



PHOTO BY DANNY PETERSON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The Vancouver Avenue First Baptist Church under the direction of Pastor Rev. J.W. Matt Hennessee celebrates 75 years this month. A mainstay in the African American faith community, the historically black and diverse church continues to be counted on for tackling social justice issues of the day, such as setting up job fairs, promoting education for black youth and feeding the homeless.



Vancouver Avenue First Baptist celebrates 75 years

BY DANNY PETERSON

THE PORTLAND OBSERVER The Vancouver Avenue First Baptist Church is celebrating 75 years this month, honoring its faith-based legacy for being an important epicenter for African-American life in Portland, where its members find a welcoming space to make an impact on social justice issues of the day.

Under the current guidance of Pastor Rev. J.W. Matt Hennessee, Vancouver Avenue has continued its historic missions of addressing social justice issues, including

the promotion of education to black youth; Williams," Hennessee, who has been pasthe sponsorship of job fairs; feeding people who are hungry; and other social causes. This year the church will undergo renovations to bolster public service efforts even more, including the creation of a black museum and dedicated educational space for underrepresented youth.

"We have been able, on the one hand, to really focus on the spiritual development of our church, but also be very involved in social justice, just as the church had been for many years during the time of Pastor

tor since 2005, told the Portland Observer.

That legacy was set in place by the former pastor of the church, for 48 years, Rev. Oliver Booker "O.B." Williams, and his wife Willa Ida Jackson-Williams. Williams started as a Sunday School Teacher at the church before taking over in 1945-when its membership was just 75--and oversaw its substantial growth during the civil rights movement from the 1940s to the 1960s.

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McGee, Dickson Not Guilty Black leaders cleared after trial

BY MICHAEL LEIGHTON **PORTLAND OBSERVER**

The founder and former chief executive officer of Portland's Black Parent Initiative expressed his gratitude Friday after a judge found him and his co-defendant not guilty of sexual assault after a two week trial at the Multnomah County Courthouse.

McGee, 33, and Aubre Dickson, 44, a former bank executive and former chairman of the Oregon Housing Stability Council, prominent members of



Aubre Dickson and Charles McGee

Portland's African American community, were charged with sexually assaulting a woman after a night partying nearly seven years ago.

Both men lost their jobs after the accusations were first levied against them by the alleged victim, Erica Naito-Campbell, 38, the granddaughter of prominent Portland real estate developer Bill Naito, in a story published in the Willamette Week.

Judge David Rees reached the not guilty verdicts Friday, finding the state failed to prove their case in a trial with no jury.

"I cannot conclude with moral certainty that the defendants are guilty," Rees said.

The men were charged with touching Naito-Campbell sexually without her consent.

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An adult in custody plays music in a mental health ward at the Oregon State Penitentiary in Salem where the drab walls of the space were recently transformed into a more humanized environment by painting a tranquil outdoor scene to create a more humanized environment.

Prison Walls Get Touch of Humanity

The Oregon Department of Corrections, in partnership with Disability Rights Oregon has created a better environment for inmates with mental health issues in the Behavior Health Unit of Oregon State Penitentiary in Salem.

The department reached an agreement with the disability advocates in 2016 to make substantive changes to the operations and physical structure of the unit which currently houses 40 adults in custody with sometimes severe mental health issues.

Since then, the prison has increased available treatment and outdoor recreational space, increased security and treatment staffing, and collaborated with experts on mental health treatment. These efforts were made to create a more humanized environment because 95 percent of the inmate will release from custody and return to Oregon's communities, officials said.

"Disability Rights Oregon and DOC agreed to solve this challenge together in the conference room and not the courtroom, and that is exactly what we have accomplished," said Colette S. Peters, corrections department director. "Through our partnership and the incredible work of the employees at the Oregon State Penitentiary, we significantly improved the lives of the adults in custody and the wellness of the team who works in BHU."

|The Week in Review

Blazers' Nurkic Brakes Leg

Trail Blazers starting center Jusuf Nurkic suffered compound fractures to his left leg in the second overtime of Portland's win over Brooklyn on Monday. The good news after surgery on Tuesday was that he's expected to make a full recovery, but will likely be out for the season.



Smollett Charges Dropped



In a stunning development, prosecutors in Chicago dropped all charges against "Empire" actor Jussie Smollett on Tuesday, a month after he was hit with felony counts stemming from what police said was a staged street attack. After appearing in court, Smollett thanked his attorneys, friends, the citizens of Chicago and "the state of Illinois for attempting to do what is right."

Mueller Delivers Trump Report

Special counsel Robert Mueller did not find evidence that President Donald Trump's campaign "conspired or coordinated" with Russia to influence the 2016 presidential election but reached no conclusion on whether Trump obstructed justice, Attorney General William Barr declared Sunday. That brought a hearty claim of vindication from Trump but set the stage for new rounds of political and legal fighting.

Oregon Teams to Sweet 16

The women's team from Oregon State and the men's team from the University of Oregon have each advanced to the Sweet 16 brackets of their respective rounds for an NCAA basketball championship. OSU withstood No. 5 Gonzaga for a 76-70 victory on Mon-



day and will play Louisville. The Ducks beat UC Irvine 73-54 on Sunday and will face top-seeded Virginia.

Racial Bias in Traffic Stops

A study of nearly 100 million traffic stops from around the country has concluded that, on average, black drivers are 20 percent more likely to get pulled over than white drivers. The Stanford University study reflects experiences that have long been shared by people of color, an observable racial bias in both traffic stops and subsequent decisions to conduct vehicle searches.

Turbines Top New Crossing

TriMet began installing 12 small wind turbines Monday on top of existing poles on TriMet's new light rail bridge, Tilikum Crossing. They will generate electricity to be stored in batteries that power lights, which will shine on the turbines at night.

E-Scooters to Return

Portland announced a new one year pilot program for electronic scooters Monday. It will start as early as April 26 and follows last year's 120-day pilot program that showed e-scooters have the potential to help reduce congestion and pollution, but also raise concerns about people riding e-scooters on sidewalks, violating traffic laws and creating issues with people walking and people with disabilities.

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Classifieds

This page This page Sponsored by: **FredNeyer** What's on your list today?



The new Gladys McCoy Health Department building in Old Town at 610 N.W. Sixth Ave. has opened to the public. A headquarters for 500 Multnomah County Health Department employees, the building is named after the late Multnomah County Chair Gladys McCoy, the first African American elected to public office in Oregon .

McCoy Building Opens

County public health workers move in

Department Headquarters across elected to public office in Oregon. from Union Station in Old Town is now serving the community, a building named after the late Multnomah County Chair Gladys

The new Gladys McCoy Health McCoy, the first African American About 500 Health Department employees started to move

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School Founder Remembered

Advocate Rosemary Anderson dies at 88

Rosemary Anderson, former executive director of the Portland Opportunities Industrial Center and the founder and namesake of Rosemary Anderson High School, is being remembered for her advocacy for Portland youth after passing away March 15. She was 88 years old.

Anderson was long associated with serving under represented at- risk youth in and around the communities of Portland.

Born Nov. 20, 1930 in Denver, Colo., she moved to Portland in 1949 with her husband and children. She was employed by POIC from its inception in 1967, and in 1980 was appointed executive director. During her time at the organization's helm, she





Rosemary Anderson



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McGee, Dickson Not Guilty

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

"This case is about two men not taking 'no' for an answer, said Deputy District Attorney Amanda Nadell in closing arguments.

Mc Gee's attorney claimed Naito-Campbell was inviting the sexual encounter with the men threesome, drinking with them, going to a strip club with them and going to McGee's house when his letting down the community. wife wasn't home.

commit crimes of sexual assault, I apologize to my community. I Christina Mascall said. "When she feel like I let a lot of people down decided the party was over, guess what? It just stopped... They re- Right now I'm focusing on my alized she wasn't into in and it family," he said. stopped."

fought off an attempted rape, saying she had zero sexual interest in vated in bring the accusations to the public via a story in the Willamette Week after McGee filed to run for Multnomah County Commissioner in last year's primary election. He later withdrew from the electin. McGee and Dickson did not take the stand at trial.

When the not guilty verdicts said.

were read Friday, cries of joy erupted from the families of Mc-Gee and Dixon in the courtroom. Video released by Oregonlive. com showed Erica Naito-Campbell abruptly leaving the courtroom and her bother hung his head down and sobbed.

Outside of court, McGee, in by talking about her interest in a remarks also broadcast on Oregonlive.com said he was thankful for the verdict, but remorseful for

"I'm in love with my family "They didn't get her there to and I'm in love with my wife and and have a lifetime to make it up.

The district attorney's office Naito-Campbell testified she issued a statement saying it disagreed with the verdicts.

"We continue to believe the victhe men. She said she was moti- tim in this case who courageously came forward to report what happened to her in May 2012. Our unwavering commitment of supporting and advocating for survivors of sexual assault remains rooted in our core values. We stand shoulder-to-shoulder with all survivors of sexual assault," the statement



Good in the Hood 27th Annual Multicultural Festival, presented by University of Oregon, June 21-23. Location King School Park, NE 6th Ave & NE Humboldt St, Portland, OR 97211.

Come join us for a fun filled weekend of Live - Jazz, Blues, R&B, Latin, Pop, Conscious Hip/Hop; and NEO-Soul...complemented with a DJ intermission. Multicultural food, market place, informational village, kid's space and parade.

In addition, Legacy's "Trauma Nurses Talk Tough" \$6 discounted bicycle helmet sale and Health Pavilion offering free health screenings on Saturday from 12-4pm.

New to the GITH festival, Movie in the Park Friday night June 21 featuring the movie "Black Panther"

Festival hours: Good in the Hood "Kick-off Party" Music by DJ Pryce and Hosted by MC Seezinin Friday June 21 King School Park 6-10pm, Saturday June 22, Good in the Hood Parade (NE MLK) at 11am. Saturday and Sunday June 22-23 Festival continuation 11:00am to 10:00pm.

If you're interested in becoming a Food Vendor, selling your merchandise at the Market Place, having an information booth in our Information Village, participating in the Parade, becoming a Kids Space sponsor or volunteering at this year's festival. Contact GITH Hotline at 971-302-6380 or email: www.goodnthehood.org



Portland martial arts students Jeremiah Childs and Malcolm Bunyoli are presented championship awards during a regional tournament earlier this month in Mt. Vernon, Wash.

Martial Arts Champions

Congratulations to students Orange belt category. from the Soo Bahk Do martial arts program in northeast Portland who tor Charles Smith said everyone took home trophies this month at did a great job and demonstratthe regional Soo Bahk Do Moo ed excellent discipline and spirit Duk Kwan Championships in Mt. Vernon, Wash.

second place in forms; Malcolm

sparring in the same division; and N.E. Dekum St., and at the Blaz-Andrew Esperanza was the Yong ers Boys and Girls Club, 5250 Gi (courage) award winner in the N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

The team's instructor and men (Moo Do Shim Gung).

Portland Soo Bahk Do offers Jeremiah Childs won in his red traditional martial arts and therbelt category for sparring and took apeutic martial arts for families and individuals of all ages at the Bunyoli won second place for Woodlawn MIC Center, 1425

A Legacy of Action

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

The church, now located at 3138 N. Vancouver Ave. in the Albina district of inner north and northeast Portland, was originally established in 1944 across the Columbia River in Vancouver, Wash., at the site of a housing project called Burton Homes where it was known as the First Baptist Church.

Thousands of shipyard workers who came to the Northwest during World War II-many of whom were Southern and black--helped the congregation get formed.

"What people were looking for was a better life, better opportunity, a place to raise your family without all the blatant signs of Jim Crow and racial prejudice and bias and things of that nature," Hennessee said.

It relocated no fewer than three times over the next decade as the ending of WWII saw the closures of many housing projects. The Albina— where many of the city's African Americans resided. In 1951 it moved to its current location, a former Methodist Episcopal church, built in 1909.

From 1951 to 1967 the membership grew from 650 to 2,000 and during that period became a town hall for local African Americans. At the time it was the largest black church in the entire Pacific Northwest.

"If there were things that were related to community activities, such as the NAACP, The Urban League, or anything related to improvement in terms of better conditions for blacks--like housing, employment, education--the church played a role in helping to foster those social/economical improvements for blacks in the 50s and 60s," the church's historian

and archivist, Raymond Burell III, told the Portland Observer.

In 1961, the Urban League selected the church as one of the stops on Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s national speaking tour. The national civil rights leader met with clergy and delivered a speech entitled "The Future of Integration," commenting that "if democracy is to live, segregation must die. Segregation is a cancer in the body of democracy that must be removed if the health of the nation is to survive."

Rv. King's message was undoubtedly resonant to the neighborhood then-segregated residents. The church would later be the site of the statewide memorial service held for King after his death in 1968. In 2006, the church also hosted a memorial service for Coretta Scott King, who was Hennessee's godmother.

Rev. O.B. Williams, who passed away in 1993, and wife church then established itself in Ida, who passed away in 2010, were given numerous community recognitions in their lifetimes. That included a community award for Ida by the Black Caucus of Portland in 1979; and then-Mayor Bud Clark proclaiming May 27 as O.B Williams Day in 1986.

Since 2007, under the leadership of Pastor Hennessee, the church hosts Drum Major celebrations each year in tribute to Dr. King on the weekend of the national holiday honoring the civil rights icon. In January the church hosted Ambassador Attalah Shabazz, the eldest daughter of Malcolm X and Dr. Betty Shabazz, as its keynote speaker. The celebration annually honors community leaders and provides scholarships for local college-bound high school students.

In 2016 the church was official-

PHOTO COURTESY VANCOUVER AVENUE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

The Vancouver Avenue First Baptist Church in the 1950s when it was the largest black congregation in the Pacific Northwest, a meeting place for social justice groups like the Portland NAACP, the Portland Urban League, and even hosted Dr. Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. in 1961. Today, the church continues to be a central part of African American community life.

ly listed on the National Register Current plans would bolster from the National Fund for Sacred of Historic places thanks in part to the efforts of Burell, who wrote a 133-page nomination report for the listing. He also authored a coffee table book of the history of the church and its leadership, "Vancouver Avenue: Yesterday, Today, and Forever," in 2009.

By 2016, the membership of the church dwindled to 400, coinciding with the gentrification and displacement of black community members from the church's Eliot neighborhood over the last couple of decades.

are here to assist those who need

help paying their bill.

the church's prominence in the community for decades to come by establishing a new African-American Museum at the church. Plans call for an exhibit gallery, spanning a little over 1,000 square feet, which will showcase the legacy of blacks in the community, Burell said.

"There's a lot of history in this area and yet there's no one place vou can go to kind of say, let's go look at the exhibits, so our goal is to develop that." Hennessee said. Thanks to a \$175,000 grant

Places, and other pending grants and donations, the museum will be part of a larger renovation project that will unfold over the next vear.

It will include the formation of a dedicated space for iUrban Teen, a partnering organization that brings together underrepresented teens and young adults for career exploration and mentoring in the science, technology, engineering, math, and arts fields. A board room for community use is also in the works.



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McCoy Building Opens

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

moved into the new nine-story building at the west end of the Broadway Bridge last week and will continue to move in over the next two weekends, officials said.

"The Health Department touches the lives of everyone in this county and we finally have a building that was designed, constructed and built to meet the needs of the staff and the people we serve," Chair Deborah Kafoury said during opening day ceremonies last Wednesday.

In addition to dazzling views of Union Station, and the Fremont and Broadway Bridges, the \$94.1 million project includes a state-of-the-art central laboratory, pharmacy, administrative offices, communicable disease services, clinic space and an emergency health response

command post.

Officials said the new building was designed to last 80 years, enabling the Health Department to serve Portland's most vulnerable populations, now and in the future. The opening also comes on time and under budget, two years after breaking ground and eight years after the county first launched the project.

Brett Taute, who managed the headquarters project for the county, said the Gladys McCoy building will receive a LEED gold certification, providing energy and water efficiency along with access to natural light for staff well-being.

Much of the roof area is covered in eco-roof, helping to manage the stormwater runoff with native planting viewable on the 9th level. The building also features gender-neutral bathrooms, a wellness center and open office space.

School Founder Remembered

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

launched several non-profit, community-based, independent, skill training centers for adults, and went on to establish alternative middle and high school education for gang-impacted youth. The schools were accredited in 1991, and upon her retirement in 2000, Rosemary Anderson High School was formally named in her honor.

"It is astonishing to realize the impact she had on our most at-risk youth in her career, all while raising her family," says POIC + RAHS President and CEO Joe McFerrin II. "As her grandson, I'm still amazed at how she pulled that off with such grace. Each and every day, I'm inspired to live up to her legacy."

Today, Rosemary Anderson High School's five campuses, ranging from the New Columbia area near St. John's, to Gresham, currently serve over 700 students a year with education, job training, internships, employment opportunities, parental classes, and certifications. RAHS has been recognized as one of the of top alternative high school programs in the state.

Through her career, Anderson was affiliated with the NAACP, the Portland chapter of LINKS, Inc., Black Women's Network, and the National Association for Female Executives, Inc., among others.

Anderson is survived by 8 children (proceeded in death by one child), 15 grandchildren including Mr. McFerrin, and 25 great-grandchildren.

Visitation will be Friday, March 29 at Bethel AME Church, 5828 N.E. Eighth Ave., from 4-7 p.m. Funeral services will take place at Life Change Church, 3635 N. Williams Ave., will be Saturday, March 30 at 1 p.m.







Michelle Obama departs Broadway Books in northeast Portland after meeting with a culturally diverse reading group prior to her Tuesday, March 19 event at the Moda Center to discuss her 2018 memoir "Becoming." The former First Lady gave a sold-out talk where she mused on the topics of family, her various careers, and keeping hope alive in the new administration.



TAXABLE PARTY AND A DESCRIPTION OF TAXABLE PARTY.



Up Close with Michelle Obama

Former First Lady met with local book club

As part of Michelle Obama's visit to Portland last week to discuss her 2018 memoir, "Becoming," the former First Lady arranged to meet with a local book club to speak about the book, faceto-face, with culturally diverse community members.

Proprietors Kim Bissell and Sally McPherson of Broadway Books on Northeast Broadway Street said they were excited to fulfill the request. They had been contacted through her publisher, Crown Publishing Group, and arranged for Obama to meet with a book club of 14 young womensome native Oregonians and some immigrants-who were white, black, Asian, and Latina.

The group discussed how the book resonated with them on the topics of parenting, fleshing out her identity, and her relationships with her parents and older brother, Craig Robinson, who was recently Oregon State University's men's head basketball coach.

The meet-up was followed by the sold out show at the Moda Center on March 19 that included book and life that had been rescheduled due to a threat of inclement weather last February.

multiple standing ovations, was packed with fans clutching copies of her book, toting handbags with her face printed on it, and donning They Go Low, We go High."

prompted by questions and mod-

many powerful women in atten- erated by former White House dance, such as Gov. Kate Brown, chef Sam Kass, she mused on in a moderated discussion of her the topics of her upbringing in Southside Chicago, marriage and motherhood, her various careers spanning from municipal govern-The audience, who gave Obama ment to the nonprofit sector, and keeping hope alive in the current administration, though she did not mention Trump by name.

"It is hard to hate up close," shirts bearing the phrase "When she said. "Change doesn't start in the White House. It starts in our In the two hour discussion, homes. Don't despair. Just do the work."









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Interactive activities for kids makes the History Hub at the Oregon Historical Society a popular destination. For Spring Break, the museum is offering free admission for children under 18.

Free Spring Break Activities

ical Society can be the perfect hibition that spotlights the count- Beer, an exhibit telling the stories adventure to get the kids out of less people, places and events the house for spring break. The that have shaped Oregon; History museum is offering free admis- Hub, the museum's first permasion for youth 18 and under for nent exhibit designed specifical-Spring Break, now through Sun- ly for youth and where families day, March 31.

A trip to the Oregon Histor- 7,000 square foot permanent ex- and Brews: 200 Years of Oregon Experience Oregon, a brand new and Barley, Barrels, Bottles, to 5 p.m.

of the many people and businesses that have influenced the laws, agriculture and prolific expansion of the brewing industry.

Museum hours are Monday can explore the topic of diversity through Saturday from 10 a.m. -Exciting attractions include through fun, hands-on elements; 5 p.m. and Sunday from 12 p.m.



Powerhouse Blues Show

Portland's Soul'd Out Music Festival presents award-wining blues and R&B vocalist Shemekia Copeland with Portland's own King Louie and LaRhonda Steele for a concert Saturday. March 30 at 9:15 p.m. at the Jack London Revue, downtown



A Showcase of Portland Soul Shirley Nanette and Albina Soul Revue Band

A vital piece of Portland's soul music history and an R&B and jazz music showcase of historic proportion will be celebrated when Portland vocalist extraordinaire Shirley Nanette joins the Albina Soul Revue Band to perform her seminal 1973 album 'Never Coming Back.'

Representing intergenerational musicians from Portland's Albina area of north and northeast Portland, the special Shirley Nanette and the Albina Soul Revue concert is slated for Saturday, April 13 at 9 p.m. at the Holocene, downtown. An after-party will feature deejay sets from Grammy-nominated Jon Kirby of the Numero Group and Bobby D of XRAY FM.

Nanette has long been recognized for her dynamic vocal sensibility. Winner of the first Star Search completion in 1983, she has performed jazz and classical works at national festivals, on network television and with the Oregon Symphony. In 1973, she released "Never Coming Back," featuring an exceptional cast of Albina area musicians.

The upcoming show will be the first time Nanette has performed the entire album in its entirety.

The music of the Albina Soul Revue Band under the direction of Tony Ozier is comprised of musicians of color who represent a lost era in Portland soul, performing original selections from the 1960s through 1980s.

Shirley Nanette and the Albina Soul Revue Band is a World Arts Foundation of Portland production, the group which produces Portland's largest annual Martin Luther King Jr. celebration, and is presented by the Albina Music Trust and Holocene. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door and available online by visiting holocene.org.



Dr. R.H. and Lady Lucy E. Edwards Sr.

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TRUE VINE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

29th Year Pastoral Anniversary

Everyone is invited to True Vine Missionary Baptist Church, 4735 N. Commercial Ave., for their 29th year pastoral anniversary celebration, in honor of Dr. R. H. and Lady Lucy E. Edwards Sr., Sunday, March 31, at 3:30 p.m., with guest evangelist Rev. Dr. Robert L. Jeffry Sr., the pastor of New Hope Baptist Church in Seattle.

The theme of the service will be *"Honoring the high calling of God through Christ Jesus,"* Philippians 3:13-14. Everyone is invited to come and hear this mighty man of God. True Vine will also celebrate the pastoral anniversary when it

serves food after its regular 11 a.m. service.

For more information call True Vine Baptist Church at **503-282-2422**





Work It or Get Funky

Ranky Tanky, translated loosely as 'work it' or 'get funky,' a South Carolina-based quintet, performs on Monday, April 1 at 7:30 p.m. at the Newmark Theater. The band is known its playful game songs, ecstatic shouts and heartbreaking spirituals.



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MONDAY - FRIDAY

12 Midnight -3 A.M. MIKE SHANNON

3.A.M. - 7.A.M.

TONI TERRELL

10 A.M. - I.P.M.

J P.M. - J P.M. KENNT SMOOF

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

7 P.M. - 9 P.M. PAPA SAURF

9 P.M. - 12 Midnight MIKE SHANNON

Rev. Al Sharpton

10am - 1pm

D. L. Hughley 3pm - 7pm REV: AL SHARPTON

(KEEPING IT REAL)

TOM JOENER 7 A.M. – 10 A.M.



12 Midnight - 3 A.M. MIKE SHANNON

3 A.M. - 6 A.M. TOTA BEASLEY 6 A.M. - 12 NOON

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The Real College Admissions Scandal:

Blaming affirmative action

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BY JESSICAH PIERRE In what's being called the largest college admissions scam ever, a number of wealthy parcelebrities, ents.

and college prep coaches have been accused of offering large bribes to get rich students into Ivy League schools, regardless of their credentials.

The parents facing charges allegedly paid up to \$6.5 million to get their kids into college.

Shocking as it is, this is hardly a new phenomenon in higher education. Wealthy and privileged students have always had an upper hand in being accepted to presti-



gious universities. They're called "legacy preferences."

> "Many U.S. colleges admit 'legacies,' or students with a family connection to the university, at dramatically higher rates than other applicants," The Guardian explains, because "they are widely seen as a reliable source of alumni donations."

Some of our countries most prominent figures have benefited from legacy preferences. When applying to Harvard, future president John F. Kennedy noted that his father was an alumnus. And although his academic record was unspectacular, he was admitted into the Ivy League school.

W. Bush, whose father and grandfa-

ian reported, Bush was accepted.

This overt — and legal — preference for the wealthy and powerful goes back at least a century. Yet when the children of middle class families are denied admission, some families have laid the blame on affirmative action programs for students of color, who've historically faced discrimination.

As the college admissions process becomes more competitive, campaigns against affirmative action have revved up immensely. In 2016, Abigail Fisher challenged the University of Texas at Austin's race-conscious admissions program after being rejected when she applied for a university program designed for the top 10 percent of her class.

Despite not having the creden-The same can be said for George tials to get into the program, Fisher cited affirmative action as the reather graduated from Yale. Despite son why she was denied. In other his "lackluster grades," The Guard- words, she claimed she was being year period: just 5.9 percent.

discriminated against because she was white. Her case made it all the way to the Supreme Court, which ruled that affirmative action is in fact constitutional and doesn't hurt white students.

In fact, even with programs like affirmative action, according to the National Center for Educational Statistics, racial divides at universities still remain. While college enrollment is increasing across the board, it found that enrollment rates for college-aged white students (42 percent) remain higher than for both black students (36 percent) and Hispanic students (39 percent.)

Meanwhile, a 2018 analysis of Harvard's admissions process found that legacy applicants were accepted at a rate of nearly 34 percent from 2009 to 2015. That's more than five times higher than the rate for non-legacies over the same six-

It's clear that students like Abigail Fisher are picking the wrong fight when it comes to discrimination in the college admissions process.

The high-level of corruption of legacy admissions hurts the majority of students, regardless of race. So too do the parents spending millions on bribes. But that's how inequality thrives.

Today's college admissions scandal is just another illustration of the rich encouraging workingand middle-class people to turn against each other — and blame people of color — while they quietly rig the game for themselves.

Instead of pointing the finger at each other, the victims of these manipulations should come together to take the monster of economic privilege down.

Jessicah Pierre is the inequality media specialist at the Institute for Policy Studies.

Prosecutors Discriminate in Jury Selection

This is a case Supreme Court should take up

BY CASSANDRA STUBBS It has long been settled that prosecutors may not dismiss citizens from a jury because they are black. But can they dismiss them because they supported the verdict in the O.J. Simpson case?

That's a question the U.S. Supreme Court may soon take up after the California Supreme Court treated a prosecutor's invocation of a juror's views on the Simpson verdict as a "race-neutral" reason that justified the dismissal of a black juror.

If the rule forbidding race dis-

jurors is to have any real effect, such reasons cannot be accepted as race-neutral without further inquiry.

about the verdict in O.J. Simpson's trial in the late 1990s di-

dict, compared with 88 percent of black respondents.

In several capital murder trials ions of the trial. Then they cited sis for striking them from the jury,

As everyone knows, opinions will have a chance this spring to decide whether this practice can be squared with the Constitution's protection against racial discrimination in jury selection.

> The question arises in the case of Floyd Smith, a black California death row prisoner who was convicted and sentenced to death in 1997 for murdering a white teenager in San Bernardino County. Smith was arrested in Fontana, a town that had an active KKK presence. He was represented by two black defense attorneys, and the defense team was subjected to vandalism and racial threats over the course of the trial.

> The prosecution struck all four prospective black jurors from

objected to this pattern as racially biased, the prosecutor offered a laundry list of justifications that he said were proof that his objections had nothing to do with the jurors' race. Prominent on his list was the fact that the jurors accepted the O.J. Simpson verdict, even though he had accepted multiple white jurors who also agreed with the Simpson verdict.

Under settled case law, if there is sufficient evidence suggesting that a prosecution's strike of a juror is racially biased, the prosecution must offer a "race-neutral" explanation. The judge in Smith's case ruled that the jurors' approval of the O.J. Simpson verdict was a sufficiently race-neutral explanation to uphold the removal of the black jurors. After his trial and conviction, Smith appealed, and the California Supreme Court, Simpson verdict as a "race-neutral" explanation.

The California Supreme Court did not question whether the prosecutor's use of views about the O.J. Simpson verdict was a proxy for race discrimination. What's more, this is the fourth time that the court has rubber-stamped the prosecution's practice of striking black jurors based on their opinions of the Simpson trial.

This is not the only instance of ect.

crimination in the selection of Simpson verdict as a "neutral" ba- Smith's jury. When the defense prosecutors removing black jurors in capital cases based on suspect explanations that are closely correlated to race.

Lower courts are also divided about whether residence in a racially identified neighborhood is a "race-neutral" justification. One federal court rejected a California prosecutor's argument that living in Compton is a race-neutral justification, but another accepted a prosecutor's objection to a juror's residence in Newark, which the prosecutor called a "drug trafficking" neighborhood. The Washington Supreme Court recently adopted a rule declaring a prosecutor's reliance on a prospective juror's neighborhood presumptive proof of discrimination.

The U.S. Supreme Court is now considering whether it should take Smith's case. It should. The too, accepted the prosecution's Supreme Court has insisted that reliance on views about the O.J. it is committed to jury selection free from discrimination. But that commitment is paper-thin if the court permits prosecutors to cover over racially discriminatory strikes of jurors by pointing to such factors as their residence in a black neighborhood or their approval of the verdict in O.J. Simpson's case.

> Cassy Stubbs is the director of the American Civil Liberties Union Capital Punishment Proj-



in the wake of the Simpson verdict, California prosecutors exploited this racial divide by questioning prospective jurors about their opinblack jurors' acceptance of the

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vided overwhelming along racial lines. A CNN poll following the verdict showed that just 41 percent of white respondents agreed with the ver-

often resulting in trials of black defendants by all-white juries. Now the U.S Supreme Court



The Global Threat of White Supremacy

A disease that's never been quarantined

BY TRACEY L. ROGERS It's time to talk about white supremacy

White supremacy — the belief that white people are somehow superior to people of other racial backgrounds, and

should therefore politically, economically, and socially rule nonwhite people — isn't going away any time soon.

It's been deeply woven into the fabric of our culture, systemically and institutionally ingrained into reflect a growing threat worldthis country's DNA. It's at the root wide of white supremacist terrorof every racist act. It's metastasized into the soil of this land and beyond, shaping our nation — and our world — as it stands today.

White supremacy is a disease that's never been quarantined or contained. It's as widespread and destructive as it's ever been, erupting in extreme displays like created a "hit list" of progressive the massacre at twin mosques in

Christchurch, New Zealand by a sonalities he intended to kill. self-proclaimed white supremacist.

President Trump is quick to exaggerate any alleged threat posed by immigrants or Muslims. But

when asked by reporters if he believed that white nationalism was a rising threat, he responded: "I don't really. I think it's a centuries. very small group of people that have serious prob- nary" political speech. lems."

sponse echoed similarly jarring comments blaming "both sides" for the 2017 white nationalist rally that left one person dead in Charlottesville, Virginia.

tacks in New Zealand indeed ism, according to former FBI and Homeland Security officials.

terror at the hands of white nationalists is on the rise. The most recent incident involved a U.S. Coast Guard lieutenant, a self-proclaimed white nationalist, who leaders, activists, and media per-

In fact, one recent study showed that white supremacists committed virtually every single act of terror in the United States last year. These incidents and others documented by the Southern Poverty Law Center expose a new iteration of white supremacist resurgence, with hate that dates back

You can see it even in "ordi-

Rhetoric used throughout his-Trump's dismissive re- tory labeling Indigenous people as "savages" and Africans as "brutes" is shamelessly being repeated by Donald Trump to describe immigrants seeking asylum in the United States. His reference The real problem is that the to Haiti and African nations as "s-hole" countries bespeaks an oppressive colonial mentality that white people. depicted non-white countries as being uncivilized.

In his 74-page manifesto, the In the United States, domestic New Zealand terrorist admitted he committed his crimes to "show the invaders that our land will never be their land," and praised Trump as "a symbol of renewed white identity and common purpose."

We're not witnessing the acts of "a very small group of people."

We're witnessing a terror that has spanned the globe, from the British Empire to Nazi Germany to the Jim Crow South and now to New Zealand.

Is it a coincidence that Trump would deny white nationalism is on the rise, while simultaneously using it as a framework to impose harsh restrictions on immigration and other policies?

This resurgence of white supremacy is rooted in a fear of what activists refer to as its "dismantling" — the stripping away of white supremacist rules, systems, beliefs and ideologies. That can't be done without understanding its origins or its fundamental violence — or the fact that ideologues like those in power today have little else to offer working

To state it plainly, all people are equal. The perpetuation of racist ideas is one big fallacy; so too is the legacy of white supremacy. The sooner we name it and dismantle it, the better for all of us, whatever our color.

Tracey L. Rogers is an entrepreneur and activist living in Northern Virginia. Distributed by OtherWords.org.

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Links Masquerade Ball - The Portland chapter of The Links present the Phantom Phantasy Masquerade Ball on Saturday, April 27

at the Adrianna Ballroom, 918 S.W. Yamhill, from 6 p.m.-11 p.m. All proceeds will benefit Portland Links Scholarship Fund and Programs. For tickets, visit online at wrefinc.ejoinme.org/register2019.

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Play Tackles Jim Crow Racism - PassinArt presents "The No Play," conveying a racially divided world at the apex of the Jim Crow segregation era. The title is derived from the many "no" signs that dotted the landscape during that despotic era. Shows on Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 3 p.m. through April 14 at the Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center, 5340 N. Interstate Ave. For tickets, visit evenbrite.com.

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 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.

Norman Sylvester Band -"Boogie Cat" Norman Sylvester

plays Wednesday, March 27 at Billy Blues in Vancouver; Friday, March 29 at the Vinyl Tap; Saturday, March 30 at the Half Penny in Salem; Saturday, April 6 at Catfish Lou's; Friday, April 12 at Wilf's; and Saturday, April13 at the Spare Room.

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.



Women in Film - The Portland Oregon Women's Film Festival opens Wednesday, March 27 at the Holocene and continues through Sunday, March 31 at the Hollywood Theater, Clinton Street Theater and the Holocene. This year's festival honors the late Kathleen Collins, an Af-

rican-American poet, playwright, filmmaker, civil rights activist and educator. Her 1982 masterpiece "Losing Ground," will screen Saturday, March 30 at 7 p.m. at the Hollywood.



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