



Celebrating BLACK HISTORY MONTH



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PHOTO BY DANNY PETERSON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Community artist Claudia Carter, a volunteer assistant treasurer for the Vancouver NAACP, has curated historical documents, artwork and speakers for an exhibit in celebration of the civil rights group and Black History Month, called 'NAACP Generations: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow' in collaboration with the Clark County Historical Society.

BY DANNY PETERSON
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The oft-overlooked histories of black communities in Vancouver and the Pacific Northwest, as well as the re-telling of racial justice victories made possible because of the advocacy of the Vancouver Branch of the NAACP, are celebrated during February, as Black History Month is observed with special speakers, historical documents, artwork and exhibitions.

From working with the Vancouver Housing Authority to ensuring black people were not segregated in wartime housing, to addressing large scale unemployment of African Americans post-World War II and beyond, the local branch of the National Association of Colored Persons has been a dedicated custodian of civil rights since its formation as a local chapter over

NAACP Generations

Custodians of civil rights protections celebrate



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CLARK COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

A historical photo shows a 1949 meeting in Vancouver, Wash. of NAACP branch representatives of the Washington State Conference.

70 years ago, and shows no sign of slowing down.

"The mission of the NAACP is to eliminate race-based discrimination and fight for the equality of all persons. We are constantly working, and as you can imagine, we are very busy," said current Vancouver NAACP President Bridgette Fanhbülle.

Fanhbülle, past president Earl Ford, and assistant president Jasmine Rucker Tolbert, will lead the discussion when "NAACP Generations: Vancouver NAACP Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow," is held Thursday, Feb. 7 at the Clark County Historical Museum.

The event is collaboration from Clark County Historical Museum Executive Director Bradley Richardson and Claudia Carter,

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PHOTO BY BETH CONYERS

Benson High School Principal Curtis Wilson Jr. (center) is joined by his wife Yushonna, and son Andrew, as he receives a Lifetime Achievement Award at The World Arts Foundation's annual Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. held last Monday at the Highland Center on Northeast Glisan Street.

MLK Tribute Honors

Two longtime members of the African American community, Portland Observer Publisher Mark Washington and Benson High School Principal Curtis Wilson Jr., were among the over a dozen individuals and organizations to receive Lifetime Achievement Awards at the 34th consecutive Tribute to Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Wilson was recognized during

the MLK holiday celebration for his efforts of achieving a high graduation rate and low dropout rate at the majority-black Benson High School. Washington was recognized for carrying the torch of Oregon's oldest, continuous minority publication, the Portland Observer, now in its 49th year of operation.

The program, which was held at Highland Center at 7600 N.E.

Glisan St., also honored former Multnomah County Commissioner Loretta Smith, former City Commissioner Dan Saltzman, Dr. Rosa Colquitt, Bill Deiz, Mary Harvey, Aneesah Furqan-Peace, Laverne Davis, Angela Jenkins, Stefana Berceanu, Michael Sweeney, Bernard Brian Quinn, Calvin Walker, and Jimmy "Bang Bang" Walker (posthumously).



Portland Observer Publisher Mark Washington (second from right) enjoys the festivities of the 34th annual Martin Luther King Jr. Tribute with his children and grandchildren, where he received a Lifetime Achievement Award.

The Week in Review

Measles Cases Grow in Vancouver; Also Reach Oregon

Public Health officials said the number of confirmed measles cases in the Vancouver area hit 36 on Tuesday, with another 12 possible cases in Clark County and one confirmed case in Oregon. The spread of the disease has been fueled by low immunization rates in both states.



Raiford Case Thrown Out

Portland activist Teressa Raiford's \$500,000 civil lawsuit against the city for false arrest was thrown out of court just as trial was scheduled to start on Monday. Judge Leslie Bottomly ruled the 'Don't Shoot Portland' leader was not entitled to damages because police had probable cause to arrest her for interfering with an officer during the 2015 protest.

Immigrant Advocate Sues

Attorneys for longtime Portland immigrant liaison and advocate Ronault 'Polo' Canalini, notified the city last week that they intend to sue over his termination of employment in the Portland Office of Community and Civic Life. Canalini called the dismissal discrimination and retaliation for taking family leave.



Bullseye Glass to Pay Neighbors in Lawsuit Settlement

Southeast Portland neighbors of a glass-making company got news last week that the class action lawsuit they filed three years ago against Bullseye Glass for spewing heavy toxic metals has been settled for \$6.5 million. The company will make cash payments to an estimated 2,090 homes southeast of Cleveland High School. The payments could range from \$600 per renter to \$2,400 for a family of four.

Judge, Former Prosecutor Nominated to Federal Bench

Multnomah County Circuit Judge Karin J. Immergut was nominated by President Trump last week to a seat on Oregon's federal bench. A former federal prosecutor, she would replace Senior Judge Anna J. Brown, who is retiring. Immergut's nomination must be confirmed by the U.S. Senate.

Short Term Deal for Negotiations Opens Government

Yielding to mounting pressure and growing disruption, President Donald Trump and congressional leaders on Friday reached a short-term deal to reopen the government for three weeks while negotiations continue over the president's demands for money to build his long-promised wall at the U.S.-Mexico border.

Trump Confidant Roger Stone Arrested by FBI

Shouting "FBI, open the door," authorities arrested Roger Stone, a confidant of President Donald Trump, before dawn Friday in a criminal case that revealed that senior members of the Trump campaign sought to benefit from the release of hacked emails damaging to Hillary Clinton.



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Arts &
ENTERTAINMENT



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Members of the Parkrose girls basketball team faced racist taunts during a recent game at St. Helens. (KPTV photo)

Team Faced Racist Taunts

Apology not enough for Parkrose girls

An apology wasn't enough for members of the Parkrose High School girls basketball team which faced racist taunts during a game at St. Helens High School.

The Parkrose girls and coach spoke out last week after a letter was sent out to parents by the Parkrose superintendent, saying that an "unfortunate incident"

happened to the girls during a Jan. 15 game in St. Helens.

The Parkrose coaches and players say while the team was playing, the St. Helens fans were making monkey noises and calling them the n-word.

The fans started yelling slurs during the junior varsity games and then it trickled into the varsity game, Parkrose Coach Krystal Fortham told KPTV. The students said it wasn't the first time it's happened.

A statement issued by the St. Helens superintendent apologized

for the incident and said the school district would take "appropriate action." The Oregon Schools Activities Association released a statement saying, "This type of behavior is unacceptable at high school events."

The Parkrose girls, however, feel too little is being done and want St. Helens High School sports to face disciplinary action. The Parkrose superintendent says he's also asked the St. Helens School District to provide more security, including school resource officers at games.

Homelessness and Mental Health

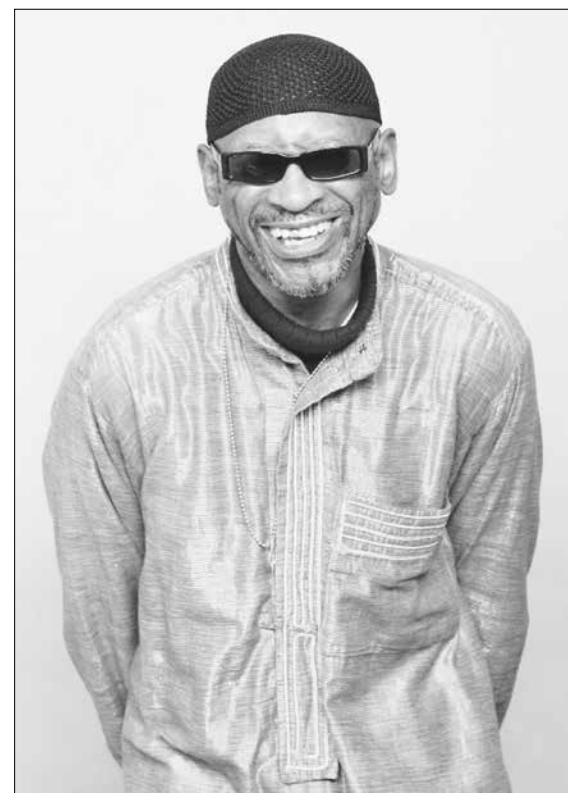
Housing rights champions to lead panel discussion

Ibrahim Mubarak, a renowned activist and leader from Portland's African American community and a champion of housing rights for more than 25 years, will lead a panel discussion on the link between homelessness and mental health struggles.

The community is invited to hear and join the discussion which will offer concrete, innovative and proven solutions to this human rights crisis. The event will take place on Wednesday, Feb. 6 at 7 p.m. at the Montavilla United Methodist Church, 232 S.E. 80th Ave., sponsored by the group Rethinking Psychiatry.

Mubarak helped create short term and long term strategies for helping the homeless as co-founder of three sites for overnight camping on vacant parcels of land, Dignity Village, Right 2 Survive and Right 2 Dream 2. He will be joined on the panel by Right 2 Survive co-founders Lisa Fay and board member Sarah Louise Allen.

There is no cost to attend the discussion with donations welcome. Refreshments will be provided.



Ibrahim Mubarak



OPINION

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Black Panther Earns Top Prize

(AP) — “Black Panther” took the top award at Sunday’s 25th Screen Actors Guild Awards, giving Ryan Coogler’s superhero sensation its most significant awards-season honor yet and potentially setting up Wakanda for a major role at next month’s Academy Awards.

The two leading Oscar nominees — “Roma” and “The Favourite” — were bypassed by the actors guild for a best ensemble field that also included “BlacKkKlansman,” “Crazy Rich Asians,” “Bohemian Rhapsody” and “A Star Is

Born.” Although “Black Panther” wasn’t nominated for any individual SAG Awards, it took home the final award at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles.

Before a stage full of actors, Chadwick Boseman tried to put into context the moment for the trailblazing “Black Panther,” which also won for its stunt performer ensemble. “To be young, gifted and black,” he said, quoting the Nina Simone song.

“We know what it’s like to be told there isn’t a screen for you to



Chadwick Boseman in a scene from the Marvel superhero juggernaut “Black Panther” (Photo courtesy Marvel Studios-Disney)

be featured on, a stage for you to be featured on. ... We know what’s like to be beneath and not above.

And that is what we went to work with every day,” said Boseman. “We knew that we could create a

world that exemplified a world we wanted to see. We knew that we had something to give.”

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Public Health Advocate Hired

A leader from Portland’s African American community has been promoted to president and chief executive officer of the Northwest Health Foundation, an organization advocating for health policies that give every person the opportunity to lead a healthy life.



Jesse Beason

Beason has worked at Northwest Health since August 2013. He previously served as executive director of the affordable housing provider Proud Ground; as a senior policy director for then-City Commissioner Sam Adams; and as a public affairs officer at Metro. He was a 2014 cohort member of the Portland African American Leadership Academy.

“I believe strongly in Northwest Health Foundation’s vision of health. I am honored and humbled to further this vision in my new role, alongside a staff of such integrity and a board that is unabashed about ending inequity,” said Beason.

Jesse moved from Denver to Portland to attend Lewis & Clark College two decades ago. He and his partner live in north Portland.

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Filmed in gorgeous black and white and prioritizing the perspectives of those who are relegated to the margins, Yalitza Aparicio stars as the live-in housekeeper Cleo in Alfonso Cuarón's feature film 'Roma.' Portland Observer and Opinionated Judge movie critic Darleen Ortega has rated the film her most favorite of 2018.

A Moving Portrait of Life on the Margins

'Roma' is my favorite film of 2018

BY DARLEEN ORTEGA

It would be hard to overestimate how much our perspective on absolutely everything -- from what happened in history to what is fair, worthy, or beautiful -- is affected by privilege. All our institutions and all our media are dominated by privileged voices, which profoundly skews how we see reality. I would go so far as to say that, unless we prioritize the perspective of those who are relegated to the margins, our understanding of reality is bound to be hopelessly flawed and incomplete.

In his gorgeous film, "Roma," my favorite film of 2018, Mexican director Alfonso Cuarón revisits a particular period in his own childhood, but does not center his own perspective. Instead, while he has painstakingly recreated the circumstances, culture, events and surroundings of his upper middle-class upbringing in the Roma district of Mexico City, he centers his film on the perspective of the indigenous woman who raised him (here called Cleo), who also served as one of three domestic servants in his household. It turns out that this marginalized person -- like many if not most other marginalized people -- actually is central to the family's functioning. In a real sense, by centering Cleo's

perspective, Cuarón is capturing much is what is most essential about his family's life during this period of his childhood.

The film opens with an extended scene of Cleo washing dog shit off the floor of the family garage; throughout the film we never see anyone walk this dog, and Cleo, who also tends lovingly to the four children, cleans the house, and prepares and serves meals, is often reprimanded for not tending to the dog's manure, as though that could easily be accomplished without neglecting her other duties. Her role with the children involves many moments of tenderness and intimacy, and the adults generally treat her kindly; during the period of this film, she is a gentle witness as the family passes through a painful period of loss. Yet no one recognizes how little they know Cleo, and they all miss signs of her joys and traumas.

Viewed from this lens, we begin to tap into the sights and sounds that bind Cleo's life with theirs -- and connections that make sense of the culture beyond this family. A marching band wanders through the streets; the father maneuvers with precision the new and huge family sedan into their impractically small city garage between puffs on a cigarette; Cleo hears the mother worrying aloud to a friend about financial pressures and lying to the children to protect them from painful news. Cleo travels across town to locate the former boyfriend who swiftly abandoned

her upon learning that she was pregnant, to a neighborhood without sidewalks, where dogs roam freely, where a browner population is vulnerable to powerful interests who can persuade young men to administer the violence that keeps inequality in place.

Yet this is no "Upstairs Downstairs" or "Downton Abbey." Filmed in gorgeous black and white, each shot feels profound and packed with significance; Cuarón's camera doesn't miss much, yet balances social awareness with compassion. And the

sound design captures so perfectly the sort of quiet that one can find in an urban neighborhood, the chaos of a hospital emergency room; the complex mix of music and voices one hears in urban spaces; the roar

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SUNDAY

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TONI TERRELL

10 A.M. - 1 P.M.
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KENNY SMOOV

3 P.M. - 7 P.M.
D.L. HUGHLEY

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

9 P.M. - 12 Midnight
MIKE SHANNON

12 Midnight - 3 A.M.
MIKE SHANNON

3 A.M. - 6 A.M.
TOYA BEASLEY

6 A.M. - 12 NOON
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WANGELA

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CALENDAR 2019


January

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
28 Jackson Pollock born, 1912 (Artist) National Kazoo Day	29 Baseball Hall of Fame established (1936) National Puzzle Day	30 Franklin D. Roosevelt born, 1882 (23rd President)	31 Backwards Day Jackie Robinson born, 1919 (Baseball Great)			



MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY SUNDAY

February

				1 National Freedom Day Robinson Crusoe Day First meeting of the U.S. Supreme Court (1790)	2 Groundhog Day Bottle Cap Patented in 1892	3 Vietnam War Ended (1973)
4 Facebook First Launched, 2004 Create a Vacuum Day Rosa Parks born, 1913	5 Chinese New Year - Year of the Boar Weatherman's Day Disaster Day	6 Babe Ruth born, 1895 Monopoly Board Game Goes on Sale in Stores, 1935	7 Charles Dickens born, 1812 Laura Ingalls Wilder born, 1867	8 Boy Scouts' Day (Founded 1910) Author Jules Verne born, 1828	9 National Weather Service Established (1870) Toothache Day	10 Umbrella Day Ratification of the 25th Amendment in 1967 (Presidential Succession)
11 Thomas Edison born, 1847 Don't Cry Over Spilled Milk Day National Inventors' Day White T-Shirt Day	12 Judy Blume born, 1938 Abraham Lincoln born, 1809 (16th President)	13 Get a Different Name Day First Public School established (1635)	14 Ferris Wheel Day Valentine's Day	15 National Gumdrop Day Susan B. Anthony born, 1820	16 Nylon Patented By DuPont in 1937 King Tut's Burial Chamber opened in 1923	17 Random Acts of Kindness Day National P.T.A. Founder's Day (1897)
18 President's Day Former planet, Pluto, Discovered by Clyde Tombaugh in 1930	19 Phonograph Patent-ed, 1878, Thomas Edison Mr. Roger's Neighbor-hood Debuted, 1968	20 John Glenn Orbits Earth, 1962 Love Your Pet Day	21 Malcom X Assassinat-ed (1965) Washington Monument dedicated (1885)	22 George Washington born, 1732 Be Humble Day World Thinking Day	23 International Dog Biscuit Appreciation Day U.S. Flag raised at Iwo Jima (1945)	24 Steve Jobs born, 1955 Wilhelm Carl Grimm born, 1786
25 Quiet Day Artist Pierre Auguste Renoir born, 1841	26 Levi Strauss born, 1829	27 Uri Shulevitz born, 1935 International Polar Bear Day	28 Public Sleeping Day Gold Seekers arrived in San Francisco (1849)			

PORTLAND OBSERVER AutoReview

2019 Chevrolet Equinox

The 2019 Chevrolet Equinox has a lot of options making it a good choice when considering a vehicle with good fuel economy and a standard price of \$35,000.

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Hanna Traynham creates ceramic pieces that mimic organic growth and fluid movement.



Paula Blackwell's mixed media painting 'Tempest in a Teacup.'

Show Opens with Reception

Guardino Gallery, 2939 N.E. Alberta St. opens its doors to a February show by inviting the community to a reception with the featured artists. The opening night event will take place on Last Thursday, Jan. 31, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

The gallery is highlighting the works of two artists in the Main Gallery: Paula Blackwell,



a painter who focuses on the abstract, engaging in a complex and playful fusion of color,

shape and atmosphere; and Hanna Traynham, whose ceramic work mimics organic growth and fluid movement. Her sculptures refer to the asymmetrical balance of nature, imperfection and impermanence.

In the gallery's feature area, Celeste LeBlanc will display some of the kiln-formed glass she has produced over the past 20 years.

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Oregon Supreme Court Justice
Adrienne Nelson



Portland City Commissioner Jo
Ann Hardesty

Blazers Salute Black History

Recognizing historic firsts by local leaders

The Portland Trail Blazers will recognize six leaders from the African American community when it celebrates Black History Month during pregame and halftime activities, Tuesday, Feb. 5 in game against the Miami Heat at the

Moda Center.

The individuals are Portland Police Chief Danielle Outlaw; Oregon Health & Sciences University President Dr. Danny Jacobs; Linfield College President Dr. Miles Davis; Meyer Memorial Trust President and Chief Executive Officer Michelle J. DePass; Oregon Supreme Court Justice Adrienne Nelson and Portland City Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty.

With impressive accomplishments and credentials, these leaders have ushered in a new era of historic firsts for Portland and for Oregon, the Trail Blazer organization announced.

A portion of the event's proceeds will be donated to iUrbanTeen, a group whose mission is to expose and inspire underrepresented youth to become tomorrow's business and technology leaders.



People carry what they can during an evacuation of Vanport as Columbia River floodwaters pour into the town just north of Portland from a broken railroad levy on May 30, 1948. Soon the entire town would be washed away. The Vanport Mosaic project is sharing oral histories from of life in Portland during the time and over the course of Portland's African -American history

Sharing Oral Histories

Vanport Mosaic presents living archives

Using archival footage, historic photographs and compelling first-person narratives, the Vanport Mosaic invites the community to join them for a free screening of oral history documentaries, part of a living archive that traces the story of Portland African American community from the 1940s to 1970s.

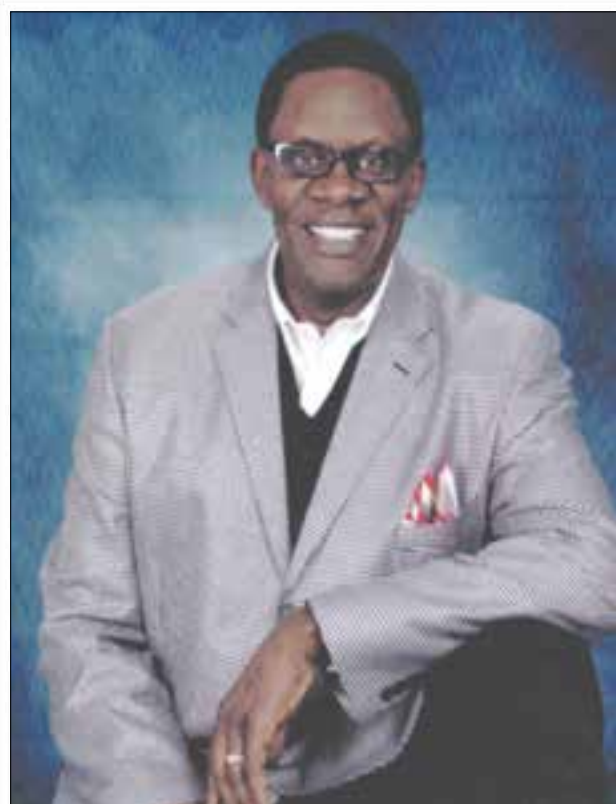
If you attended the Vanport Mosaic Festival 2017, you might have spotted a silver Airstream trailer parked in front of one of the festival venues. The promoters of the event said it was from there that a team of memory activists were busy inside record-

ing the memories of life from people who lived in Portland at the time.

It is a story of struggle, perseverance, and resilience that continues today. Organizers said you should be prepared to be inspired, moved, uncomfortable, confused, entertained, sad, and uplifted; possibly all at the same time.

"A Place Called Home: From Vanport to Albina" will be presented for free on a first come first served basis on Sunday, Feb. 3 at 3 p.m. at the St. Johns Library, 7510 N. Charleston Ave.; and on Monday, Feb. 4 at 6:30 p.m. at the Albina Library, 3605 N.E. 15 Ave.

Artist and Vanport descendant Velynn Brown will share her poem Roots and Remnants, and will facilitate a reflection on the beauty and challenges of story, home, community and belonging.



Dr. Billy R. Flowers

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A young girl, Shula, is accused of witchcraft after a trivial mishap in *'I am Not a Witch,'* the debut film from Zambian-born director Rungano Nyoni and one of the 30 feature, documentary and short films featured during Black History Month at the Cascade Festival of African Films.

Lens on Hope and Change

Cascade Festival of African Films opens Friday

The Cascade Festival of African Films turns 29 this winter and many of this year's screenings are centered on hope and change.

On Friday, Feb. 1, the festival kicks off with "Yomeddine" by Egyptian director Abu Bakr Shawky with the filmmaker attending 6:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. showings at the Hollywood Theater in northeast Portland. Recently named by Forbes magazine as one of the top five Arab directors, Shawky will be on hand for question-and-answer sessions following both screenings.

This life-affirming film will launch five weeks of more than 30 feature, documentary and short films by established and emerging African directors from 18 countries. All Cascade Festival of African Films screenings are free and open to the public.

The festival's opening weekend will also kick off a new international partnership with the Luxor African Film Festival in support of emerging African directors. For the partnership's inaugural year, the festival will showcase a series of short films by emerging



Arab film director Abu Bakr Shawky

directors from diverse countries who are alumni of Luxor's short film workshop. The screenings are at 2 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 2.

There is a film for everyone, ranging from a Sudanese comedy centered on a love triangle between a boy, a girl, and his gun in "Akasha," to an epic kaleidoscope of modern Morocco in "Razzia." In addition, attendees can view "Five Fingers for Mar-seilles," a Western set in the beautiful landscapes of South Africa. Unless otherwise noted, all films will be screened in the Moriarty Auditorium at Portland Community College's Cascade Campus, 705 N. Killingsworth St.

"Many of this year's films are centered on hope," said Tracy Francis, who is the film festival's director. "Hope for a more empathetic humanity in 'Yomeddine.' Hope for healing of children and communities through creativity and imagination in 'Supa Moda' and 'Liyanna.' Hope that women are able to take charge of their own bodies and communities in 'Beauty and the Dogs,' 'Rafiki,' and 'Marie-Madeleine.' I hope you will leave the theatre moved and inspired to make change in your community and our world."

For a full schedule of the films and visiting filmmakers, visit africanfilmfestival.org.

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

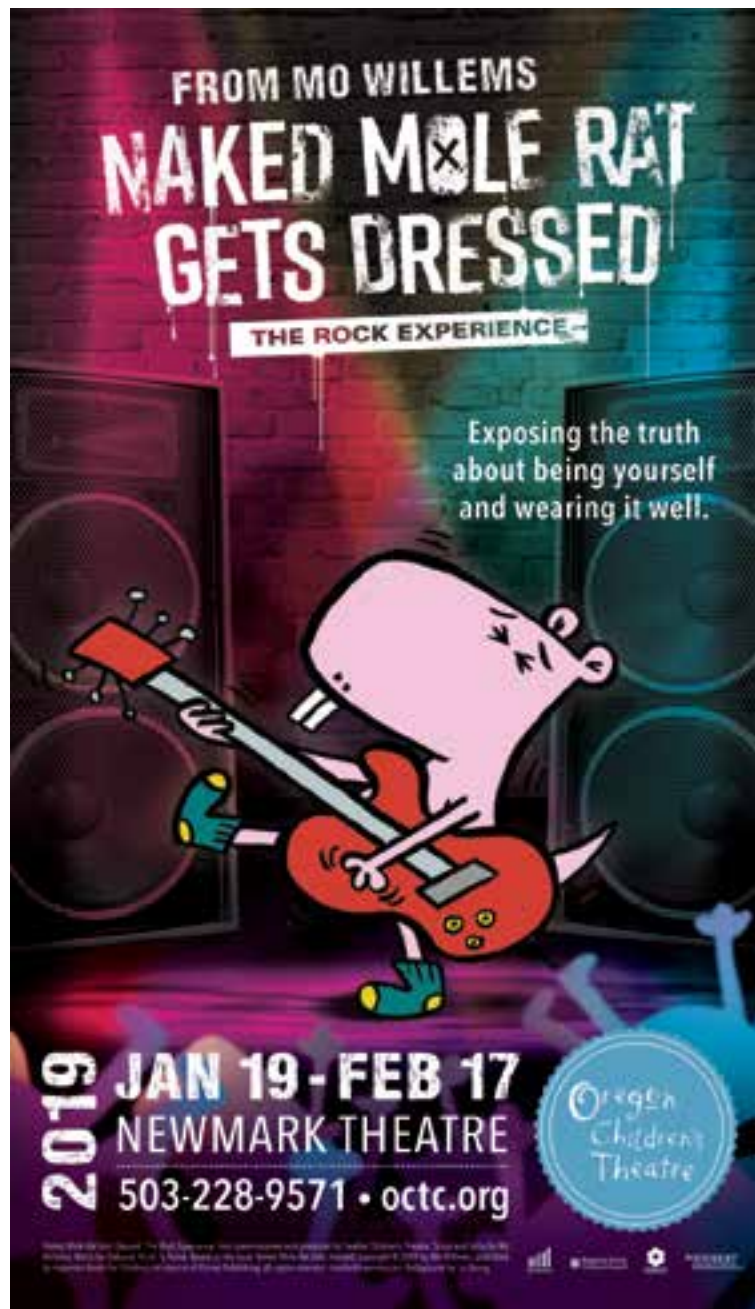


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Lantern viewing evenings celebrate the Chinese New Year at the Lan Su Chinese Garden, downtown.

Chinese New Year Events

Portland's Lan Su Chinese Garden kicks off the Year of the Pig with two weeks of special events celebrating the most colorful, sensational and joyous of all Chinese festivals — Chinese New Year.

Geared toward families and individuals, the festivities will include lion dances, Chinese lantern viewings and cultural activities and demonstrations.

The celebration begins on Tuesday, Feb. 5 with a traditional "Rolling in the Wealth" event where the

first 100 visitors to the garden usher in good fortune and prosperity for the coming year by rolling traditional mandarin oranges and gold-colored coins through the entry gate. Every visitor on the opening day will also receive a hong bao, a lucky red envelope traditionally given out on Chinese New Year.

For a complete schedule of the garden's Chinese New Year events and for more information, visit lansugarden.org.

Pushing Boundaries in Dance

White Bird welcomes Shay Kuebler and Radical System Art, an esteemed dance group that pushes boundaries of physical performance by fusing forms like hip hop, martial arts and theater. The Vancouver, B.C. troupe will perform three 8 p.m. shows, Thursday, Jan. 31 through Saturday, Feb. 2 at Portland State University's Lincoln Hall. For tickets and more information, visit whitebird.org.



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Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE



Following Your Own Bliss -- The 'Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed: The Rock Experience,' an Oregon Children's Theater musical with an important message about being yourself plays through Feb. 17 at the Newmark Theater, downtown. For tickets, call 503-288-9571, visit octc.org or the box office at 1111 S.W. Broadway.

Sense & Sensibility -- Danae C. Osseni (The Color Purple) returns to Portland Center Stage as Elinor Dashwood in *Sense & Sensibility*. Bursting with humor and bold

theatricality, the classic romantic comedy is now playing through Feb. 10. Tickets can be purchased by calling the box office at 503-445-3700 or visiting t pcs.org.



Festival of New Works -- The Portland-grown Fertile Ground Citywide Festival of New Works continues through Sunday, Feb. 3 at multiple locations, featuring acts of creation from prolific playwrights, abundant actors, innovative dancers, talented designers and adventuresome producers. For details and a full list of events, visit fertilegroundpdx.com.

Norman Sylvester Band -- "Boogie Cat" Norman Sylvester plays Saturday, Feb. 2 at Catfish Lou's; Saturday, Feb. 9 at the Spare Room; Friday, Feb. 15 at Wilf's; Saturday, Feb. 16 at the Vinyl Tap; Friday,

Feb. 22 at Clyde's; and Saturday, Feb. 23 at the Half Penny in Salem.

Dial M for Murder -- Lakewood Theatre Company presents "Dial M for Murder," a bone-chilling thriller about a marriage gone wrong. Now playing through Feb. 10 at Lakewood Center for the Arts in Lake Oswego. For tickets and more information, call the box office at 503-635-3901 or visit lakewood-center.org.



A Habit Forming Musical -- Join the Little Sisters of Hoboken for a hysterical variety show to raise emergency funds for the convent. The Rose Theatre Company presents "Nunsense" at the Broadway Rose New Stage in Tigard, 12850

S.W. Grant Ave. Now playing through Feb. 24. For tickets, visit broadwayrose.org, call 503-620-5262 or visit the box office.

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

Zoo for All -- The Oregon Zoo has launched "Zoo for All," a discount program that provides \$5 admission for low income individuals and families. Visitors may purchase up to six of the \$5 tickets by

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

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

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OPINION

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.

A Pattern of Hostility toward People of Color

The debts we owe Haitians

BY OSCAR H. BLAYTON

More than 500 Haitian soldiers fought alongside French troops on Oct. 9, 1779 to aid the Americans in trying to force the British out of Savannah, Ga. in order to open its port for the colonists' use.

The attack was unsuccessful, but it has been noted that the Haitians played a significant role in providing cover for the French soldiers who had to retreat from their positions on the battlefield. But even though Haitians shed blood for American independence, the United States in its foreign policy has always held a deep-seated hostility towards Haiti, despite denials to the contrary.

Haiti was born of a slave revolt that began on the French half of the island of Hispaniola and resulted in a revolution costing 200,000 Black lives.

When the Haitians threw off the French yoke of oppression to become the independent Republic of Haiti, France demanded recompense for the loss of its slaves. This demand for payment was backed up by the threat of an invasion, with the French navy laying off the Haitian coast. This forced payment, totaling more than \$21 billion over the years, began Haiti's slide from being France's wealthiest colony to one of the poorest nations in the Western Hemisphere.

When Haiti gained its independence, Southern slaveholders in the United States were horrified by the liberation of enslaved black people by their own efforts. And in response, the U.S. government did



not recognize the black nation until 1862, when the United States was in the throes of its own brutal and bloody war over the perpetuation of slavery and the Southern states had seceded from the Union.

But recognition never meant respect. And ever since its creation, Haiti has had to battle against American hostility, with the United States keeping its heel on Haiti's economy and domestic politics. This included a U.S. invasion in 1914 that precipitated a military occupation lasting until 1934.

The U.S. military occupied Haiti again in 1994, the year Haiti's democratically elected president, Jean-Bertrand Aristide, returned from exile after fleeing from

1944, President Franklin D. Roosevelt had Secretary of State Cordell Hull deliver a commemorative plaque to a cathedral in Haiti that reads, "Today we pay tribute to the courage and spirit of those Haitian Volunteers who in 1779 risked their lives for the cause of American Liberty." The placement of Roosevelt's plaque and the assistance given by the Haitians is unknown to most Americans. And even a 10-foot monument standing in a busy downtown square of a major U.S. city does not bring this piece of our history to the attention of most Americans.

Haiti's contributions to the United States are not widely known because, throughout our country's history, America has shown

verge of becoming "illegal aliens" by the stroke of Trump's pen.

But a monster like Trump has neither empathy for, nor any sense of obligation to, people of color whose ancestors helped to birth and build this nation. People of color can expect no consideration from this despicable, disgusting bully who wants to "make America white again."

The White House also is planning to terminate TPS for people of color from other countries whose conditions have necessitated our compassion and offers of refuge because hostility towards Haitians is simply a part of the pattern of widespread American hostility towards people of color.

Just as ancient barbaric people created narratives that gave animals human form and characteristics in an anthropomorphic attempt to conform them to the familiar, Trump and his supporters are pursuing a eulopomorphic attempt to mold America into a European form that is familiar to them. In short, he is attempting to make all Americans look as much like European Americans as possible. As ancient barbarians wanted to conform their world to their own image, these present-day barbarians want to conform America to their own image.

It is up to right-thinking Americans to stand up to Trump and the cynical, cowardly senators and congressional representatives who cater to his attempts at despotism. It is time to stand up and say "No!" to the deportation of Haitians and others living in the United States with Temporary Protected Status.

We must have compassion for our fellow human beings, even if the disgusting tenant in the White House does not.

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

Haiti's contributions to the United States are not widely known because, throughout our country's history, America has shown itself to be hostile towards Haiti and Haitians.

a coup by the Haitian military. When Aristide was re-elected in 2000, the U.S. military, in combination with the Haitian military, forcibly removed him from the country and sent him into exile again, this time in South Africa.

It is important to point out the irony of how badly the United States has treated Haiti, given the presence of a statue standing in Savannah's Franklin Square. This statue was erected in 2007 to honor the Haitian soldiers that came to the aid of American revolutionaries 240 years ago in 1779.

But this statue is not the first recognition of America's debt to Haitians. In April

itself to be hostile towards Haiti and Haitians.

On Oct. 30, 2018, the British newspaper, The Guardian, ran the headline, "Flee or hide: Haitian immigrants face difficult decisions under Trump." This headline, curious to most Americans, has a back story. After a 7.1-magnitude earthquake hit Haiti in 2010, the U.S. government offered Temporary Protected Status (TPS) to thousands of Haitians whose lives had been destroyed. But now, Donald J. Trump has decided that their imminent deportation is best for America. Haitians who have made new lives in this country are now on the

Transgender Ban is about Bigotry and Distraction

A twisted way to thank our service members

BY JILL RICHARDSON

The Supreme Court just paved the way for Trump's ban on transgender people serving in the military to move ahead, at least pending other court challenges. The ban will harm the military and help no one, while doing nothing to address the nation's real problems.

I'm neither transgender nor in the military, but I count several trans people, including trans vets, among my closest friends. I can't speak for them. I can, however, speak as their friend — and as a sociologist who teaches about gender at the college level.



Trump cites the cost of medical care for transgender people undergoing transition as the reason for his ban. Yet many transgender people never have surgery, and those who do may wait until after they're finished serving in the military to do it.

Hormone treatments and gender confirmation surgeries for all transgender service members together are estimated to cost \$8.4 million annually at most — that's five times less than the military spends on Viagra. And it's nearly 200 times less than the Department of Defense spends on health care and lost days of work due to smoking.

And yet service personnel are allowed to smoke. In fact, service members at many commands often have an entire culture built around enabling tobacco use, despite all of the costs. If this were actually about the cost of military health care, perhaps a smoking cessation program would be a better option than a transgender ban.

Neither of my friends were aware that

they were transgender when they enlisted in the military. They just wanted to serve their country.

Neither transitioned while they were serving, and one didn't even realize she was trans until after she'd left the Marines. (She still works in the national security field as a civilian.) The other realized she was transgender while in the Navy and opted not to reenlist so she could transition without fear of being discharged.

Even with a ban, transgender people who haven't yet realized or come to terms with being trans will continue to enlist and serve. A ban would mean wasting resources recruiting and training service members, only to discharge qualified personnel once they came out as trans or were outed.

Kicking trans service people out of the military wouldn't only be extremely hurtful to the estimated 150,000 transgender people who have served, including 8,800 who are currently on active duty. It would also be a waste of money and disruptive to

the entire military.

The transgender ban in the military has nothing to do with military readiness or cost — and everything to do with bigotry and transphobia. Trump is using the ban purely to provoke the left, throw red meat to his base, and distract us all from the real issues in our nation, like the government shutdown which continues to drain resources.

Transgender people in the military put their lives on the line (and sometimes lose their lives) to protect their fellow Americans. Excluding them because of their gender identities is a twisted way to thank them for their service.

It's time to stop perpetuating hatred and distracting from real issues — and to stop using transgender people as a national scapegoat.

OtherWords columnist Jill Richardson is pursuing a PhD in sociology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She lives in San Diego. Distributed by OtherWords.org.

OPINION

THE LAW OF UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES:



Democrats Fail First Big Test on Climate

Kicking the can down the road

BY BASAV SEN

The science on climate change is clear: All countries desperately need to restructure fossil fuels out of their economies.



Naturally, the Trump administration has recklessly ignored this evidence. In every way it's tried to make it easier to extract and burn fossil fuels — and harder to hold polluters of all stripes accountable.

But what about the other side in Washington? Unfortunately, Democratic leaders are also acting like they don't understand the urgency of the problem.

After the election, youth activists occupied the offices of Democratic leaders to demand a special congressional committee to plan for a Green New Deal.

A Green New Deal means addressing climate change through a mobilization on the scale of the original New Deal, which helped end the Great Depression. It means tackling climate change

alongside other social and economic inequalities — in part by creating jobs in solar and wind energy, efficient buildings, public transportation, clean water, and public health.

Climate change exacerbates our society's inequalities. For instance, black Americans are 52 percent likelier than white Americans to be exposed to deadly heat waves caused by climate change. When the oceans rise from melting polar ice, everyone is eventually affected — but Native Alaskan communities are losing their homelands today.

Hurricanes intensified by warming oceans hurt everyone in their path, but are particularly devastating in places like Puerto Rico, with its 44 percent poverty rate.

A Green New Deal strategy tackles these inequalities directly, instead of treating climate as an isolated problem.

It's also smart politics, because bringing down utility bills — and creating lots of good jobs — widens support for bold climate action. Energy efficiency and clean energy jobs already outnumber fossil fuel jobs by a wide margin. Imagine what could happen with a real movement.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi promised to address these demands. But she hasn't kept her promise. Instead of a real Green New Deal committee, she formed a toothless advisory body with no real power.

First, Pelosi's committee doesn't have a mandate to come up with a plan that matches the required scale and speed. That's like easing off the gas but not hitting the brakes on a car speeding off a cliff.

Second, it doesn't have language on race, income, gender, or other inequalities. When even wonky scientists address the unequal impacts of climate change, it's galling that our elected representatives don't see fit to acknowledge this reality.

Third, the committee doesn't have the power to issue subpoenas. It can merely "recommend subpoenas and depositions" to other committees.

This is a serious omission. Powerful fossil fuel corporations have stymied climate action for decades by lobbying to weaken commonsense measures, funding disinformation campaigns, and bribing politicians to the tune of \$78 million in spending on the last election alone — in spite of know-

ing the dangers of their own business model for decades.

It's about time Congress conducted an investigation of this predatory industry, and how better to do it than through a committee dedicated to the climate crisis?

Finally, there's no requirement that members of the committee don't take fossil fuel money. So some of the recipients of that \$78 million can sit on the committee and undermine it from within. What a great way to sabotage the committee before it even gets going!

This is a spectacular failure on the part of Pelosi and the Democratic leadership. Knowing what we know now about the urgency of climate action — the world's top scientists tell us there's only 11 years left to take preventative action — their proposal is nothing short of criminal negligence.

Kicking the can down the road appears to be a bipartisan sport in Washington. That's why we need a powerful grassroots movement to compel our political leadership to address climate change with urgency, speed, and justice.

Basav Sen directs the Climate Policy Project at the Institute for Policy Studies. Distributed by OtherWords.org.



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The Portland Observer

A Moving Portrait of Life on the Margins

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

of ocean waves threatening to engulf children who have wandered out too far. I can't think when I have seen a film that conveys so much, yet preserves a sense of mystery.

One of the things I loved about this film is that it offers glimpses of Mexico at a level of complexity that we never see in the U.S. We're accustomed to stick-figure drawings of shadowy migrants and a lawless society; Cuarón gives us a culture in which privilege tends to follow whiteness; where a woman doctor outthinks her male colleagues; where corruption is hidden in plain sight; where indigenous beauty goes unrecognized. As a Mexican-American who has had to scrounge my whole life for scraps of clues as to my own heritage, this film felt like a cool drink of nutritious water.

The film also captures something profound about memory. Cuarón sought to capture some of what was essentially true about his own childhood, yet wisely focused less on plot details and more on fragments of sound and touch and water and sun, recreating them with contemplative care. From the perspective of middle age, he intuited the importance of centering on the perspective of a central but marginalized person. And from those fragments of beauty and brokenness, Cuarón has assembled one of the most moving films I have ever seen.

Darleen Ortega is a judge on the Oregon Court of Appeals and the first woman of color to serve in that capacity. Her movie review column Opinionated Judge appears regularly in The Portland Observer. Find her movie blog at opinionatedjudge.blogspot.com.

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Critter Club for Preschoolers

Beginning Feb. 11, kids ages 3 to 5 can enjoy the Oregon Zoo's newest camp offering: Critter Club.

"Preschoolers are natural explorers," said Alison Heimowitz, the zoo's school and teacher liaison. "And Critter Club taps into

that proclivity in order to help cultivate the skills and passion that will shape tomorrow's conservation leaders."

Each three-day class — developed specifically for little ones and led by education professionals — features imaginative play, movement, storytelling and live animal interactions.

"What's the Buzz?" focuses on bees, butterflies and other important pollinators. For "Safari Adventure," kids ride a magic Jeep to the savanna in search of African wildlife big and small.

For more information or to register, visit oregonzoo.org/critter-club or call 503-220-5774.

PHOTO BY CARLI DAVIDSON,
COURTESY OREGON ZOO.

The Oregon Zoo's newest camp offering, Critter Club, is designed for kids ages 3-5.

FOOD



Savory Chicken Vegetable Strudel

Ingredients:

- 2 cups diced cooked chicken
- 1/2 cup shredded carrots
- 1/2 cup finely chopped fresh broccoli
- 1/3 cup finely chopped sweet red pepper
- 1 cup shredded sharp cheddar cheese
- 1/2 cup mayonnaise
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1/2 teaspoon dill weed
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 2 tubes (8 ounces each) refrigerated crescent rolls
- 1 large egg white, beaten
- 2 tablespoons slivered almonds

Directions:

1. In a large bowl, combine the first 10 ingredients. Unroll crescent dough and place in a greased 15x10x1-in. baking pan; press seams and seal together, forming a 15x12-in. rectangle (dough will hang over edges of pan).
2. Spread filling lengthwise down the center of the dough. On each long side, cut 1-1/2-in.-wide strips 3-1/2-in. into center. Starting at one end, alternate strips, twisting twice and laying at an angle across filling. Seal ends.
3. Brush dough with egg white; sprinkle with almonds. Bake at 375° for 30-35 minutes or until golden brown. Cut into slices; serve warm.



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NAACP Generations

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Vancouver NAACP assistant treasurer and artist, is aimed at exploring the NAACP's early history in Vancouver, the evolution of the Vancouver branch, and its contemporary stories and accomplishments.

"The NAACP has been really active in this area, been active since the 40s," Carter told the Portland Observer. "It kind of ebbs and flows with the time, but we still have a strong membership. And the ebb and flow comes with the activities and people who are really active in it. But we're still growing and we're still keeping it alive."

Other free events as part of Black History Month observances include a community art exhibit at the Angst Gallery at 1015 Main St., Vancouver, on Friday, Feb. 1; and "Soundtrack for a Revolution," a documentary film screening and discussion on Feb. 27 at the Old Liberty theater on 115 N. Main Ave. in Ridgefield.

Vancouver NAACP's formation in 1945 followed the largest single increase in Vancouver's African American population between 1940 and 1944, going from just 18 people to a population of 8,825. That boom coincided with a surge in the black population in the Portland-Vancouver area with the establishment of three Kaiser Shipyards to build ships for World War II.

A number of black residents were segregated in wartime housing at that time, which spurred a local group of concerned citizens to join and create the Vancouver NAACP, 33 years after the creation of the national organization was established, and 29 years after Portland's NAACP was formed.

The Vancouver NAACP then worked with Vancouver Housing Authority to integrate housing, specifically in the McLoughlin Heights neighborhood of Vancouver, which was a primary location of the black population back then, and the largest wartime housing project on the west coast at the

time.

After the war, the NAACP Vancouver worked to combat and eradicate the racial discrimination that confronted many of the black families who decided to stay in Vancouver in search of upward mobility through jobs, housing and education.

It was due in part from NAACP Vancouver and Urban League of Portland, that both Washington and Oregon created Fair Employment Practices Commissions in 1949.

Though Joshua passed away in at the age of 92 in 2012, the award that carries her name still exists today, and honors others in the community who work to eliminate racism.

Though this opened some jobs for African Americans, many still left Vancouver after the shipbuilding jobs ended, unable to find adequate employment and housing. By 1960, the black population in Vancouver dropped to just fewer than 500.

Nevertheless, the Vancouver NAACP survived that whole time and continues to work toward improving the lived experiences of the over 4,500 black residents who call Vancouver home today, about 3 percent of the total population, according to the 2010 Census.

One of the founding members of Vancouver NAACP, Val Joshua, led the group as president for 29 years—from the early 70s to the early 2000s—and helped the organization grow. Her efforts helped to desegregate housing, teaching and places of worship in Clark County and she was honored by the Clark County YWCA, a civil rights organization, with the Val Joshua Racial Justice award in

1989.

Though Joshua passed away in at the age of 92 in 2012, the award that carries her name still exists today, and honors others in the community who work to eliminate racism.

The history of African-Americans in the Pacific Northwest is rich.

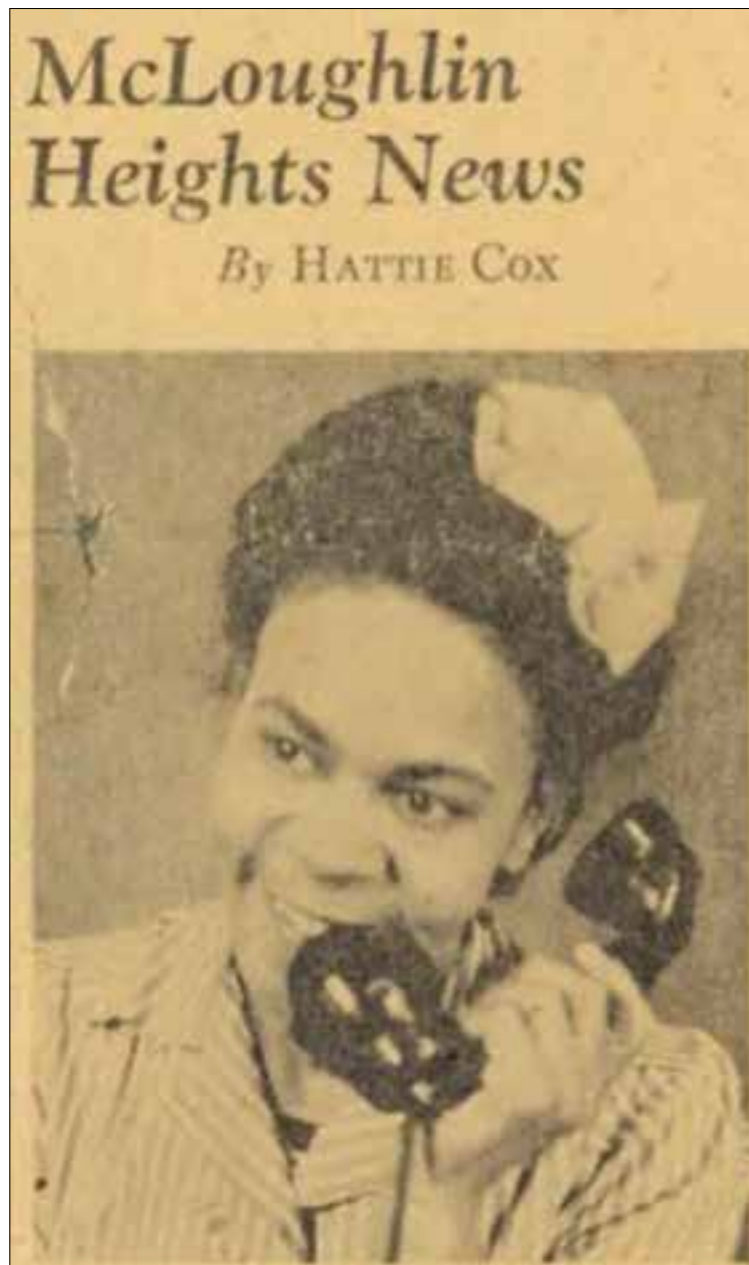
The first black man thought to have set foot in the Pacific Northwest, Marcus Lopez, touched down at Tillamook in 1788, as a crew member of Capt. Robert

Gray's Lady Washington.

Some black slaves brought to Oregon in the mid to late 1800s sought refuge in Washington due to Oregon's exclusionary laws. Despite being a "free state" that did not allow slavery, Oregon outlawed any black person from residing in the state at the time. When the Washington Territory was carved off from Oregon territory in 1853 it did not adopt the same laws. Only 20 black people were in the Pacific Northwest at the time, according to a US Census from 1860.

There were even black pioneers who each settled in Washington state in the mid 1800s—George Washington Bush in 1844, and George Washington in 1850. Bush's son, William Owen Bush, was later elected to the state legislature and introduced Washington's first civil rights act, which prohibited racial discrimination in public places, in 1889.

From 1899-1900, the all-black



1940s newspaper columnist Hattie Cox wrote about the who's who of the black community of McLoughlin Heights in Vancouver, which housed thousands of African Americans to work in the Kaiser Shipyards. Hattie wrote for the black newspaper *The People's Observer*, which *The Portland Observer* pays homage to in its name.

"Buffalo Soldiers" from Company B of the 24th U.S. Infantry Regiment were stationed at Vancouver Barracks, which was the first time in the history of the post that a unit from one of the Army's four African American regiments comprised the post's regular garrison of troops.

A retired Buffalo Soldier and Medal of Honor recipient, Moses Williams, was even buried in Vancouver shortly after moving there in 1899. A regional black newspaper at the time, *Portland New Age*, reported the black soldiers received racial prejudice from

some, though no lynching's or direct violence towards them were recorded.

To find out more about these histories, and the current priorities and future aspirations of Vancouver NAACP, join a panel discussion with past and present Vancouver NAACP presidents, and moderated by historical author Jane Elder Wulff, for "NAACP Generations" on Thursday, Feb. 7 at Clark County Historical Museum, 1511 Main St. Vancouver. Doors open at 5 p.m., and the event starts at 7 p.m., and tickets are \$5 and under.



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