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Portland Observer

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Established in 1970
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A diverse group of Portland writers and musicians are the creators behind "From Maxville to Vanport" a new CD of songs and original music telling the stories of two Oregon towns rooted in early African American history. Pictured (from left) are Gwen Trice, Douglas Detrick, S. Renee Mitchell, Marilyn Keller and Ezra Weiss.

Maxville to Vanport

Musical journey a focus on two historic black towns

BY BEVERLY CORBELL
 THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A couple of years ago, five diverse Oregonians stood in the middle of an empty, snowy field in northeast Oregon — a vocalist, a composer, a filmmaker, a historian, and an artistic director — and each of them knew they were onto something special.

All of them were familiar with the history of Vanport, but most had just recently learned of similar history about they were standing, the former settlement of Maxville, near the town of Wallowa in northeast Oregon. Like the black laborers who came from all over the country to build ships in Vanport during World War II, another

migration of African Americans had come to Maxville to work in the logging industry in the 1920s and '30s.

The group in the cold field that day, where Maxville existed from 1922 to 1933, was composed of artistic director Douglas Detrick, executive director of the Portland Jazz Composers Ensemble; jazz composer and pianist Ezra Weiss; historian Gwendolyn Trice; jazz and gospel singer Marilyn Keller, and historian and filmmaker Kalimah Abioto. S. Renee Mitchell, a poet, lyricist and author, had visited the site earlier.

Those six people had one collective goal: To tell the stories of both Vanport and Maxville through song, original music and film, a goal they accomplished earlier this

year and performed to acclaim several times this spring. A CD of the music "From Maxville to Vanport" was released earlier this month, and more performances of the music and film showings will be held in Corvallis in February, in Portland in March, and possibly beyond.

Trice provided historical research and Mitchell wrote the lyrics. Weiss composed the music that was sung by Keller and for two films created by Abioto. Detrick is creative director for the entire project, and the music is performed by Detrick's jazz ensemble. CDs are available at pjce.bandcamp.com.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



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The Week in Review

Arrest in Hidden Camera Investigation

A year after a Kaiser Permanente employee found a hidden camera inside a private bathroom at a Kaiser workplace on Northeast 138th Avenue, a pharmacist who worked for the company was arrested Monday on 71 charges. The indictment against Johnny Tuck Chee Chan, 34, identifies 51 victims, including one minor girl, who were recorded with their permission.



Kimmons Grand Jury Transcripts Release

The Multnomah County District Attorney's Office released the grand jury transcripts from the investigation into the officer-involved shooting death of Patrick Kimmons Monday. The 27-year-old black resident was shot and killed in downtown Portland on Sept. 30 after he fired five shots, injuring two people. The grand jury determined officers were justified in the use of deadly force.



Tear Gas Fired on Immigrants at Border

A group of Central American migrants rushed toward the border crossing into San Diego Sunday and they were forced backwards by tear gas canisters

hurled by U.S. border agents. The image provoked outrage worldwide.

NASA Spacecraft Successfully Lands on Mars

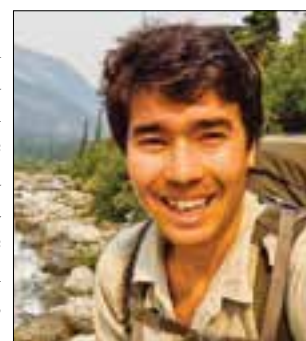
NASA's InSight spacecraft landed on Mars Monday afternoon. The mechanical three-legged, one-armed mining spacecraft is programmed to drill into the deep interior of Mars as well as investigate if there are "Marsquakes." On Tuesday, the spacecraft was catching some rays, recharging its batteries and taking stunning photos.

\$5 Million Homeless Charity Donation

Jeff Bezos, the founder of Amazon and the world's richest person, announced last week that he will give \$5 million to the Portland non-profit JOIN to help get homeless families out of cars, tents and emergency shelters and into homes. It's the largest donation from an individual donor in the organization's 26-year history.

Killed Missionary Left Diary

John Allen Chau, 26, a missionary from Vancouver who died trying to convert an isolated native tribe living on an island off the coast of India to Christianity, wrote about his attempts in his final diary entries before his Nov. 17 death, officials said Monday. He was killed in an area where Sentinelese people have no contact with outsiders and have lived the same way for thousands of years.



Dire Climate Change Warning Delivered

A new US government report on Friday delivered a dire warning about climate change and its devastating impacts, saying the economy could lose hundreds of billions of dollars — or, in the worst-case scenario, more than 10 percent of its GDP — by the end of the century.

GM to Lay Off 14,000 Workers, Close Plants

General Motors will lay off up to 14,000 factory and white-collar workers in North America and consider closing up to five major plants as the auto giant restructures to cut costs and focus more on electric vehicles and autonomous cars. The company-wide restructuring was announced Monday.

Get Back to Work Job Fair

Portland Community College will join participating employers for a "Get Back to Work Job Fair" on Wednesday, Dec. 5 from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Embassy Suites/Portland Airport, 7900 N.E. 82nd Ave. The employers who will be on hand to meet with

job seekers include PacifiCorp, TriMet, Cintas, Matheson, NW Natural, NW Regional Carpenters, HUHEC, New Seasons Market, Cosco, Securitas, Aramark, Avis Budget Rental, Madden Industrial and many more.

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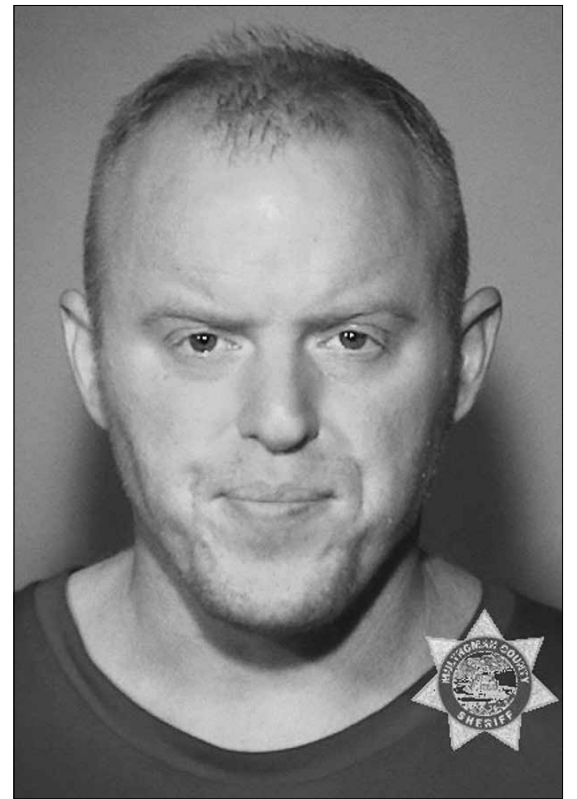
CALENDAR

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This page
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A police booking photo of Justin C. Venable (left) after his arrest Monday for menacing others with a metal rod and another picture shows him as a suspect in one of the attacks.

Menacing Behavior Arrest

Man accused of poking strangers with metal rod

A man was arrested Monday after he allegedly used a metal rod to poke strangers in south-east Portland over the weekend.

Justin C. Venable, 37, is being held in Multnomah County Detention Center on harassment charges after being located Monday evening by Portland police near Southeast 35th and Main Street. A metal rod that was in his possession was confiscated, police said.

It's unclear what motive was behind the pokings. Venable's mother and brother told KOIN-TV he's schizophrenic and has been off his medications for the last two years, but has never been violent before.

Earlier Monday police released a photo of the suspect, rod-in-hand, taken by one of his alleged victims. A call later that evening by someone who spotted Venable led to police finding and apprehending him, authorities said.

Four poking incidents were reported to have occurred from Saturday through Monday at various times, by multiple people, all around Southeast Hawthorne Boulevard. None of the victims were seriously injured.

Man Dies after Campus Police Struggle

Authorities blame death on unidentified medical condition

Authorities are investigating the death of a man who was restrained by both Portland State University and city of Portland police on Thanksgiving Day and died in the hospital shortly later.

Authorities said Richard A. Barry, 52, got into a struggle with PSU police who were responding to a report of a man yelling and running in the streets. In total, six officers became involved, two from the Portland Police Bureau and four from PSU as they tried to restrain

Barry, officials said. He later died after being transported to the hospital from "an unidentified medical condition," police said.

It was the second officer-involved death involving PSU campus police this year, the first being the officer involved shooting death of Jason Washington outside the Cheerful Tortoise near the campus in June.

All the officers in this latest case were placed on administrative leave pending investigations. The official cause of Barry's death will get released when the reviews are completed, police said.

Officials said Portland Police will conduct an internal investigation of the incident, with cooperation from PSU, and the Multnomah County District Attorney will oversee the case.



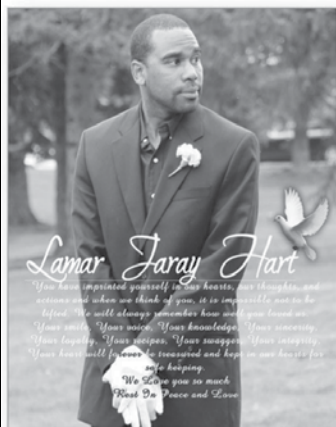
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Cold Case Rewards Offered

Public's help sought in two separate deaths

The Portland Police Bureau, in cooperation with Crime Stoppers of Oregon, is asking for the public's help to solve the homicide of a black man killed in North Portland's Eliot Neighborhood in 2015 and cracking open the case of another black man killed in southeast Portland last month.

On Nov. 11, 2015, at 3:16 p.m., North Precinct officers responded to the report of a shooting at North Vancouver Avenue and Fargo Street. Officers and medical personnel arrived and located the victim, 26-year-old Laray William Seamster, suffering from multiple gunshot wounds. Seamster was transported to a Portland hospital for treatment but died shortly after arrival.

Witnesses have told police



Laray William Seamster

that two younger black males were involved in the shooting and ran out of the area, possibly leaving in a silver vehicle.

The second cold case dates to Oct. 7, 2018, when police responded to Southeast 94th Avenue after multiple people called 9-1-1- to report gunfire. When officers arrived, they located Izryl T. Johnson, 21, in the street suffering from gunshot wounds.

Officers provided Johnson emergency medical aid until paramedics arrived at the scene. Ultimately, paramedics were unable to save Johnson and he died at the scene. There is no suspect information in this case.



Izryl T. Johnson

Crime Stoppers of Oregon offers cash rewards of up to \$2,500 cash for information, reported to Crime Stoppers, that leads to an arrest in any unsolved felony crime and tipsters can remain anonymous. Information learned from social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter or YouTube should be shared as these tips may lead to the identification of a suspect or suspects. Links can be shared anonymously through Crime Stoppers. You can call 503-823-HELP or submit an anonymous tip by visiting the App Store and download P3 Tips to submit secure and anonymous tips.

Allen Temple Food Drive Saturday

Allen Temple CME Church invites the community to join them in helping make sure no

children and families go hungry this winter. The church will be collecting donations during a special food bank drive on Saturday, Dec. 1 at 4214 N.E. Eighth Ave., from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Non-perishable food and monetary donations will be wel-

come.

The Allen Temple Emergency Aid Center has been meeting the needs of the community by providing food, clothing and personal hygiene items for many years, changing lives one person at a time.

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PHOTO COURTESY OREGON DEPT. OF CORRECTIONS

Tammy Kennedy, a Portland Community College leader, removes a tattoo from an inmate at the Coffee Creek Correctional Facility in a life-changing program to help women start anew as they transition towards becoming members of the community.

Tattoo Removals Empower Change

PCC leader helps turn lives around

Tattoos can be reminders of the past and a lifestyle that is best left behind. For the women housed at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility they have the opportunity to start anew as they transition towards becoming members of our community.

In March of this year, the Department of Corrections, in partnership with Portland Community College, began a tattoo removal program at the women's prison in Wilsonville.

Tammy Kennedy, a PCC leader who contracts with the institution, runs this potentially life-changing initiative along with Coffee Creek's hair design program. Kennedy has a certificate in Advanced Esthetics, which she pursued in part, to bring additional treatment, skills, training and certification options to the incarcerated women.

As she operates the tattoo removal laser she says, "Many of these women come to our facilities with anti-social tattoos. Whether they are gang, drug or domestic abuse related tattoos, helping them remove that part of their past is rewarding work. Many of these tattoos were directly related to what brought them here. What they once thought was permanent can now be a thing of the past."

One incarcerated woman wrote about her tattoo removal experience, "For 22 years, I've had a shackle around my ankle, the permanent brand of a past abusive relationship that I've had to be reminded of every day as I put on my shoes. The tattoo removal program that you brought to Coffee Creek is changing that."

To date, 362 people have been treated and approximately 750 tattoos have been, or are in the process of, being removed. The longer term objective is to bring tattoo removal to the men incarcerated, as well.

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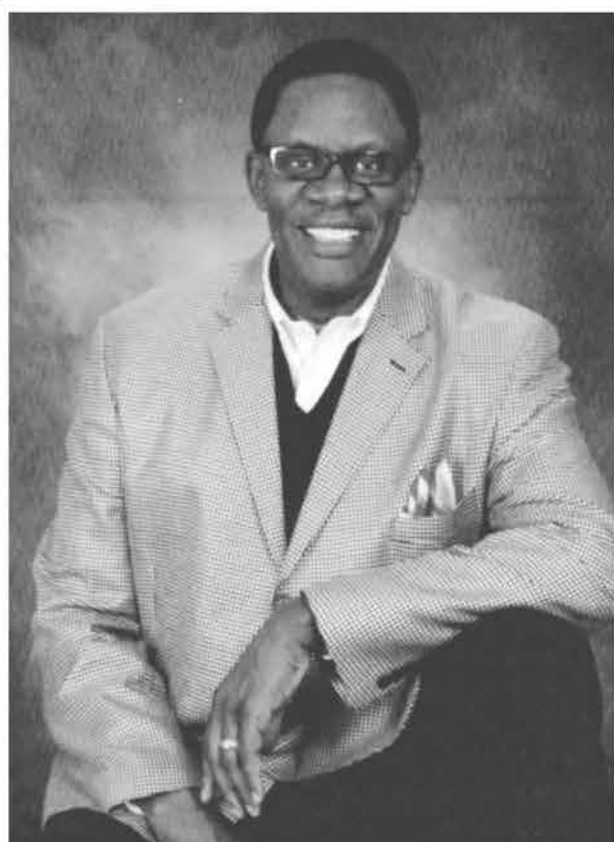
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three or even four bowel movements after the first adjustments on his or her spine. A man with FBSS (failed back surgical syndrome) went home and had 12 bowel movements that night. And he claimed he wasn't even constipated! Whatever questions you might have about health and healing, you'll find that Chiropractic is often the answer. Call us for an appointment today.

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Portland jazz and gospel singer Marilyn Keller fronts the Portland Jazz Composers Ensemble for their new CD "From Maxville to Vanport" a group of songs and original music to tell the story of two historic Oregon towns rooted in early African American history.

Maxville to Vanport

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

The multi-layered project, according to Detrick, looks at the history of both towns and highlights the need to showcase the under-representation of black

people in Oregon history by looking honestly at the prejudice they faced and celebrating "their resilience, courage and important contributions to Oregon through jazz, R&B and blues."

Each of the songs has a dif-

ferent theme and tells a different aspect of experiences of the residents of the two communities. Mitchell said she relied heavily on the expertise of black historian Gwendolyn Trice, also part of the creative team, along with

interviews in the homes of descendants of those who lived in Maxville, as well as the feeling she got while standing at the long-abandoned logging site.

"Being on a quad of land where Maxville was once located, everything has its own energy," she said. "To allow the words to come and giving them over to Ezra, who is a musical genius — we had the right people, the right kind of process and everyone brought their 'A' game to the table."

Mitchell said the evolution of the project also included feedback from community members after preview performances earlier this year.

"We invited people to glean it, to really hear the themes we try to make present, themes of resiliency, themes of really appreciating the connections people made to help each other survive," she said. "One thing that came out that was profound — how they had to lean on each other to be able to make it during those times, like how high the snow was, how cold the wind and rain was coming through the walls...I'd love to keep telling this story."

Mitchell added that she's even like to see "From Maxville to Vanport" made into a musical.

"There may be a play coming down the pike at some point, maybe as (part of) some curriculum," she said.

That would be just fine with Keller, as she recalled the evolution of the music from those early preview performances.

"We polled the audience and

they said we were on the right track, but they wanted to hear blues and jazz and the music of the African Diaspora," she said. "And I think Ezra and Renee both captured that."

Keller said she and Weiss had worked together before and by the time she started singing the music, it had become part of her. She also recalled that trip to Maxville and how it affected her.

"When we went to the campsite of Maxville, standing in the cold and snow and still feeling the ghosts of the past, I knew this was something we were going to be affected by."

The result reflects many different styles of music, from the upbeat "Oregon Sounds Like Freedom" to the haunting strains of "What do Your Trees Tell You."

"Woman's Work" tells of the hardships women in the settlement went through: "Sleep is like a tourist, who don't know where it belongs. It don't come regular, don't stay long."

The theme of the entire endeavor could be summed up in the words Mitchell wrote for "Maxville to Vanport," one of the songs on the CD: "Oregon didn't want black folks to stay; But we planted roots here anyway."

Weiss said Mitchell's lyrics came first, which inspired him.

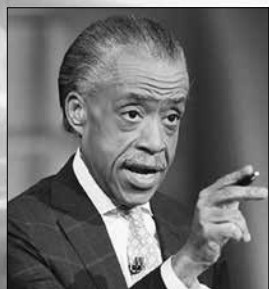
"Renee is not only a poet but was also a reporter with the Oregonian for many years, so she was able to bring in the facts of the story and put it in this sort of poetic treatment," he said. "She was able to create art from that, and for me it was to just get the vibe."

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

9 P.M. - 12 Midnight
MIKE SHANNON

SUNDAY

12 Midnight - 3 A.M.
MIKE SHANNON

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Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

Black Nativity at Bethel AME

The annual holiday production of Black Nativity by Langston Hughes and presented by PassinArt, Portland's African American producing theater company, will be presented over three weekends, Dec. 2-16, at Bethel AME Methodist Church, 5828 N.E. Eighth Ave.

Black Nativity was originally produced off-Broadway in 1961.

The gospel song play uses a cultural lens to retell the classic holiday Biblical story through scripture and inspiring traditional holiday favorites and folk spirituals in a rousing, soul-stirring versions featuring local artists that consistently move and appeal to audiences from all walks of life.

Shows are Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$10 to \$25 and available online at passinart.org. For more information call 503-235-8079.

In addition, a Black Nativity Concert will be held on Saturday, Dec. 1 at 7 p.m. at Resurrection Catholic Parish Church in Tualatin. A reception with performers follows the concert. All are welcome.

The mission of PassinArt: A Theatre Company is to entertain, educate, and inspire artists and audiences while addressing critical issues facing our community; and to celebrate our history and culture.



Black Nativity cast members from Portland's PassinArt theater company during last year's production. This year, the holiday song play by Langston Hughes returns for three weekends of performances at Bethel AME Methodist Church in northeast Portland.

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Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



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Brown Sisters Holiday Concert

You're invited to join Portland's Brown Sisters for a holiday concert and the release of their new CD 'Choose Love' during two special performances Saturday, Dec. 1 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. at The Old Church, 1422 S.W. 11th Ave. Space is limited and tickets are available for \$25 at joyofit.org.

Dancer Made Holiday Show

You're invited to a Portland holiday dance tradition when NW Dance Project presents "Wolf Tales," a magical brand new show conceived and created by NW Dance's own talented company dancers and featuring an all-male cast.

This year, the dancers have found inspiration in fairytales and fables...and wolves:

What if one of The Three Little Pigs fell in love with the Big Bad Wolf? Little Red Riding Hood's path to grandmother's house takes some surprising twists. The Wicked Queen from Snow White finally gets to tell her side of the story. Swan Lake meets The Ugly Duckling, and Chicken Little convinces the entire species to fear the sky.



NW Dance Project Dancer William Courture.

Wolf Tales shows Thursday through and Saturday, Dec. 6-7 at 7:30 p.m. at Lincoln Performance Hall, 1620 S.W. Park Ave. For tickets and more information, visit nwdanceproject.org.



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'Cat Daddy' on a Mission

Live Nation and McMenamins presents a night of entertainment with Jackson Galaxy, the host of Animal Planet's longtime running hit show My Cat From Hell, on Friday, Nov. 30 at 7 p.m. at the Crystal Ballroom, downtown. Known as the "Cat Daddy" Jackson is on a mission to educate people about cats and deepen the human and cat bond. A fun event to learn everything cat: from history, to environmental enrichment, best diet, and little secrets that only the Cat Daddy can give you.



Mississippi
Alberta
North Portland

Vancouver
East County
Beaverton



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A popular soul food joint, Reo's Ribs, is back in full-force at its location in the Hollywood District after making repairs from a 2017 fire.

Pictured are members of the Reo's Ribs team, Joseph Grant (left), Isabell Garcia, owner Reo Varnado, Deja Willingham, Rick Varnado, and Ron Varnado.

'We've been packed every day,' owner says on re-opening

BY DANNY PETERSON
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Portland once again is enjoying the soul food offerings of Reo's Ribs. The popular black-owned restaurant in the Hollywood District reopened this month after a fire totaled the interior of its historic building a year-and-a-half-ago.

"We're just glad to be back open" owner Reo Varnado told the Port-

Reo's Ribs is Back

land Observer.

Varnado said his Mississippi-style barbecue has been drawing the crowds since its soft re-launch three weeks ago.

"It's been packed every day, everybody enjoying the food...And we're just having a blast 'cause

people come from all around the United States," he said.

In May 2017 the building was heavily damaged in a suspicious, overnight fire in which people were reportedly seen running away from the scene when it happened. No arrests have ever been made.

Varnado, who is the uncle and occasional professional chef to rapper Snoop Dogg, was in California at the time as a guest on Martha and Snoop's Potluck Dinner Party, which is hosted by Martha Stewart and his nephew. Varnado speculated at the time that he may have been the target of a racially motivated arson.

That same month, a GoFundMe page and benefit concert by the Legendary Beyons worked to raise money for the restaurant to pay for the damages. It was announced in November of last year on social media that the restaurant was work-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16



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Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

Black Santa to Visit Portland

As the holidays are upon us, the Portland Willamette Valley Chapter of Jack and Jill of America, is pleased to announce that Black Santa will visit the Portland area once again!

Since 2014, the organization has planned and hosted a Black Santa event as means to provide a local, more diverse Santa Claus option for families with black children, and for all communities seeking to enjoy a festive meet and greet Santa Claus.

Last year, over 400 attendees from all over the Portland metropolitan area enjoyed having their photo taken with Black Santa. Proceeds from the event raised money for Albina Head Start, the intended beneficiary again this year.

Black Santa will be at the Matt Dishman Community Center, 77 N.E. Knott St., on Sunday, Dec. 9 from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. The cost for a framed color photo with Black Santa is \$20 (cash only). Free treats, prizes and games will also be distributed.



Dee Sinclair portraying Santa Claus reads a story to children in Atlanta in this archive photo from the Associated Press. A Black Santa event in Portland will be held on Sunday, Dec. 9 at the Matt Dishman Community Center.



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Architects and bakers team up to create tasty Gingerbread masterpieces at the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (OMSI).

Gingerbread Adventures at OMSI

This holiday season, jingle all the way to the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (OMSI) to see towering sculptures, sweet science demonstrations and build-it-yourself workshops for Gingerbread Adventures, on view through Jan. 1.

Local architecture firms and bakeries have teamed up to design and build gingerbread sculptures focused on the theme

"Egypt," highlighting the innovation and food science that goes into assembling the elaborate sculptures.

"The last two years of Gingerbread Adventures have been so much fun, and I'm always impressed by the creativity of the teams," said Melony Beaird, OMSI events manager. "The architect firms really push the boundaries of what the bakers can

accomplish with edible materials, and you will see new and innovative ways to use gingerbread and sugar."

Evening workshops will be held Dec. 13, 18 and 20. Tickets are \$20 per gingerbread house (up to 2 people per house). Gingerbread Adventures is included with general admission to the museum and will be on view through Jan. 1.



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Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

Holiday Performances -- You're invited to celebrate the holidays with Clackamas Community College



Mainstream choirs will perform familiar holiday carols and new takes on old favorites on Friday, Nov. 30. Performances are at 7:30 p.m. in Niemeyer Hall on the Oregon City campus. Admission is \$5.

Da Vinci School Art Fair -- The 14th annual da Vinci Middle School Arts Fair will be held Saturday, Dec. 1 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the school located at 2508 N.E. Everett. A school fundraiser, the sale will feature works from more than 70 local artists, craftmakers and student artists. Admission is free and there will be live music, interactive arts spaces and food for sale.

Holiday Ale Festival -- The 23rd annual Holiday Ale Festival take place Wednesday, Nov. 28 through Sunday, Dec. 2 at Pioneer Courthouse Square, downtown. The grounds will be tented and heated, featuring more than 50 craft beers and ciders. For advance tickets and more information, visit holidayale.com.



The Discovery of King Tut -- A compelling reproduction of the burial treasure from King Tut's tomb, discovered 95 years ago in the Egyptian Valley of the Kings, is presented in the traveling exhibit 'The Discovery of King Tut,' now showing through Jan. 27 at OMSI. For tickets and more information, visit omsi.edu or call the box office at 503-797-4000.



Norman Sylvester -- 'Boogie Cat' Norman Sylvester plays Saturday, Dec. 1 at 9 a.m. at the Elsinore Theater in Salem for the AFL-CIO Kids' Holiday Party; and at 8 p.m. at Catfish Lou's; Friday, Dec.

ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

7 at 10:30 p.m. for the Rose City Blues Dance at the Vitalidad Movement and Art Center; Saturday, Dec. 8 at the Spare Room; Friday, Dec. 14 at the Rogue Pub in North Plains; and Saturday, Dec. 15 at the Half Penny in Salem.

Life under Nazi Rule -- The Portland Art Museum and Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education jointly present two exhibitions this fall and winter featuring photographs by the late Polish-Jewish photojournalist Henry Ross offering an extraordinary rare glimpse of life under Nazi rule. Both facilities are offering offer a full slate of exhibit-related programming.



New Chinatown Museum -- "Made in Chinatown, USA: Portland," a photo exhibit capturing the cultural pride of Portland's Asian community marks the opening of a new Portland Chinatown Museum at 127 N.W. Third Ave. Admissions is a suggested \$5 and free on First Thursdays from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Gorge Shuttle Returns -- The Columbia Gorge Express bus service by the Oregon Department of Transportation has made its return, now going as far east as Hood River and offering serve seven days a week, year round. The bus departs from the Gateway Transit Center to Rooster Rock State Park, Multnomah Falls, Cascade Locks and Hood River.

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 brining a photo ID and documentation showing they participate in low income service, like the Oregon Trial Card, Medicaid, Section 8, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, and Head Start.

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

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OPINION

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.

Rude Theatrics Targeting Black Reporters

Trump's racism by omission

BY CALEB GAYLE

April Ryan, White House correspondent for American Urban Radio Networks, and other journalists of color have not been favorites of President Donald Trump. From telling Ryan to set up a meeting with the Congressional Black Caucus when she asked if he planned to meet with black members of Congress to calling her a loser, President Trump has displayed his contempt for Ryan.



In his post-midterm press conference, Ryan became the target of Trump's ire yet again. But this time what the President did was show more than displeasure with black female reporters — his theatrics overshadowed a key issue that Ryan was trying to address: voter suppression. While his rage, his diminishing of the credibility of these black, award-winning journalists, and his stupidity in calling their questions "racist" minimized what was actually happening: Trump was committing racism by omission.

Ryan's question was simple, "Mr. President, what about voter suppression?" She stood up after Trump acknowledged her question but was promptly told "sit down." While pundits opined about Trump's mistreatment of black women journalists, many missed that Trump refused to answer the question about voter suppression, which is poisoning our democracy and disproportionately disenfranchising commu-

nities of color.

The reality is that suppressing votes has become a hallmark of most of the Republican electoral strategy. Their politicians refuse to engage with communities of color, and instead embark on strategies to diminish our power at the voting booth. We can all see it. But the President uses his bully pulpit to create distractions that shield scrutiny of this undemocratic tactic. Moreover, it allows him to avoid questions about the strategy that he has happily endorsed and enacted with the Republican Party.

As a reminder, Republicans have not been particularly shy about their voter

in the past few elections. In the run-up to the midterms, some 32 counties in Florida violated the law by not providing bilingual ballot assistance.

More egregiously, states like Kansas use the Interstate Voter Registration Crosscheck (Crosscheck) to identify duplicative voter registrants across numerous combined voter rolls and subsequently purge those duplicates. Expanded under Kris Kobach — the outgoing Republican Secretary of State and failed gubernatorial candidate — Crosscheck, which had an error rate of 99.5 percent, uses a loose name matching that disproportionately targets

tionately affect black voters, limited access to offices to issue IDs in black areas, and more. Clarity around where to vote, how to vote, and eligibility to vote become even more significant when these impediments make voting disproportionately harder for black people. According to a study by the Public Religion Research Institute, "black (nine percent) and Hispanic (nine percent) Americans are three times more likely than white Americans (three percent)" to report complications with voting for them or someone in their household because of identification issues. In the same report, "black (15 percent) and Hispanic (14 percent) Americans were roughly three times more likely" to have trouble locating their correct polling place than white Americans (five percent).

As president of the United States, Trump had an opportunity to explain his views on voter suppression when Ryan asked her question. Because of his inconsistent application of the truth, one can expect the truth would be stretched or he would offer up unverifiable facts. Instead he exhibited the Trump brand of racism — racism by omission, refusing to acknowledge that voter suppression exists and is spreading across the land in states predominantly controlled by Republicans.

Voter suppression is a weighty issue, especially for African Americans, whose ancestors marched, protested and died for the right to vote. For President Trump, to simply dismiss voting suppression by assailing Ryan is a racist slight to all people of color, and our forefathers.

Caleb Gayle is the Emerging Voices Fellow at Demos, a national public policy and advocacy organization.

More egregiously, states like Kansas use the Interstate Voter Registration Crosscheck (Crosscheck) to identify duplicative voter registrants across numerous combined voter rolls and subsequently purge those duplicates.

suppression efforts. For example, Ben Nadler of the Associated Press broke news in October that in Georgia, approximately 53,000 voter registration applications were sitting on hold at the office of Brian Kemp, Georgia's Secretary of State and Republican nominee for governor. Nadler's team at the AP identified that most of these applications were those of black voters.

Voter purges are supposed to be used to eliminate people who become ineligible to vote usually because they move or because of a death or incarceration. But in some states like Ohio, voter purges have wrongfully removed people who have not voted

voters of color for purging. According to a study by the Brennan Center for Justice, "African-American, Asian-American, and Latino voters are much more likely than Caucasians to have one of the most common 100 last names in the United States." According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 16.3 percent of Hispanic people and 13 percent of black people have one of the 10 most common surnames, compared to 4.5 percent of white people. An ongoing lawsuit on this is underway and being pursued by the advocacy group Demos.

And in states like Alabama, voters are up against photo ID laws, which dispro-

Making It My Business to Support Immigrants

Sown fears and racism breaks my heart

BY DREYA MOORE

Two years ago, I left a corporate job as a chemist and bought an artists' studio and gallery.



I'd just become a mother, and my corporate job was taking me away for some of my daughter's most important milestones. I was meeting with clients when she rolled over for the first time, crawled for the first time, and said her first words. This broke my heart.

The studio, which I co-own with my mother in Lancaster, Penn., has meant more time with family and the chance to be more involved with art — my own and

others'.

We've also made our studio a place for cultivating community. Here, we celebrate all the people who make up Lancaster. One of our exhibits shared #BlackGirlMagic, and another featured Latinx artists. In July, we held an exhibit called "Hex," highlighting Amish artists. We want to make sure everyone's art is seen, and everyone feels welcome.

Our studio has also begun offering free art classes. Money shouldn't be an obstacle for people engaging with art, just like it shouldn't be an obstacle to education, food, or health care.

Knowing how important community has been to my business, my heart breaks when I see how much fear and racism is being sown by politicians who want to shrink our sense of community in-

stead of enriching it.

The news is flooded with stories about this, but a lot of it's happening behind the scenes. For example, the Trump administration is rewriting the rules to make it harder for people to become citizens. One idea they're proposing is a new wealth test for people seeking a green card, one of the first steps toward citizenship.

That test has an income threshold of almost \$63,000 a year for a family of four — a test that about a third of the U.S. population would fail. Are we all supposed to think we're not good enough to be U.S. citizens?

This test puts huge power in the hands of government officials to reject people for a green card, when already too many people are denied any chance to move toward citizenship.

This flies in the face of what we, the people, want. Poll after

poll shows that big majorities favor people being able to get citizenship and live with their families.

Making it worse, the administration say it's also going to count Medicaid and food stamps against people in the immigration process. Most people who are applying for their green cards aren't eligible for these important programs as it is. But the rules are complicated, and immigrants at all stages in the process are afraid of risking their chance at citizenship.

As a result, immigrant families will miss out on food and health care, whether they're citizens already or hoping to become citizens. We're already seeing stories of families walking away from essential assistance out of fear.

This new wealth test is a cruel maneuver to make our community and our country smaller instead of stronger. We shouldn't be a coun-

try that takes food and health from people — and denies them citizenship — because they aren't rich.

Immigrants have enriched our community. They've helped give new life to our downtown and neighborhoods. They've created new opportunities for learning and sharing. And they've brought vitality to our local economy, helping us keep more than a thousand manufacturing jobs local.

Leaders whose strongest message is division aren't real leaders. So, it's up to all of us to be leaders in our communities.

I try to do this in my business every day. Today I'm going to do it in one more way: by writing to the administration and telling them I'm against wealth tests and for immigrants in my community.

Drey Moore co-owns The Artist Studio & Gallery @ Annex 24 in Lancaster, Penn. Distributed by OtherWords.org.

OPINION



Why Are We Allowing Yemen to Starve?

Humanitarian atrocities must come to an end

BY J.P. LINSTROTH

Some have dubbed the Yemeni civil war "the forgotten war." It seems more intentionally ignored.

It is a humanitarian crisis on a mass scale. According to recent reports by United Nations officials as many as 14 million Yemenis are on the verge of dying from starvation. Save the Children, an international humanitarian organization, issued a report documenting some 84,700 children under five years old have starved to death since the US started "helping" Saudi Arabia wage the war in 2015.

How can the world simply stand by and let this humanitarian crisis happen? Moreover, what is to be done about it?

Yemen's latest civil war began in 2015 and has directly killed as many as 56,000 people by bomb and gun, and far more by starvation. The country itself is considered to



be the poorest in the Middle East. The war has caused the economy to collapse with the currency almost worthless and no job opportunities. Food is inaccessible.

According to the UN World Food Programme, more than three million civilians have been displaced since the war commenced. Two-thirds of the 29 million population are food-insecure. This number includes three million children, as well as pregnant women and nursing mothers—all severely malnourished. Since 2016 more than 2,500 civilians have died from a cholera epidemic with at least a million people infected.

Conflicts in and around Yemen originated long before 2015, some claim as far back as the Sunni-Shia conflict which began in the 7th century, but more recent events, from the consequences from British and French colonialism, the outcome of World War I, and the Cold War have all exacerbated inner strife in that poor nation.

The Executive Director of the World Peace Foundation, anthropologist Alex de Waal, has claimed that recent strategic tactics of war-

fare have included "mass starvation" from economic blockades and militarily targeting civilian populations and their food production. A major concern is whether or not those responsible for such tactics will be ultimately penalized as no such sanctions currently exist in international law.

A report by anthropologist Martha Mundy cites how coalition forces have been militarily targeting civilian food production in Yemen, especially farmlands and fishing boats. Additionally, economic blockades have been systematically used by the coalition to contain the Yemen's Houthis population, all resulting in mass starvation in Yemen.

As of Nov. 14, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia coalition forces have put a temporary ceasefire in place to allow critical humanitarian supplies to reach the Yemeni port city of Hodeidah. How long this ceasefire will last is anyone's guess.

The International Red Cross has demanded the following humanitarian measures be taken immediately: combatants must: spare civilians and save civilian infrastructure such as hospitals and schools; avoid civilian zones in combat; allow for free civilian passage away from

warfare; allow for the free movement of medicine and food to reach civilian populations; and allow for humanitarian aid to operate within the country.

In sum, all of us—all people across the United States and across the globe—should be very concerned about systematic starvation of civilian populations as a war tactic. This needs to stop. There needs to be accountability for such humanitarian atrocities and there needs to be passage of international law to put an end to these military practices. Otherwise, unnecessary and unfortunate suffering as is happening in Yemen will continue.

U.S. support for Saudi Arabia—just reinforced by Trump despite his own CIA concluding that the Crown Prince bin Salman ordered the ghoulish assassination and dismemberment of Washington Post journalist Jamal Khashoggi—is key to the ongoing killing and starvation of Yemeni civilians.

Politicians with a conscience are now calling for an end to such aid, including cessation of arms sales to Saudi Arabia. For the children of Yemen, that would be a relief.

J. P. Linstroth is an Adjunct Professor at Barry University.

Letter to the Editor

Support Green New Deal

I am a freshman at the University of Portland. Learning more and more about climate change

has made me scared for my future and for the future of the generations to come.

I fully support Rep. Ocasio-Cortez's resolution to create a House Select Committee for a Green New Deal in Congress. It is proven fact that we have just 12 years to move our country off fossil fuels to avoid catastrophic climate disaster and to

protect my generation and the future generations to come.

We need a Green New Deal to create millions of green jobs, move our country off fossil fuels, and protect working people of all backgrounds. Every Congress member should support this resolution.

Sophia Truempi



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The Warner Pacific University campus in southeast Portland will soon offer a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree.

Nursing Degree Program Approved

Warner Pacific aims at building diversity in workforce

The Oregon State Board of Nursing this month approved Warner Pacific University's proposal to offer the pre-licensure Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree.

Warner Pacific President Dr. Andrea Cook said approval of the program provides a significant opportunity for the university to advance its mission to provide students from diverse backgrounds with an education that prepares them for a constantly changing world.

"With 63 percent of our students identifying as persons of color, Warner Pacific is ready to help meet the vital need in our

community for diverse, baccalaureate prepared nurses," said Cook. "Our Christ-centered community and liberal arts curriculum will prepare the next generation of nurses with caring, faith, and intellectual inquiry."

The nursing program is expected to be very popular among current and prospective students, said Dale Seipp, Jr., Warner Pacific University's vice president for enrollment and marketing.

"We are so excited that students who want to follow their calling to become nurses can now pursue that at Warner Pa-

cific," said Seipp. "Celebrating diversity and a focus on serving the community is at the heart of the Warner Pacific experience. It makes our program the perfect fit for students who want to impact the world through the profession of nursing."

The Warner Pacific University Nursing Program has been community focused from the beginning, with an advisory council providing critical insight into what future nurses will need to provide quality and compassionate care.

In addition to unwavering internal support to launch our pre-licensure BSN Degree Program, we received timely and expert contributions from the Warner Pacific Nursing Advisory Council," said Dr. Linda Campbell, dean of nursing. "Since 2015, this 11-member council has been shaping a mission-driven vision of higher education for nursing. We are profoundly grateful to our advisory council members for their collaborative support, guidance, and encouragement during this necessarily rigorous process."



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CALENDAR

November 2018

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
			1 National Author's Day All Saint's Day National Family Literacy Day	2 <i>Daniel Boone born, 1734</i> <i>Intern. Space Station Opened in 2000</i> National Deviled Egg Day	3 National Sandwich Day	4 Daylight Savings Time Ends Gail Haley born, 1939
5 Guy Fawkes Day	6 National Nachos Day <i>James Naismith, Inventor of Basketball, born, 1861</i>	7 ● Hug-a-Bear Day <i>Scientist Marie Curie born in 1867</i>	8 X-Ray Day, <i>X-Ray was discovered on this day in 1895</i>	9 <i>First 'Rolling Stone' magazine is published in 1967</i>	10 <i>Sesame Street Debuted in 1969</i> <i>First iPod Sold in 2001</i>	11 Remembrance Day In Canada Veteran's Day
12 <i>Elizabeth Cady Stanton, was born in 1815</i> Veteran's Day (Celebrated)	13 Young Reader's Day Mom's and Dad's Day <i>Vietnam Veterans Memorial was dedicated in 1982</i>	14 <i>National Clean Out Your Refrigerator Day</i>	15 ☾ America Recycles Day Pack Your Mom Lunch Day	16 <i>Jean Fritz born, 1915</i> <i>Fall of the Inca Empire (1533)</i> Button Day	17 Homemade Bread Day <i>Lewis & Clark Reached the Pacific in 1805</i> Take A Hike Day	18 <i>Antarctica discovered in 1820</i> William Tell Day
19 <i>Gettysburg Address, 1863, by President Lincoln</i> <i>Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in 1917</i>	20 Mexican Revolution Day <i>Traffic Light Patented in 1923</i>	21 <i>Mayflower Compact Signed in 1620</i> World Hello Day	22 Thanksgiving Day Stop the Violence Day <i>John F. Kennedy Assassinated in 1963</i>	23 ○ Black Friday National Cashew Day	24 <i>Charles Darwin publishes 'The Origin of Species' in 1859</i>	25 <i>Andrew Carnegie born in 1835</i> <i>Crescent Dragon-wagon born, 1952</i>
26 <i>Charles Schulz born in 1922</i> National Cake Day	27 Pins and Needles Day <i>Astronomer Anders Celsius born, 1701</i>	28 <i>Tomi Ungerer born, 1931</i> <i>Magellan reached the Pacific (1521)</i>	29 ☾ <i>Madeline L'Engle born, 1918</i> <i>King Tut's Tomb Opened (1922)</i>	30 <i>Mark Twain born, 1835</i> Stay At Home Because You're Well Day		

Reo's Ribs is Back

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

ing to re-open.

Now, one year later, and with a three-tiered grill that can hold up to 600 racks of ribs, the restaurant that was recognized in Gourmet Magazine is slingin' soul food like there's no tomorrow.

What's more, the historic Reo's Ribs building has been preserved. Located at Northeast 42nd and Sandy Boulevard, just down the street from Hollywood Theater, the 96-year-old structure originally was built as a trolley stop, and then was the Hollywood Burger Bar from 1954 to 2015. Reo's Ribs took over in 2015 after bouncing around three prior locations since 1999.

Though the fire damage was described as extensive by firefighters



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Reo Varnado, the proprietor of Reo's Ribs, at his signature Southern barbecue restaurant in the Hollywood District. A photo of Varnado with his famous nephew Snoop Dogg and Martha Stewart dons the newly renovated interior.

at the time, the renovations since has rendered it a "new building inside," Varnado said.

Varnado, who has cooked for famous celebrities like Beyoncé and Jay-Z, added he's in the plan-

ning stages for a celebratory grand re-opening event where hopefully his famous nephew can stop by.



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