 people, including eight children, were killed by the Israeli military in Palestinian protests that erupted Monday along the Gaza border as the U.S. opened its new embassy in Jerusalem more than 50 miles away, Palestinian authorities said. The deaths along with injuries to over 2,400 people made it the deadliest

and most violent day there since the 2014 Gaza war.

Wanted Man Shot by Deputy

An undercover Multnomah County deputy shot a driver who backed into his unmarked police vehicle at a Burger King parking lot near Mall 205 Monday after officers approached him about an outstanding warrant for attempted murder, authorities said. The injured man, Vzasile Manta, 36, was taken to a hospital in critical condition.

No Charges in Police Shooting

A Multnomah County grand jury determined last week that police officers were justified in the use

of deadly force in an officer involved shooting at the City Ministries homeless shelter in southeast Portland last April 7. Police were pursuing John Andrew Elifritz, 48, on other charges when he suddenly entered the building and was killed in a confrontation.

School Shooter Sentence Upheld

A man who as a teenager killed his parents and then went on to kill two people and wound 26 others in a 1998 shooting at Thurston High School in Springfield lost an appeal Thursday seeking to reduce his 111-year sentence. The Oregon Supreme Court ruled that Kip Kinkel's sentence was not cruel and unusual punishment despite a law that shields minors in many cases from life sentences.



Sunshine Dairy Site Closing

Sunshine Dairy in northeast Portland, known for its big, spinning milk carton on the roof outside, filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy last week and said it will close the historic 21st Avenue facility. The company will continue to operate a separate location on Northeast Halsey with some of Sunshine's 100 employees remaining with the company and some joining competitor Alpenrose, officials said.

2nd Vote for a Union

Workers at a second Burgerville restaurant, this one at 191st and Southeast McLoughlin Boulevard, voted in favor of forming a union by secret ballot during a weekend election overseen by the National Labor Relations Board. Last month, workers at another Burger-ville, at 3504 S.E. 92nd Ave., were the first to vote to unionize.

Hotelier Named Ambassador

President Donald Trump Friday formally nominated Portland hotelier Gordon Sondland to serve as the U.S. ambassador to the European Union. Sondland manages 10 hotels in Portland including the Heathman, Sentinel, Lucia and deLuxe. He donated \$1 million to the Trump inaugural committee in November 2016.

AUDRA MCDONALD

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We Are Better Together

Portland Police Chief Danielle Outlaw and Portland Observer Publisher Mark Washington meet at Friday's Portland City Forum. Washington was Mayor Ted Wheeler's "We are Better Together" guest and Outlaw was the forum speaker, sharing her experience and reflections as a young officer rising through the ranks of the Oakland Police Department, her brief tenure in Portland as the first African American female chief, and her plans to make a difference in our community.

The Portland Observer

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What's on your list today?



PHOTO BY DANNY PETERSON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A makeshift memorial with flowers and messages of love appear on the doorstep of the late Eugene C. Gora's welding and fabrication shop at the corner of Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Skidmore Street. Police are investigating the murder of the 85-year-old after he was discovered dead in his garage on the property last Thursday.

Legacy Fabricator Killed

Community in shock after 85-Year-old murdered

BY DANNY PETERSON
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Community members of a northeast Portland neighborhood have been stunned by the murder of an 85-year-old man whose welding shop was a landmark of Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard.

A homicide investigation is ongoing for the death of Eugene C. Gora after he was found dead in his welding shop in northeast Portland Thursday. Gora had told a city housing inspector a few months prior that he had been residing there for over four decades,

a city official said.

Police and emergency personnel confirmed Gora was dead when they arrived at his garage at 4232 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. around 6:30pm Thursday in response to a call made by a friend of the deceased who discovered him unresponsive on his floor.

The circumstances of his death were noted as "suspicious-in-nature," according to a press release by Portland Police that same day and the Oregon State Medical Examiner's office cited "homicidal violence" as the cause.

Gora was known in the neighborhood as a skilled welder and fabricator who spent a decades-long career at his shop, Gora's Welding and Fabrication, making barbecues, trailers, and custom builds like the stainless steel swoops on the Niketown

store on Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Northeast Knott Street, just a few blocks from his shop.

"He could weld whatever you had. And he could fabricate whatever," Bart Colson, proprietor of Bart's Swedish Formula, an auto repair shop next door to Gora's shop, told the Portland Observer.

Colson had seen Gora on a near daily basis and noted in recent years his vision and mobility had become limited. Lately, he'd gotten around using a walker while visiting local establishments, like the Miracles Club, a recovery center, or the Heavenly Taste Café, both less than one block away, chatting up people in the neighborhood.

"He passed his skills and knowl-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

School District Faulted in Probe

Inaction over decades by Portland School District supervisors and inadequate protocols to keep records of his multiple sexual misconduct complaints on file, may have enabled a former teacher, Mitch Whitehurst, to continue to work with students over a three decade-long period at multiple schools, an independent investigative report released Thursday found.

A lack of teaching training and disciple protocols that persist to this day, as well as the district's failure to stop him, was also indicative of a complete failure to how Oregon's largest school district handles sexual misconduct, the report said.

Part of the problem had to do with the purging of files, which is required by the teacher's contract, and may have enabled sex-

ual misconduct to continue when Whitehurst transferred to different schools.

Whitehurst has denied the multiple sexual misconduct complaints against him. He resigned under pressure in 2015 and his teacher license was revoked. The teacher licensing agency found students had made misconduct complaints against him going back to the 1980s.

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Legacy Fabricator Killed

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

edge on to lots of people," Julia Colson, the co-owner of the auto-shop who sometimes trimmed Gora's rose bushes, added.

The Colsons noted they'd sometimes seen his door ajar, too.

A makeshift memorial apparently put together by neighbors and friends with flowers, messages of love like "we miss you," a candle, and a slice of apple pie were left on his doorstep Tuesday morning.

The property had three open complaint cases with the city of Portland Neighborhood Inspections Program, two related to the upkeep of his yard and one complaint of illegal residency of the owner.

Two complaints, both from Dec. 11, had not yet resulted in citations—a nuisance complaint of debris and hazardous material in Gora's yard, and a complaint

of exterior storage of some of his possessions, including vehicles.

A third complaint of illegally residing in the garage, which was marked for commercial use, did result in a citation on Jan. 31, Housing Inspection Supervisor Megan Greenauer told the Portland Observer.

Gora told a housing inspector he had been living on his property for the past 45 years, Greenauer added, but was actively working with the city to correct the complaints.

"He was moving towards selling the property. We were working with him to make the occupation of the space more safe in the meantime," she said.

Gora even held an estate sale just two weeks ago, in the last weekend of April, where he sold some of his vehicles and other property in an apparent attempt to get clear his property, the Colsons said.

Police have said the circum-

stances of Gora's death make them suspect homicide, and the cause of death was confirmed to be homicide-related, but it remains confidential as to how exactly police suspect the killing was implemented.

"In order to preserve the integrity of this ongoing investigation, the Police Bureau is not releasing the specific cause of death," Sergeant Chris Burley, the bureau's Public Information Officer, told the Portland Observer via email Monday.

Portland Police Detective Division's Homicide Detail and criminalists with the Forensic Evidence Division were dispatched to investigate the killing, officials said.

Anyone with information about the death should contact Detective Todd Gradwahl at 503-823-09991, Todd.Gradwahl@portlandoregon.gov or Detective Brad Clifton at 503-823-0696, Brad.Clifton@portlandoregon.gov.

'Left Hook' to Displacement

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

nity who once lived in or remembered Vanport to curate and record their stories.

As Lo Forti was collecting these oral histories, she had gotten word that Webb was working on a play about Vanport, Cottonwood in the Flood, through a mutual friend. They got in touch with each other and have been running Vanport Mosaic together, ever since.

The community of Vanport was home to many groups including African-Americans, whites, Japanese-Americans returning from internment during World War II, and Native Americans. It was one of the first integrated communities of its time in the state.

By 1947 the town that once boasted 40,000 dwindled to half that, but 4,000 residents of col-

or stayed. That changed when the 1948 flood wiped out the community, even as the Portland Housing Authority was vying to dismantle it. The former residents were forced to move somewhere else, which for many blacks would end up being the Albina District.

Due to a discriminatory lending practice that limited African American presence elsewhere in the city, known as redlining, many Portland blacks who sought rentals or buying a house were also sequestered to the Albina district.

Urban renewal efforts by the city, such as the construction of the Memorial Coliseum and the Interstate 5 freeway cut through north Portland neighborhoods in the 1960s, and the 1970s expansion of Emanuel Hospital, created economic blight in the area and

displaced hundreds. The hospital expansion permanently altered some of the district's signature features and, in some areas, razed sections of neighborhood without developing anything on it.

Left Hook compresses the timeline of these events from a dozen years or more into a few months. It focuses on the return of African-American soldiers from Vietnam trying to find their place amid a transformed neighborhood; the Black Panther Movement; and a boxing club once integral to the community struggling to find a home.

The Left Hook Boxing Club is based on an amalgamation of many of the actual gyms in Portland at the time; in particular the Knott Street gym that still exists today from its current home out of the Matt Dishman Community Center in northeast Portland.

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Ilyasha Shabazz, the daughter of the late civil rights icon Malcom X, will be in Portland on Saturday, May 26 as a guest of the Portland NAACP and the keynote speaker at the local civil rights group's fundraising brunch.

Malcolm X's Daughter to Visit

Activist to
keynote Portland
NAACP event

BY DANNY PETERON
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Ilyasha Shabazz, daughter of African American Muslim minister and human rights leader Malcolm X, is coming to Portland Saturday, May 26 to be the keynote speaker at a fundraising brunch by the Portland NAACP.

The local civil rights organization is celebrating Malcolm X with a series of events, called the X Factor, which will also be a fundraiser for the organization. The celebration will also fall in line with Malcolm X's birthday.

Shabazz has garnered a reputation for being an ambassador of peace in her own right, promoting higher education for at-risk youth, giving motivational speeches, participating in civil rights activism, fostering interfaith dialogue to build connections between cultures for young leaders of the world, and facilitating humanitarian delegations across the globe.

She is also an award winning author of several books including: *Growing Up X*, a coming of age memoir; *Malcolm Little: The Boy Who Grew Up to Become Malcolm X*, a children's illustrated book; *X*, a Novel, a young adult historical fiction book; and her newest book, *Betty Before X*, a middle school historical fiction book about her mother that was co-authored by local writer Renée Watson.

Shabazz followed in her father's footsteps in more ways than one, retracing his steps to the Holy City of Mecca to explore religious and historical sites in Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Jordan. Malcolm X

had done the same in 1964 when he distanced himself from the racially divisive teachings of the Nation of Islam and affirmed his Islamic faith as a way to reconcile racial tensions.

The brunch is part of a week-long celebration of NAACP Portland's 104 years of service that includes fundraising, readings, and the announcement of a proclamation for the city to officially recognize May 19, Malcolm X's birthday, as Malcolm X day in Portland.

"The city's proclamation would serve as official recognition to the important work of Malcolm X and emphasize our city and its leaders [sic] commitment, to reshaping Oregon's racist history," an official statement from NAACP Portland read.

Readings of Malcolm X and an auction will be held on Wednesday, May 23 at 7 p.m. at Po'Shines Café on 8139 N Denver Ave. For more information and tickets for the Shabazz event, visit xfactor.ticketleap.com.

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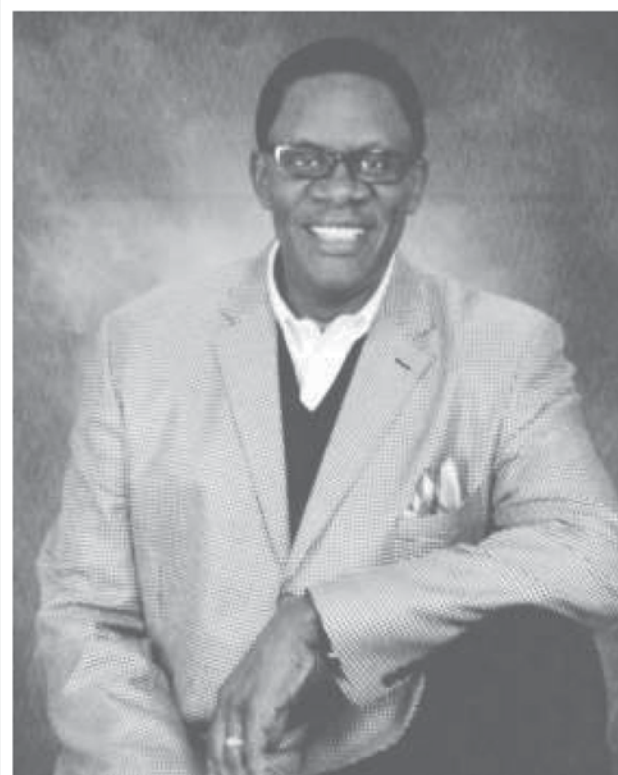
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Samson Gets To Know Herd

Sampson (right, with tusks) spends some time outside with Chendra at the Oregon Zoo's Elephant Lands. The encounter last week was the first since he arrived at the zoo on April 11 as caregivers begin to introduce the Asian elephant to his new family. "The female elephants are especially excited about Samson," said zoo caregiver Bob Lee. "We anticipate a lot of vocalizing."



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Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



Javier Nero, a four time international awarding winning jazz trombonist and composer originally from Portland, currently based in Miami, is slated to record his first full professional studio album. A crowd-sourcing campaign has been launched to help cover the expenses.

New Heights for Jazz Trombonist

Javier Nero, a young jazz trombonist, composer and bandleader who grew up in Portland and Vancouver, is slated to record his first full professional studio album in the coming weeks and a crowd sourcing campaign has been launched to help him cover the expenses.

Nero, 27, is a four time international award winning soloist, composer and arranger. He graduated from Evergreen High School in Vancouver and has garnered a degree from the Juilliard School in New York

City, and a doctorate from the Frost School of Music at the University of Miami.

Currently based in Miami, he is performing, teaching and touring with various ensembles, and is slated to record his first full album as a leader entitled "Freedom" later this month. The project will feature Shelly Berg and Brian Lynch, two Grammy Award winning musicians, and 10 of Javier's all original compositions and arrangements.

An indiegogo "crowd-sourcing" campaign was launched

last month to help raise money to cover the many expenses that go into making a professional studio album. You can learn more about the project and donate by searching for "Javier Nero" at indiegogo.com.

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Lester Purry stars in 'Fences,' the August Wilson play about a husband, father, former athlete and garbage collector trying to define himself in 1950s Pittsburgh. The play with its African-American narrative tackles issues of mental health and the impacts of racism. Now playing through June 10 at Portland Playhouse, 602 N.E. Prescott St.



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Dismantling Barriers

“Fences” drama at Portland Playhouse

Portland Playhouse presents ‘Fences’ another August Wilson play with an amazing African-American narrative where the issues of mental health and racism undergird a powerful and engaging script.

The production opened this month at the theater’s newly renovated performance venue at 602 N.E. Prescott St. and runs through June 10. It is the seventh of the late African American playwright’s 10-play “American Century Cycle” that the Playhouse has staged

‘Fences’ is a story about Troy, a 53-year-old black husband, father,

former athlete and now garbage collector who struggles to define himself both inside and out of his 1950s Pittsburgh home. It asks “What makes us choose the things we keep at a distance and what we decide to let in?”

Lou Bellamy, the founding Artistic Director of Penumbra Theatre Company, which has produced more August Wilson productions than any company in the world, including the premiere of “Jitney!,” directs the Portland production.

In honor of Mental Health Month, a panel discussion aimed at dismantling barriers and ad-

ressing the needs of mental health access and services for the black community will be held following the 2 p.m. matinee on Sunday, May 20. You do not need to attend the performance to attend this discussion.

On June 10, in honor of Fathers Day, a special discussion will follow the play giving black fathers and their sons an intimate conversational experience on “What we say, what we wished we said, and the things rarely heard outside the black home.”

For tickets and more information, visit portlandplayhouse.org.

PassinArt Play Confronts Gentrification

ROSE Community Development in Lents and the local African-American theater company PassinArt are presenting “Repulsing the Monkey,” a play about gentrification, May 21-23 and May 28-30 with 7:30 p.m. shows at TEAM Event Center, 9201 S.E. Foster Rd.

Two post-show discussions with artists and community

members to examine the impact of gentrification on diverse communities in the Portland area will take place after the shows on Monday, May 21 and Wednesday, May 30.

Tickets from \$5 to \$15 can be purchased online at PassinArt: A Theatre Company at passinart.net or by calling 503-235-8079. Tickets will also be available at

the door based on availability.

Repulsing the Monkey is a story about a brother and a sister who have inherited their parents’ bar in a blue collar neighborhood in Pittsburgh. The area is becoming gentrified and they struggle with the question: Should they sell or should they keep their family and neighborhood’s heritage alive?

Washington CLASSIC

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

Saturday, May 19, 2018



Saturday, May 19 at SEI, 3920 N. Kerby; 9 AM



*Featuring many
top athletic talents
from Portland
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Cory Washington (above) is pictured at Mt Hood Community College where he played in 1985. The newspaper's corporate name, Cory Publishing commemorates Cory Washington, one of the first and most-involved staff members of the paper.

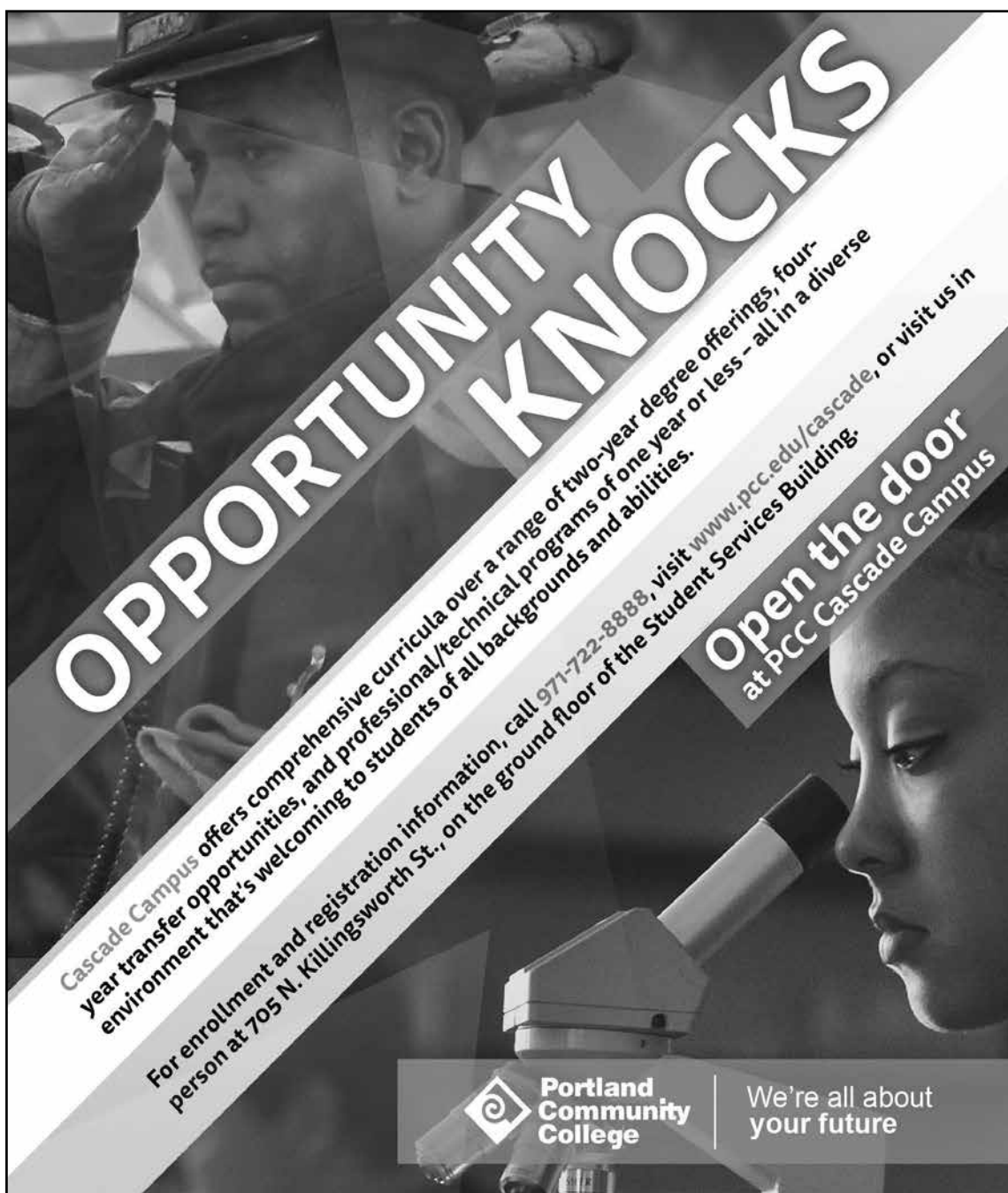


Eleu8 Hoops girls huddle during a timeout at the 2017 Joyce Washington Classic.



ABOUT THE PORTLAND OBSERVER:

In 1989, Joyce Washington purchased the Portland Observer, a northeast Portland weekly serving diverse communities. Joyce Washington studied sociology at Portland Community College and Portland State University. She passed in March 1996 but her legacy lives on today with Mark and Rakeem Washington overseeing the daily operations and publication of the paper, and who are both heavily involved in supporting the youth of Portland.




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The 2017 Portland Observer Ballers team pose for a photo from last year's tournament.



The boys Fly Team at last year's Joyce Washington classic.



The Eleu8 Hoops Team line up at the Washington Classic in 2017 for a team photo.

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Middle school girls from the 503 Running Rebels and Eleu8 Team have a good time on the court during last year's Joyce Washington Classic.



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Coach Mac (left) and Coach Lindsay oversee activities at the 2017 Joyce Washington Classic.



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Coaching is hard. Mark Washington corrals his team, the Portland Observer Ballers, at last year's classic.



The 503 Running Rebels girls team and their coaches.

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The 2017 Breakdown girls team pose for a photo from last year's tournament.



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Chuck McCloud enjoys the 2017 Joyce Washington Classic with his grandkids.



Anthony Blake and his mother enjoy taking take in all the action from last year's Joyce Washington Classic.



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Jaylen Howard
Jayden Ta
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Syrius Owens
King Sims
Marquan Yaldez

NAYA

Boy's Team Coaches:

Jett Sheng & Marley Johnson

BOY'S TEAM:

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Xavier Huddelston
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Boy's Team Coaches:

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Writing to Make a Difference

Local playwright debuts new work after injury

BY DANNY PETERSON,
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

After an injury and five year hiatus to focus on family and work, African-American Portland playwright Kwik Jones is set to premiere his new play, "Jupiter is Stormy" for a free one-day-only showing during the upcoming Memorial Day weekend.

Jones arranged the first rehearsal of the production just last week, which is set to premiere at 3 p.m. on Saturday, May 26 at Kelly's Olympian in downtown Portland.

The play was originally set to debut late last month, but complications from a spinal cord injury Jones suffered made putting the production together unmanageable, so he canceled that showing. He's since been put on a new nerve medication that has enabled him to continue working on the play, although he had to recast it, Jones told the Portland Observer.

Jones grew up in northeast Portland and has been writing issue-minded plays locally, including "Voices," and "Spotlight," for over 20 years. A Jefferson High School alum, he has been known to use surplus earnings from his productions to feed the homeless with his family around the holidays. This time, he's funneling his generosity to the audience by premiering the play at no cost.

"Jupiter is Stormy" centers on African American teens, Blaze, played by Ari- es Annitya, and Stormy, played by Netty McKenzie, who are long-lost loves that both enjoy alternative subcultures—Blaze listens to metal and Stormy is a goth girl. But Blaze has been masquerading as a hip-hop head to avoid ridicule from his classmates. When they're reunited, Stormy encourages him to just be himself.

"It asks the question 'what's black?' Because I'm black I can't listen to metal? Because I'm black I can't play hockey? Because I'm black I can't skydive? Because you're white you're not supposed to do hip-hop? How come I can't be who I want to be and still be accepted by my people?" Jones said.

The unusual premise was originally meant to be about teens in rival gangs who fall in love. But when Jones asked his teenage daughter if there were gangs at her school, she said there weren't very many. Largely, she said, there were the "cool

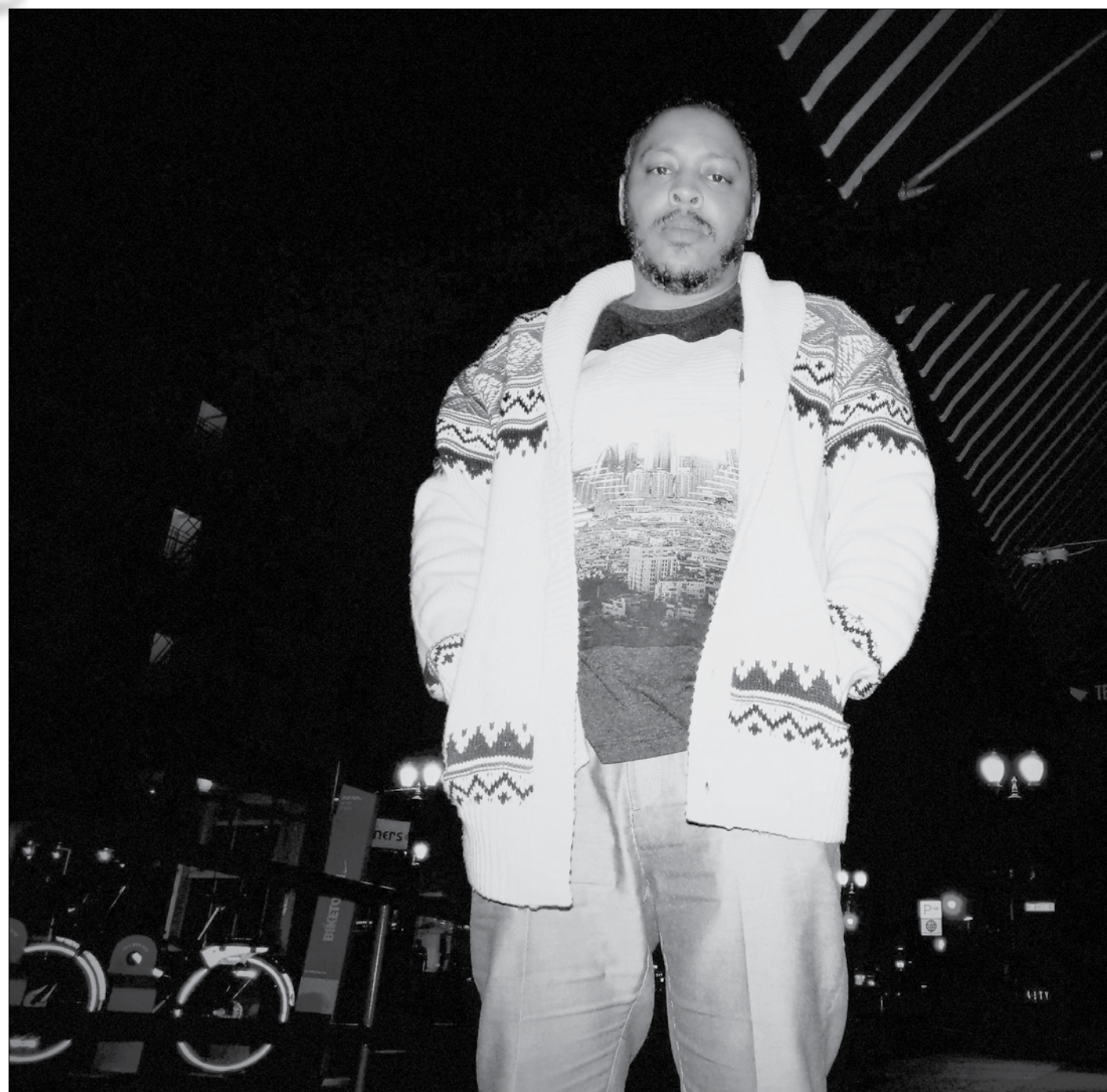


PHOTO COURTESY STUDIO 20

Actor and playwright Kwik Jones has been a writing issue-minded plays in Portland for over 20 years. His new play, "Jupiter is Stormy," follows his return to writing after a spinal cord injury rendered him unable to work.

kids," the "sports kids," and then the "goth/emo" kids.

"So that's where the story came from. And when I was doing my research I found out that there are people...alternative lifestyles is what they call them...they love metal, rock, punk...there's a number of African Americans, black people, that's into that. And I was like 'wow.' I didn't have any idea that the subculture of goth was big for a lot of African Americans," Jones said.

Jones used YouTube vlogs of goth teens as research then used his own imagination to tie in the story to themes such as civil

rights and gay and lesbian issues. It takes place in one room, a program to catch up on academic credits for high school students struggling to graduate on time. The play also took some inspiration from John Hughes' film "The Breakfast Club," a 1985 coming of age drama about teens from wildly different high school social groups in detention together.

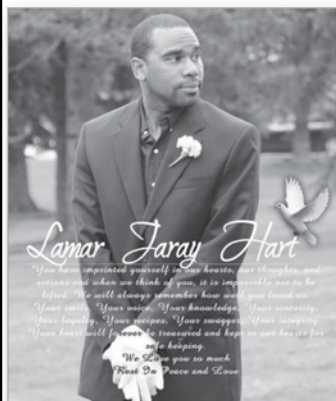
"I think the theme of the play is really the imprisonment of people. Here are these kids that are in a last chance program, they're in a credit recovery. They stay in one room all day, every day. How do they break from that? How do they break from

what they're in? Do they want to break from what they're in?" Jones said.

The 44 year old playwright said he'd dabbled in sketches and monologues in grade school, but phased that out when he became interested in sports. When he sustained a chipped bone in his ankle during his college years of playing football at Eastern Oregon State University in La Grande, he decided to get into writing plays. His football coach laughed dismissively at the switch, but Jones wrote his first play that very night—"Both Sides of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

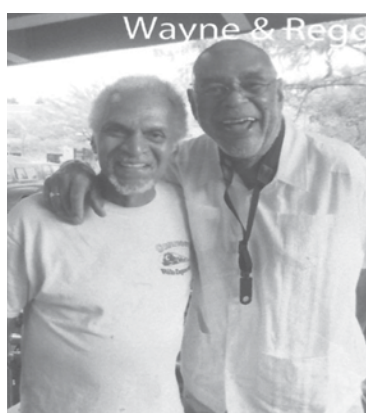
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The Kenton Neighborhood in north Portland holds its annual Kenton Street Fair on Sunday, May 20, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The statute of Paul Bunyan stands at the intersection of North Interstate and Denver.

Kenton Street Fair Sunday

A free event open to all ages, the Kenton Street Fair will showcase local businesses, food and music on Sunday, May 20 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on North Denver Avenue between Schofield and

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Sponsored by the Kenton Business Association, this year's ninth annual event celebrates the history of a vibrant neighborhood with over 80 vendors and a fresh coat of paint for Kenton's landmark Paul Bunyan statue which was recently restored thanks to \$80,000 in donations.

The festivities will kick off

with a children's parade at 10 a.m. followed by a coaster car race for adults. Children are invited to explore the kid's area, featuring pony rides, face painting and free activities. Entertainment includes performances from 31 bands across four stages, including One Zero Street, Blossom, Fountaine and The Fur Coats.

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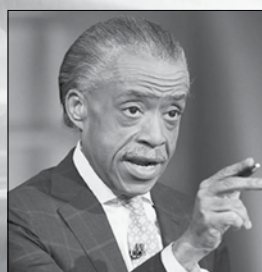
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CALENDAR May 2018

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY



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

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.

Millions of High-Paying Trade Jobs Sit Empty

My advice for grads: learn a trade

BY CHUCK COLLINS

In the classic 1960s movie *The Graduate*, a family friend offers Dustin Hoffman, the recent graduate, one word of advice: “plastics.”

My advice for today’s high school graduates: “learn a trade.”

Unfortunately, there’s a historic stigma about “vocational-ed,” the result of snobbery toward certain occupations.

Yes, there’s also the shameful practice of tracking low-income whites and people of color into blue-collar jobs while encouraging wealthier white students to attend college. But now there are millions of rewarding, high-paying trade jobs sitting empty.

Instead of training for those, tens of millions of high school graduates are on college autopilot, loading up an average of \$37,000 in debt, and graduating without any practical skills.



Not only is our economy suffering for lack of skilled workers, but also a huge number of workers are unhappy and earning below their financial potential.

There are legions of depressed Dillberts out there in cubicle land, sitting in front of computer screens, wondering who will be laid off next. And there are millions of young people sitting in college classrooms dreaming of being somewhere else.

Put these same people in an apprenticeship with a skilled adult and they’ll thrive. Instead of wasting their intelligence in an office, they could deploy it in a bicycle or auto repair garage, woodworking shop, or on a farm or construction site.

Princeton economist Alan Blinder says the job market of the future won’t be divided between people with college degrees and those without, but between work that can be outsourced and work that can’t. “You can’t hammer a nail over the internet,” he observed. “Nor can you fix a car transmission, rewire a house, install solar panels, or give a patient an injection.”

The value of a liberal arts college education is exposure to a wide range of ideas and knowledge, along with social networks. But college is certainly not the only path to such learning. And four-year residential college today has more in common with a party on a luxury cruise ship than a platform for learning a vocation.

True, today the lifelong earnings of college graduates exceed those who don’t attend college. But there’s no evidence this will be the case going forward. Have you paid an electrician or a plumber anytime lately? There’s a reason they’re hard to find and can command a high wage. It’s called scarcity.

Millions more “green collar” jobs are emerging in our transition to the renewable energy economy. And at some point, our nation will have to repair our aging bridges, roads, and transportation facilities and retrofit buildings to be more energy efficient.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, one third of all new jobs through 2022 will be in construction, health care, and personal care. The fastest growing oc-

cupations are solar and wind energy technicians, followed by plumbers, machine tool programmers, HVAC mechanics, and iron and steel workers.

Changing attitudes about different occupations is part of the challenge.

Parents and guidance counselors can start by respectfully talking about the opportunities in trades. They can introduce students to people with satisfying careers in the trades and steer them to useful web resources on the path to trades.

Congress could help by making Pell grants available for short-term job training courses, not just college tuition. It could also restore funding for Tech-Prep, a neglected federal program that supports vocational education.

Let’s dump the old class-biased stereotypes. It takes all kinds of intelligence and advanced training to do a trade. And it can be financially rewarding and enormously satisfying.

Chuck Collins directs the Program on Inequality and the Common Good at the Institute for Policy Studies. Distributed by OtherWords.org.

On Maternal Healthcare, Race Trumps Everything

Disparities bring issue into focus

BY OSCAR H. BLAYTON

Most people of color can point to at least one moment when they realize that popular culture in America distorts the reality of their history and existence.



The most memorable experience for me was when I was in the sixth-grade in my segregated public school in Virginia. One of our courses was Virginia history and the state had provided us with the required history textbook. Somewhere between the covers of that book was a picture of a group of smiling, dancing enslaved African Americans being observed by a small group of amused white people – presumably the owner and his family. The text explained that most slaves were happy with their condition and prospered under the kindly supervision of their masters.

Fortunately, my sixth-grade teacher was having none of it. He had us open our books to that page and told us that we were being

fed lies so that white people could remain in power in the state. He explained that truths were being kept from us because knowledge is power. It is the power to improve your life.

There are so many lies in American popular culture, beginning with the moment we’re born – in the maternity ward. Several studies demonstrate that racism in America kills black expectant mothers and their newborn babies, but popular culture tells us that they are receiving the best health care.

A New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene 2016 report titled “Severe Maternal Morbidity in New York City, 2008–2012” put it this way: “Black non-Latina women with at least a college degree had higher Severe Maternal Morbidity rates than women of other race/ethnicities who never graduated high school.”

The National Center for Biotechnology Information published a paper in 2016 that states: “Racism and racial discrimination in the USA is thought to be a major driver of the differences between birth outcomes among different racial and ethnic groups,

particularly between black women and women of other races.”

The Centers for Disease Control found that during 2011 to 2013, there were 12.7 deaths per 100,000 live births for white women within a year of giving birth. But for black women, the rate of death was almost four times higher at 43.5 deaths per 100,000 live births.

While few popular media outlets have focused on this problem, *Newsweek* magazine published an article in 2016 that reported: “The shameful secret is that even when controlling for age, socioeconomic status and education, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that African-American women ... face a nearly four times higher risk of death from pregnancy complications than white women. In parts of the U.S. with high concentrations of women of color who live in poverty, such as Mississippi, maternal death rates can surpass those of sub-Saharan Africa.”

Despite a mountain of evidence to the contrary, particularly in the area of maternal health for black women, the popular thinking is that U.S. health care is the best in the world.

In 2015, *Time* magazine, MSNBC, CBS, CNN and other news outlets reported that the nonprofit organization Save Our Children, in its annual report, ranked the United States as 33rd among 179 nations in the world for quality of life for women and children. That ranking was based upon an overall score that took into account mothers’ and children’s health, educational, economic and political status.

What these news outlets did not report is that the United States ranks 61st in maternal health, 42nd in children’s well-being and 89th when it comes to the political status of women.

The high infant and maternal mortality among black women and babies is masked by the low numbers among more affluent Americans. For example, Save Our Children points to a 2011 study that revealed that infants in Washington D.C.’s Ward 8, where half of all children live in poverty, died at a rate more than 10 times higher than the death rate of infants born in Ward 3, the richest part of the city. The report also pointed to San Francisco, where an African American mother is six times as likely as a

white mother to lose her baby before her child’s first birthday.

Because the United States performs well on economic and educational status in the Save Our Children study, the country is able to mask its abysmal performance when it comes to the health and well-being of expectant mothers and newborn babies.

Black expectant mothers, whether they are well educated or poorly educated, deserve the best health care this country can afford. But pointing out the disparity in health care between well-educated black mothers and poorly educated white mothers brings into focus the significance of race relative to health care because education is supposed to be the great equalizer. But just as race trumps everything else in America, race trumps education.

Those who brag about America having the best health system in the world, like those before them who touted the benefits of chattel slavery, have no interest in the truth. They merely want to keep the truth from us, because knowledge is power.

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

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OPINION



The Death Penalty and the School Shooter

Why I don't want to see him executed

BY LAURA FINLEY

Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy."

I've been thinking about that quote a lot lately, and about the importance of holding positions that are particularly difficult. I live not 30 minutes from Parkland, Florida, where Nikolas Cruz murdered 17 people at Marjorie Stoneman Douglas High School on Valentine's Day.

Cruz left 17 others wounded and devastated not just the school but the entire community. Despite the horrors that Cruz levied, I still do not want to see him executed. I universally oppose the death penalty. That is not a particularly easy position to hold right now, in this case, but I believe it is the right one. It is for me, at least.

I oppose the death penalty for many reasons, but will highlight just a few here, briefly. First, as

much as people want to believe, no credible studies show it to be a deterrent.

Second, it costs far more than does incarcerating someone for life without parole, money that could be better used to help victims and to support violence prevention programs.

Third, it is rife with racial bias. The Death Penalty Information Center reports that 297 black defendants

people have been exonerated from death row since 1973. Florida has exonerated 27 individuals.

Sixth, a vast majority of the people on death row have significant mental issues, and a 2014 poll showed that Americans oppose executing the mentally ill more than two to one.

But, perhaps most importantly, I reject the death penalty because it is morally repugnant. The state should simply not have the right to kill if we want to teach people that

estimates, it could take 10 years for Cruz to face trial and another 20 of appeals.

I don't speak for all the victims or their families, but at least some have been on record saying they'd prefer prosecutors to accept Cruz's guilty plea so they can move on.

Just like the case of Dylan Roof, who received a death sentence for the murder of nine African-American parishioners in South Carolina in 2015, Cruz is clearly guilty and there is no racial bias given that he is Caucasian. So, some assert the system "works" in these cases. That is far from the truth.

Executing Cruz furthers a system that is desperately broken and that is, most often, not used against people like him. Death row is filled with poor, uneducated men of color and individuals who suffer from serious mental issues. Pretending that two supposedly "slam dunk" cases fixes the rot that is the death penalty is no more accurate than announcing success for saving one berry in a moldy batch.

Yes, Cruz's actions were horrendous. Yes, the community is still grieving. Adding one more body to the list of fatalities can hardly help, though.

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

...perhaps most importantly, I reject the death penalty because it is morally repugnant. The state should simply not have the right to kill if we want to teach people that killing is wrong.

have been executed for killing a white victim while only 31 white murderers have been executed for killing black individuals (and black defendants are wrongfully convicted at a rate seven times that of white defendants).

Fourth, it is arbitrary, with death sentences varying wildly from county to county.

Fifth, we get it wrong way too often and no one can fix a wrongful execution. One hundred sixty-two

killing is wrong.

In the case of Cruz, his attorneys have offered that he would plead guilty and accept multiple life sentences with no chance of parole in exchange for dropping the capital charges. This would ensure he cannot commit any other offenses, save taxpayer dollars, and it would spare the families of victims a long wait for a lengthy and difficult trial, followed by many years of appeals. By some



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

Steel Piles/Shoring, Concrete Reinforcing, Masonry, Waterproofing, Drywall/Framing, Elevators/Escalators

JE Dunn Construction invites written Bids from qualified Trade Partners to provide construction services for Steel Piles, Concrete Reinforcing, Masonry, Waterproofing, Drywall/Framing, Elevators/Escalators on the PACR project.

A complete copy of the Bidding Documents can be obtained by emailing Jeff Banister at jeff.banister@jedunn.com. Bids may also be delivered by email to Jeff Banister.

Bids due 2:00pm PST May 31, 2018

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

A pre-proposal meeting will be located at the PDX Conference Center, 7000 NE Airport Way, Umatilla Conference room, on May 18th, 2018 at 10:30 AM for answering questions regarding the Scopes of Work on the Project.



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4H – Door Frames, Doors, Hardware for Core areas

4J – Drywall & ACT

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Bid Contact: Oleg Saidov
email address: saidovo@hswc.com

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SUB BIDS REQUESTED

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

Roadwork and Misc. Site Services and P1 & P2 Modifications

JE Dunn Construction invites written and sealed Bids from qualified Trade Partners to provide construction services for the Roadwork and Misc. Site Services and P1 & P2 Modification on the PACR Project.

Bids due 2:00pm PST June 4, 2018

A non-mandatory pre-bid meeting will be located at the Port of Portland HQ, 7000 NE Airport Way, Umatilla Conference Room, on May 21st, 2018 at 8 AM for answering questions regarding the Scopes of Work on the Project.

A complete copy of the RFP can be obtained by emailing Rob Means at Robert.means@jedunn.com. Proposals may also be delivered by email to Rob Means.

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



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SUB BIDS REQUESTED

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

Plumbing & Mechanical Trade Partner

JE Dunn Construction invites written and sealed proposals for qualified Trade Partners to provide Plumbing & Mechanical work on the PACR project.

RFP Responses due 2:00pm PST June 4, 2018

A pre-bid meeting will be located at the Port of Portland HQ, 7000 NE Airport Way, Umatilla Conference Room, on May 21st, 2018 at 10:30 AM for answering any questions regarding the work on this Project.

A complete copy of the RFP can be obtained by emailing Mike Nichols at mike.nichols@jedunn.com. Proposals may also be delivered by email to Mike Nichols.

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



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Norman Sylvester

-- 'Boogie Cat' Norman Sylvester plays Friday, May 18 at the Vinyl Tap; Saturday, May 19 at C I Bar and Grill in Tualatin; Friday, May 25 at Clyde's; and Saturday, May 26 at the Nehalem Bay Winery.



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.

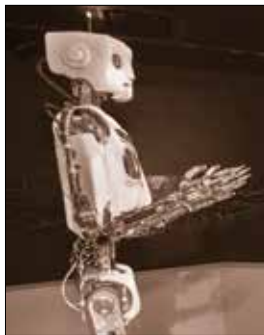
Allen Temple Rebuild Concert -- A benefit concert featuring acclaimed spiritual and classical singer Mrs. Peggy Houston Shivers and her exciting choral group will support the rebuilding fund for Allen Temple CME Church, a historic black church that was severely damaged by two electrical fires in 2015. The concert will take place Sunday, May 20 at 6 p.m. at Maranatha Church, 4222 N.E. 12th Ave.



Teen Musical Revisit -- The comedy 'John Hughes High: The 1980s Teen Musical' flips the script on the 'Say Anything' generation with a world premiere play that uses gender-blind casting to subvert 1980s teen clichés and culture. Now playing through Sunday, May 20 at the Alder Stage in Artists Repertory Theatre, downtown.

Theatre, Thursday, May 17 through Sunday, May 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 Orches-

tra, Friends of Chamber Music, Portland Chamber Orchestra, Portland Piano International, Portland Symphonic Choir, Cappella Romana and Portland Vocal Consort.

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*Obituary***In Loving Memory****Jimmy L. Lockhart**

Jimmy L. Lockhart was born April 18, 1934 and died April 28, 2018.

A U.S. Veteran, a memorial service in his honor will be held Monday, May 21 at 12 noon at Willamette National Cemetery, 11800 S.E. Mt. Scott Blvd. A repass will follow at 3 p.m. at the Man Cave, located at 2627 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.,

between Northeast Knott and Russell Street.

Contributions of flowers, cards and donations can be sent to Beverly Lockhart Stone, 14113 N.E. 88th St., Vancouver, WA 98682.

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PHOTO COURTESY STUDIO 20

Netty McKenzie in the role of Stormy tries to encourage her long lost love, Blaze, played by Aries Annitya, to be true to himself and embrace his metal music loving ways in "Jupiter is Stormy" by Portland African American actor and playwright Kwik Jones. The play will show for one performance only on Saturday, May 26, at 3 p.m. at Kelly's Olympian in downtown Portland.

Writing

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

the Fence," which dealt with the Crips and Bloods.

In the past five years, he's taken a break from writing to focus on raising his children and working long shifts at an auto distribution center in Beaverton, Oregon. But a recent injury, this time to his spinal cord, once again set him on the path to his craft.

"I couldn't do anything anymore. I was just on the couch getting fat. So I was just like 'God what do you want me to do, before I go out of my mind.' Then one day it just hit me: go back to writing," Jones recalled.

Jones had dropped a tray of heavy parts at work, which yanked him down and caused the injury. Now he has limited use of his right arm, which goes numb, as well as swelling and limited mobility in his neck. An avid mixed martial arts athlete, the injury has put a significant damper on Jones' lifestyle and slid him into a depression for a bit. He's scheduled to get a neck fusion in the near future, which will guarantee that he won't succumb to any further paralysis. But doctors told him that the surgery only has a 50/50 chance of restoring full mobility to where it was before.

Jones said he's trying to make the best out of the situation.

"When God wants you to do something and you're not hearing, he'll get your attention. Even though it's a negative thing, I'm getting something corrected, and I'm getting back into something that I treasure and love so much."

Back in 2007, Jones was a resident producer at the now shuttered Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center in north Portland. The former fire station on Interstate Avenue was reworked into a culturally diverse performing arts hub in the 1980s. One of Jones' most acclaimed plays, "The Code," premiered there. It was about the shooting of an unarmed black man by a white cop, told through the eyes of his partner, a black police officer. He is currently working on a screenplay to turn "The Code" into a movie next year, through his production company, Studio 20.

"Jupiter is Stormy" stars Portland actors Aries Annitya, Netty McKenzie, John D'Aversa, Ashley Pio, and Eric Island. Jones may be reached for more information at studio20ent@hotmail.com.



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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.

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