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'More than Pink'

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a new Komen
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See Metro, page 7

Congratulations Honor Graduates

Honor Roll for Black Graduates

Educators honor high achieving students

See Special Coverage, pages 8 and 9

Portland Observer

Established in 1970

Volume XLVIII • Number 20



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Wednesday • June 5, 2019



Committed to Cultural Diversity



PHOTO BY DANNY PETERSON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Mary Batson (left) and her sister, Virgie Ruiz, became concerned about a transformer-mounted pole installed in front of their house to accommodate new luxury apartments in their gentrifying neighborhood. Now Portland Bureau of Transportation says the pole was improperly placed and may ask Pacific Power to move it.

Homeowner Fights Back:

When power pole for development placed at her house

BY DANNY PETERSON
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The unintended consequence of the construction of new luxury housing in inner northeast Portland left one African American homeowner and longtime resident with a transformer-mounted pole directly in front of her house, without any prior notice.

Now Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) said the installation was done improperly and may make the power company move it.

"We looked into this and as it turns out the pole, where it's been installed, does

not match the location that we permitted. We're currently investigating our options which could include asking or making Pacific Power to move the pole," PBOT Communications Director John Brady told the Portland Observer Monday.

The power company previously stated they were in the right-of-way to place the pole where it was and that it would cost homeowner Mary Batson an out-of-pocket expense to move it, according to documents obtained by the Portland Observer, but seemed to change their stance in reaction to PBOT's statement.

"Often in situations like this, poles are not in their final positions until the construction work is done. We will work with PBOT to decide the appropriate and approved final location of the pole," stated Pacific Power Media Spokesman Tom Gauntt via email to the Portland Observer

Tuesday.

"I'm just happy to hear that," Batson, 66, told the Portland Observer. "I have never seen a pole like that in front of someone's house, and all the damage that they caused to put it there so deep. And I just had a feeling it wasn't right."

Back in February, Batson said she was notified from Pacific Power that there would be a scheduled power outage on a day when she was at work, but with no mention of a pole installation. When the outage was over, a pole with a mounted three-barrel transformer bank had been installed a few steps in front of her house on Northeast Ivy Street which was not only in line of sight from her home but broke a water main to her house, she said.

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PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

State Sen. Jackie Winters

Capitol Funeral for Senator Winters

Civil rights
champion had deep
community roots

BY DANNY PETERSON
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Jackie Winters, the trail blazing Oregon state senator who survived the Vanport Flood during childhood, grew up to become a small business owner in both Portland and Salem, and the only African-American Republican to be elected to the Legislature, died Wednesday, May 29 at the age of 82.

The Oregon State Capitol in Salem will honor Winters with a memorial service on Thursday, June 13 at 1 p.m. in the Senate chambers followed by a reception open to the public.

Winters served as a lawmaker from Salem since 1999, first in the House of Representatives, then in the Senate starting in

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PORTLAND OBSERVER AutoReview

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The premium package also includes a tailgate with lift assist, power lock and release remote start and a theft-deterrent unauthorized entry system.

The Week in Review

Victim's Family on Hate Law

The family of Larnell Bruce Jr., the black teenager murdered in Gresham by a member of a white supremacist gang asked lawmakers Monday to pass a bill that would strengthen the state's hate crime statute. The new law would have added up to five years to the life sentence given to Russell Courtier, the man convicted.

Former Sheriff Loses Case

Former Multnomah County Sheriff Dan Staton retaliated against an assistant for pursuing an investigation over a draft audit that found a disproportionate use of force by corrections officers against black inmates, a jury in Portland ruled Thursday. The county will have to pay the former deputy, Brent Ritchie \$250,000 plus attorney fees.

Few to Benefit on Rent Control

Few renters will get any benefit from Oregon's first-of-its-kind rent control law in the next few years, a report from Portland State University revealed last week. The new law caps annual rent increases at 7% plus inflation, for a total of 10.3% this year. But the PSU Northwest Economic Research Center says median rent growth has slowed to just 1.9% a year since 2016.

Worker Kills 12 in Virginia

Twelve people were killed and five injured Friday after a shooter opened fire at the Virginia Beach Municipal Center in Virginia. Responding officers shot the suspect, a longtime city engineer named DeWayne Craddock, who also later died. The suspect entered the building with his employee security pass.

R. Kelly Faces 11 New Charges

Prosecutors charged R&B singer R. Kelly on Thursday with 11 new sex-related counts, including some that carry a maximum sentence of 30 years in prison, making them the most serious against him. Kelly pleaded not guilty to the original charges and denied any wrongdoing after his February arrest.

Support for Climate Lawsuit

Multnomah County Commissioners on Monday showed their support for young people who are suing the federal and state governments for failing to protect public the environment as the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals takes up their case, Juliana v. United States on Tuesday Portland. "Our children have the right to a stable climate," said Chair Deborah Kafoury.

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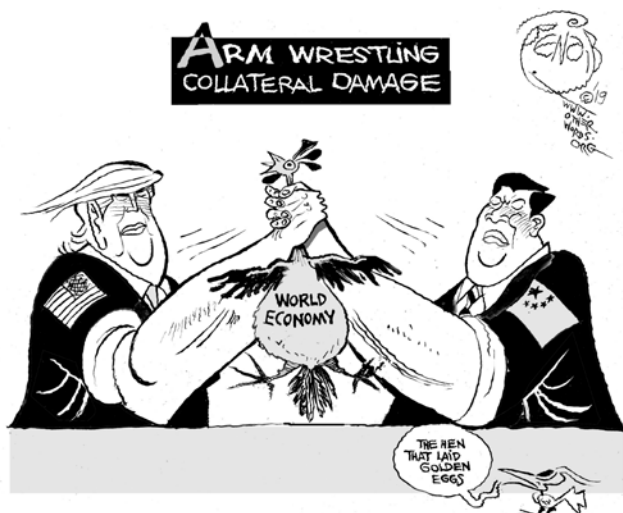
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LOCAL NEWS



Adam Smith, founder and executive director of the Oregon Craft Cannabis Alliance is shown a marijuana variety by Tree PDX marijuana shop owner Brooke Smith at her shop in Portland. Smith is part of a newly formed group that will launch an ad campaign to support mom-and-pop cannabis retailers.

Market Awash in Pot

New limits considered on supply and demand

Oregon is awash in pot, glutted with so much legal weed that if growing were to stop today, it could take more than six years by one estimate to smoke or eat it all. Now, the state is looking to curb production.

Five years after voters legalized recreational marijuana, lawmakers are moving to give the Oregon Liquor Control Commission more leeway to deny new pot-growing licenses based on supply and demand.

The bill, which passed the Senate and is now before the House, is aimed not just at reducing the huge surplus but at preventing diversion of unsold legal marijuana into the black market and forestalling a crackdown by federal prosecutors.

Supply is running twice as high as demand, meaning that the surplus from last year's harvest alone could amount to roughly 2.3 million pounds of marijuana, by the liquor commission's figures. That's the equivalent of over 1 billion joints.

Across the state, the weed is cultivated in a multitude of fields, greenhouses and converted factories, with 1,123 active producer licenses issued by the OLLC over the past three years.

The legislation could be a lifeline to some cannabis businesses that are being squeezed by market forces.

Retail prices in Oregon for legal pot have plummeted from more than \$10 per gram in October 2016 to less than \$5 last De-

cember. At the same time, smaller marijuana businesses are feeling competition from bigger, richer players, some from out of state.

Officials worry that some license holders will become so desperate they will divert their product into the black market rather than see it go unsold.

Opponents say the proposed law will drive growers who are denied licenses into the illegal market, if they're not there already.

Oregon puts no cap on the number of licenses that can be issued. Last June, the OLLC stopped accepting applications so it could process a months long backlog. But under current law, it has no specific authority to say no to otherwise qualified applicants.

--Associated Press

New Deputy Chief of Staff at City Hall

Mayor Ted Wheeler has hired Jamal Fox as his new Deputy Chief of Staff.

Fox most recently served as a property and business development manager for Portland Parks and Recreation. His prior experience was marked by becoming the youngest member ever elected to the Greensboro, N.C. City Council. He also is a former adjunct political science professor at North Carolina A&T State University.

"I am pleased to welcome Ja-



Jamal Fox

mal Fox to the team. His extensive experience as a former elected leader, educator, and as a community advocate will be invaluable to our team. I look forward to his leadership as we continue to work hard for all Portlanders," Wheeler said in a news release.

On a personal note, Fox is a proud husband and a new father. He takes over the role left vacant after the Mayor promoted his then Deputy Chief of Staff Kristin Dennis to Chief of Staff earlier this year.

Divas Purse Donation Drive

The Rose City Divas Group is bringing together resources to make a bigger contribution to our community. Current efforts include collecting purses for donations to women who are less fortunate.

Members are collecting gently used purses and filling them with women's personal care items such as lip balm, Kleenex, lotion, hand sanitizer, personal hygiene items and snacks such as gum, mints, candy and \$5 for each purse.

Divas group organizer Angela Covington said the idea is no matter where you are in life all women should have a purse to carry their personal belongings and money even if it's only \$5. It's the small things in life that we sometimes take for granted that can make all the difference in other's life, Covington said, "With your help we can reach one woman at a time... And for that we are very grateful."

If you have a purse sitting on the shelf in your closet that you no longer use or you would like to donate personal care items

to fill purses please contact Covington at Rosecitydivas@gmail.com.

The Rose City Divas are collecting purses and filling them with personal care items to donate to women in need. Members include Angela Covington, Rachel Allen, Darlene Malone, Rose Williams, Cherrell Edwards-El, Tamika Johnson, April Lloyd and Rolanda Thompson



Rose City Showcase Returns

Top talents featured in weekend tournament

Showcase by NIKE!

Now in our 17th year, the Showcase is held this weekend at Portland Community College's Cascade Campus in north Portland. The event will kick off Friday night, June 7. The intensity continues through Sunday evening when the 2019 Rose City Showcase Champion will be crowned.

Before Dwight Howard became an NBA All-Star, before Josh Smith and Gerald Green won the NBA Slam Dunk Contest, before O.J. Mayo, Michael Beasley, and Kevin Love became All-Americans and before Brandon Rush and Mario Chalmers led Kansas to the 2008 NCAA Championship, they all had one thing in common - they participated in the Rose City

The Rose City Showcase field includes 170 of the top young men and women from AAU and high school teams, continuing a tradition of featuring the nation's next generation of basketball stars on this exclusive Northwest platform.

For maps and detailed schedules, visit rosecityshowcase.com.

Rose Festival Grand Floral Parade

The prized centerpiece of the Rose Festival, the 2019 Spirit Mountain Grand Floral Parade will begin at 10 a.m. on Saturday, June 8, starting at

the Rose Quarter and proceeding to downtown on a 4 mile route via Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and the Burnside Bridge.

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Capitol Funeral for Senator Winters

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

2003. She was vice chairwoman of the influential Appropriation Committee and was the first African American person to hold the post of Republican Caucus leader in 2017.

Winters had struggled in recent years with ailing health, having suffered a heart attack that put her out for the entire 2016 legislative session and announced in 2017 that she was undergoing lung cancer treatment.

Before becoming a politician, she founded a small chain of successful barbecue restaurants, called Jackie's Ribs, located in the Salem and Portland areas in the 1980s and 90s.

Having grown up in Portland, Winters told Portland Observer reporter Beverly Corbell in December 2017 that it was emotional opening a restaurant "right smack in downtown Portland," where years prior black-owned businesses were not wanted and where there were other restaurants that she and other African Americans were barred from entering.

Born in Kansas, Winters moved to the Portland area as a small child where she survived the 1948 Vanport Flood where the only possessions she had left were her dog, Tippy, and her doll.

Her family then found a home in the Albina neighborhood of north and northeast Portland.

Describing the neighborhood's African American participation in commerce and community gatherings at the time as "a lot of small businesses with over 100 social clubs."

She said before the flood, Vanport was a vibrant, self-sufficient, and integrated town, "A total community and we had our own schools, had our own shopping centers."

Winters previously worked for Republicans Gov. Tom McCall and later Gov. Victor Atiyeh, where she warmed to the political party that she remembered back then as the ones who got things done.

Among many of the causes she backed was criminal justice reform and civil rights. On April 18 she cast her final vote in the Legislature when she championed a significant criminal justice reform bill to pass in the Senate, which now awaits the governor's signature, and would roll back mandatory minimum sentences for teenagers charged with violent crimes.

House Speaker Tina Kotek lauded her achievements when she gave a statement on Winters' death last Wednesday.

"Senator Jackie Winters was a trail blazer, a truly inspiring figure in the history of Oregon politics. Senator Winters believed, to her



PHOTO COURTESY VANPORT MOSAIC

A historic photo shows Sen. Jackie Winters (right) as a child with her dog, Tippy, and her doll, the only possessions she had after surviving the 1948 Vanport Flood. A small business owner in both Portland and Salem and the only African-American Republican to be elected to the legislature Winters died May 29 at the age of 82.

core, in justice and fairness. I am saddened by her passing but am deeply grateful that she lived to see the passage of youth justice reform last week."

Winter's family requests donations be made in lieu of flowers to one of the senator's favorite cause

including Oregon Capitol Fund, Liberty House, and Oregon Food Bank, which she is credited with helping form in the 1970s. The Office of Senator Jackie Winters can receive cards and remembrances for her family at 900 Court Street NE, S-301, Salem, OR 97301.

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PHOTO BY DANNY PETERSON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A three-barrel transformer-mounted pole was installed just steps in front of Mary Batson's northeast Portland home without her notification, which caused a water main break. Pacific Power accepted responsibility but may also have to move it because it was installed improperly.

Homeowner Fights Back

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Pacific Power acknowledged the broken main was their fault and paid for the damages, which included reimbursing her for the over \$1,600 water bill that ensued, plumbing costs, and other expenses, she said.

Batson also complained of a humming noise coming from the transformers, but the company has said they haven't been activated yet, so the noise couldn't be from them.

"While we appreciate her concerns about the placement of the transformers, when operating correctly they should not be a noise problem. Should noise become a concern after the transformers are in service, which will be a few months, we can look at the issues that may be causing them to be too loud and work from there," Pacific Power stated Monday.

Batson lives with her 68-year-old sister Virgie Ruiz, though Ruiz also owns a home elsewhere in the neighborhood. Batson's residence is two doors down from a new upscale, 6 story, 70-unit apartment and business complex being built called The Canyons and slated for opening in summer 2020.

The pole had been installed on the extended property line in front of her house, i.e. the strip of grass in between the sidewalk and the street.

Another three-barrel transformer bank was placed on an existing pole near her neighbor's house, adjacent to the construction site.

Unsatisfied with the placement of the pole, Batson contacted the power company to see what could

be done. At first they said they would investigate the matter but soon her calls went unreturned, she said. Batson then reached out to the city's ombudsman office, who told her that the power company did not have a permit for the pole and that its placement was temporary, she said.

Batson then contacted the Oregon Public Utility Commission which found the opposite: Pacific Power did have a permit and the pole was permanent. In documents from the commission, the utility maintained the pole's placement was "within our right of way and standards, to support the construction of a new development in the area."

The utility also told the commission it would charge the homeowner "in excess of \$20,000" to have it moved somewhere else on the block.

Batson rejected the offer.

"I don't have \$20,000 to pay them," Batson said.

Representing the city's transportation agency, Brady said the pole's placement didn't do enough to avoid being a nuisance.

"[P]oles should be placed on the property line between buildings to avoid having a pole in front of someone's house, so you don't have as many issues with vision obstruction...that's the sort of standard practice, is to put it on the property line between buildings."

Pacific Power has acknowledged working with Batson on the issue for several months. They cited city zoning ordinances

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15



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Susan G. Komen Oregon and Southwest Washington has announced the next evolution in their Race for the Cure series, the first More Than Pink Walk. Reservations are now being taken for the Sept. 22 event which will have a renewed emphasis on the lifesaving work of the nonprofit organization supporting people with breast cancer.

Race for the Cure Reimagined

Get ready to strap on your sneakers and adorn your team shirts, Susan G. Komen Oregon and Southwest Washington has been hard at work creating the next evolution in the history of the Race for the Cure series. This fall, the non-profit will premiere its first More Than Pink Walk, a new look and experience meant to energize the community around the lifesaving work made possible by financial contributions to the organization.

New 'More Than Pink Walk' to build on past

This reimagining is intended to highlight Komen's four pillars of cancer research, care, community and action and better connect supporters to the full breadth of the work it does every day to help save lives from breast cancer.

A new opening ceremony will celebrate and recognize survivors and forever fighters (those

living with metastatic disease); a free More Than Pink Walk wrap will be included with every registration; a new t-shirt will be unveiled and given to each person who raises \$100 or more; and new activities are scheduled for people who want to learn more and get involved.

The registration fee will also be lower than ever to emphasize

the importance of more people coming together and fundraising as a community.

Advocates say the dollars raised by Komen are essential to funding local cancer research, offering the best care, growing a larger community of support, and helping more people take action in the fight against breast cancer.

"Building community through this walk will bring us all together towards a common goal—beating this disease in our lifetime," said Angela Timmen, a spokesperson for the event's presenting sponsor Daimler Trucks North America.

You can register for the More Than Pink Walk, scheduled for downtown on Sunday, Sept. 22, with early bird discounts now being offered. Go online to komenoregon.org.

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Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

New York-based artist Mark Aghatise manipulates photographs to create, 'What Lies Underneath.'



Gioncarlo Valentine designs art to explore the hyper masculinity within black culture.

Artists on Black Culture

Gallery to kick off exhibit with the artists

Two international artists who create art related to black culture will kick off a month long exhibit with First Thursday and Saturday receptions at the nonprofit Blue Sky Gallery, 122 N.W. Eighth Ave.

Mark Aghatise, a London-born, New York-based artist, manipulates photographs to examine the bifurcation of self that occurs in contemporary urban life, "Through photographing other black bodies, I

began to better understand my own and ultimately how to contort and queer the space it inhabits," he said.

Gioncarlo Valentine, a Baltimore-city born and New York based artist, is a documentary portrait photographer and writer. His work focuses on issues faced by marginalized populations, most often focusing his lens on the experiences of black/LGBTQIA+ communities.

Aghatise will appear for a free artists talk at the gallery on First Thursday, June 6, at 5 p.m.; and Valentine will do an artists' talk on Saturday, June 8 at 3 p.m.



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3 A.M. - 7 A.M.
TOM JOYNER

7 A.M. - 10 A.M.
TONI TERRELL

10 A.M. - 1 P.M.
REV. AL SHARPTON
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1 P.M. - 3 P.M.
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

SUNDAY

12 Midnight - 3 A.M.
MIKE SHANNON

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

6 A.M. - 12 NOON
SUNDAY MORNING GOSPEL
WANGELA

12 NOON - 1 P.M.
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The evening will feature elegant gowns, a talent competition, and on-stage questions, but the most important purpose of the pageant, according to organizer Octavia Chambers, is to "foster sisterhood, build confidence and provide space for black girls to shine as their true authentic self, whatever that means for each of them."

Arya Morman, Miss Black Oregon US Ambassador 2019 and Marneet Lewis, Ms. Global United 2018-19, and other special guests will be in attendance. The current Miss Juneteenth Oregon, Sierra Boyne, will crown the new pageant winner and present her with a \$500 scholarship thanks to sponsor Above The Fray Design. For more information, visit Juneteenthor.org.



Miss Black Oregon U.S. Ambassador 2019 Arya Morman and other special guests will attend the second annual Miss Juneteenth Oregon Pageant, this Saturday, June 8 at 4:30 p.m. at Self-Enhancement, Inc.



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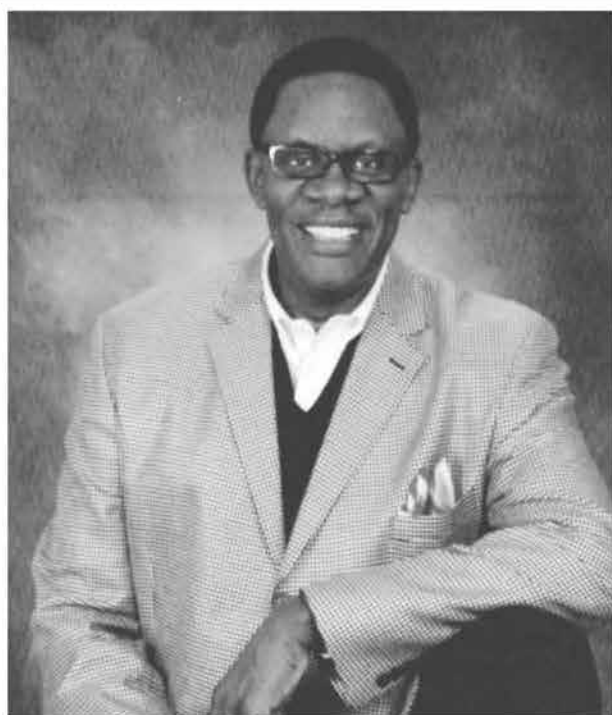
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OPINION

Every Child Deserves a Quality Education

Staying vigilant on Brown

BY MARIAN WRIGHT EDELMAN

As a teenager, many of Barbara Johns' wild-est dreams were about a surprising subject: A new school. Then a day came when the 16-year-old decided to put her dreams into action.

"It was time that Negroes were treated equally with whites, time that they had a decent school, time for the students themselves to do something about it," she recalled.

The year was 1951 and Barbara was at segregated Robert R. Moton High School in Prince Edward County, Va. As her sister Joan remembered, "Most of the school supplies that we got were torn and tattered, and we didn't have enough supplies to write with. The school we went to was overcrowded. Consequently, the county decided to build three tar paper shacks for us to hold classes in. A tar paper



shack looks like a dilapidated black building, which is similar to a chicken coop on a farm... It was a very difficult setting for trying to learn."

Barbara organized and led 400 students in a strike to protest the school's terrible conditions and demand facilities more like the county's white high school.

NAACP attorneys Spottwood Robinson and Oliver Hill became involved after Barbara's persistent calls to their Richmond office, and after the students agreed they were willing to fight for a desegregated school rather than just a better segregated one.

The legal case against the Prince Edward County school board was ultimately bundled with four similar cases by NAACP attorneys in *Brown vs. Board of Education et al.*, leading to the landmark Supreme Court decision outlawing segregation in public schools 65 years ago.

But the triumph of Brown was sadly not the end of the story for black children in Prince Edward County. In-

stead of complying with the Supreme Court decision, the commonwealth of Virginia pursued a campaign of "massive resistance," enacting a variety of new laws and policies designed to prevent public school desegregation.

While other districts eventually gave in, Prince Edward County's Board of Supervisors continued to refuse to desegregate their schools and instead voted in June 1959 to shut down the county's entire public school system. It took five years and another Supreme Court decision to finally force the county to reopen its public schools.

And the triumph of Brown is still incomplete—and in renewed danger—for millions of students across our nation right now. The struggle for a quality education for every child is still the unfinished business of the Civil Rights Movement and the promise of ending "separate and unequal" schools has not yet been realized.

Sixty-five years after Brown, many of the 58 percent of black students and 60 percent of Hispanic students who still attend predomi-

nantly segregated schools—where 75 percent or more of their peers are minorities—continue to endure inadequate schools, missing supplies, and too many teachers with low expectations for them. Instead of moving to address our nation's ongoing need to live up to Brown the current Administration is choosing executive and judicial nominees and pursuing regulatory changes all moving in the opposite direction.

Sherrilyn Ifill, president and director-counsel of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, writes in a recent op-ed for the Washington Post: "Since April 2018, more than two dozen executive and judicial nominees have declined to endorse the Supreme Court's unanimous decision in *Brown v. Board of Education*. This week — one that marks the 65th anniversary of the landmark ruling that struck down legal apartheid in this country — the Senate is poised to confirm three of those judicial nominees to lifetime seats on the federal bench. That is simply unacceptable... The ugly truth is that declining to offer ap-

proval of Brown signals a willingness to question the project of democracy that Brown created — one in which African Americans and other marginalized groups compelled the federal courts to honor the spirit of equal justice embodied in the words of the 14th Amendment. And this isn't just deeply troubling; it's also downright dangerous."

Barbara Johns' courageous decision to do something about the injustice she saw around her helped change history just like the brave actions of so many other children, youths, and adults during the Civil Rights Movement. But we will not see continued progress unless we remain aware of all current threats and ready to meet today's insidious attempts at "massive resistance" with a mightier moral resistance of our own. In this evil climate we must be more vigilant than ever to make sure that we keep moving forward, not backwards.

Marian Wright Edelman is founder and president emerita of the Children's Defense Fund.

No More Waiting on the Call for Reparations

A burden black people can no longer endure

BY TOLSON BANNER

Have you ever been caught in the middle of "sumptin" where it seemed as if there was no way out? Like table tennis, you are "pinged and ponged" between two opposing forces: red and blue states. Incessantly, you are slammed into the net because neither side is willing to reconcile the dichotomy of America's ongoing white tribal war: benign neglect by Democrat liberals and recalcitrance by Republican conservatives. Malcolm X referred to this as the fox or the wolf for black people. This is the nature of reparations where white people are either asking black people to be patient like the Biblical Job or resign ourselves to the waiting room, get in line, take a ticket and listen out for their number (untold millions of Africans who died, as well as, those who were enslaved during the Christian/Atlantic enslavement trade) - which to this day has never been called. No reconciliation; no atonement; and no ealing.

This constant request from white people (some blacks as well) to be patient and wait are the critical reasons why Martin Luther King Jr. wrote the book *Why We Can't Wait*. King laid out several reasons to make his case during the tumultuous 60's. Those same reasons are applicable today for black people: disillusionment with the



way justice is served up for black people; lack of confidence in politicians and the government; decolonization of Africa (today neo-colonialism); living out the true meaning of the Emancipation Proclamation; and economic inequality.

Even before the news pundits pontificate and before election gurus peer into their crystal balls, Presidential hopeful Bernie Sanders with his echo chamber renowned scholar, Cornel West have already told black people to forget about having reparations as part of Sanders' platform or the Democratic platform for that matter (although we are beginning to hear a faint chorus in favor of reparations from some Democratic hopefuls).

Need I remind my Democratic socialist and Christian revolutionary brothers that anytime is the right time, as Spike Lee reminded us, to "Do the Right Thing!"

The pain and suffering experienced by the Jewish people during the holocaust engendered "esprit de corps" with African-Americans from the Atlantic enslavement holocaust. But that is where the similarities end. The Reparations Agreement between Israel and the Federal Republic of Germany was signed in 1952. In short, Germany was to pay Israel for the costs of "resettling so great a number of uprooted and destitute Jewish refugees after the war and to compensate individual Jews." Three quarters of a century after the holocaust ended, former U.S. Ambassador Stuart Eizenstat negotiated settlements for victims who were not covered under previous agreements.

In contrast, when the Civil War ended in 1865, ideas on how to make the enslaved African-American "whole" were bandied about but never took hold. With the U.S. Presidential election between Hayes and Tilden hanging in the balance, the North conceded to the demands of the South by removing all Federal troops: unleashing another reign of white domestic terror known as Jim Crow. No reconciliation here Bernie... Cornel.

President Ronald Reagan signed the Civil Liberties Act in 1988 to compensate over 100,000 people of Japanese descent who were incarcerated in internment camps during WWII. The federal government legislation extended a formal apology from the U.S. government and paid out \$20,000 in compensation to each surviving victim.

For black people incarceration and their continued enslavement were surreptitiously upheld by the 13th Amendment which was ratified in 1865. Michele Alexander, author of "The New Jim Crow" documents this loophole in the 13th amendment which states: "Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction."

The railroading of black people by this nation's legal system for crimes they did not commit are well documented. Add "Three Strikes Legislation" - courtesy of the Democratic Party and signed into law by "Slick Willie" aka former President Bill Clinton - and you'll witness the makings of raw material for the prison/enslave-

ment/industrial complex. No atonement here Bernie... Cornel.

After 12 years of research, Dr. DeGruy developed her theory of Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome. DeGruy went on to publish her book of the same name which outlines and addresses the residual impacts of generations of slavery, explain the causes of many of the adaptive survival behaviors in African-American communities.

These maladies show up as lack of self-esteem; feelings of hopelessness/depression; and a general self-destructive outlook. Anytime America has experienced major catastrophes, as in school shootings, grief counselors are rushed to the scene to begin the healing process which hopefully would allow people to handle the trauma. For almost five centuries, no grief counselors were dispatched to help African Americans deal with the trauma and horror of their brutal enslavement.

To all the other naysayers who reject the idea of "work-done payments" for black people on the basis of not quite understanding how disbursements would be handled, allow me to remind them there are various models and formulas already in existence for computing and calculating reparations. For example, black people could be exempt from paying federal taxes and allowed to attend universities who benefitted from our enslavement tuition free. Georgetown University recently passed a student referendum to increase the school's tuition by \$27.20 to compensate the descendants of 272 enslaved Africans who were sold to save Georgetown and the Catholic Church. This bears scrutiny - not waiting!

Even former President Barack Obama maintained black people were too far removed from our enslavement to seek compensation - Bernie echo those sentiments. The recent findings from the Freedmen's Bureau Project have identified a listing of enslaved Africans and their "property value" thus illuminating a direct line to their descendants.

I ask, are we too far removed to see and witness the toils of our labor? No we are not! Most notably, our enslaved labor was used in the construction of the U.S. Capitol and the White House: two shining beacons of light promulgating democracy, while at the same time highlighting the hypocrisy. Above and beyond these examples, our "free" enslaved labor made America the richest nation in the world - but we are too far removed for compensation?

The weight of waiting is a burden black people can no longer endure. David Brooks, a white moderate conservative seems to agree. Brooks writing an op-ed piece for the New York Times titled "The Case for Reparations" opined, "Slavery and the continuing pattern of discrimination aren't only an attempt to steal labor; they are an attempt to cover over a person's soul, a whole people's soul."

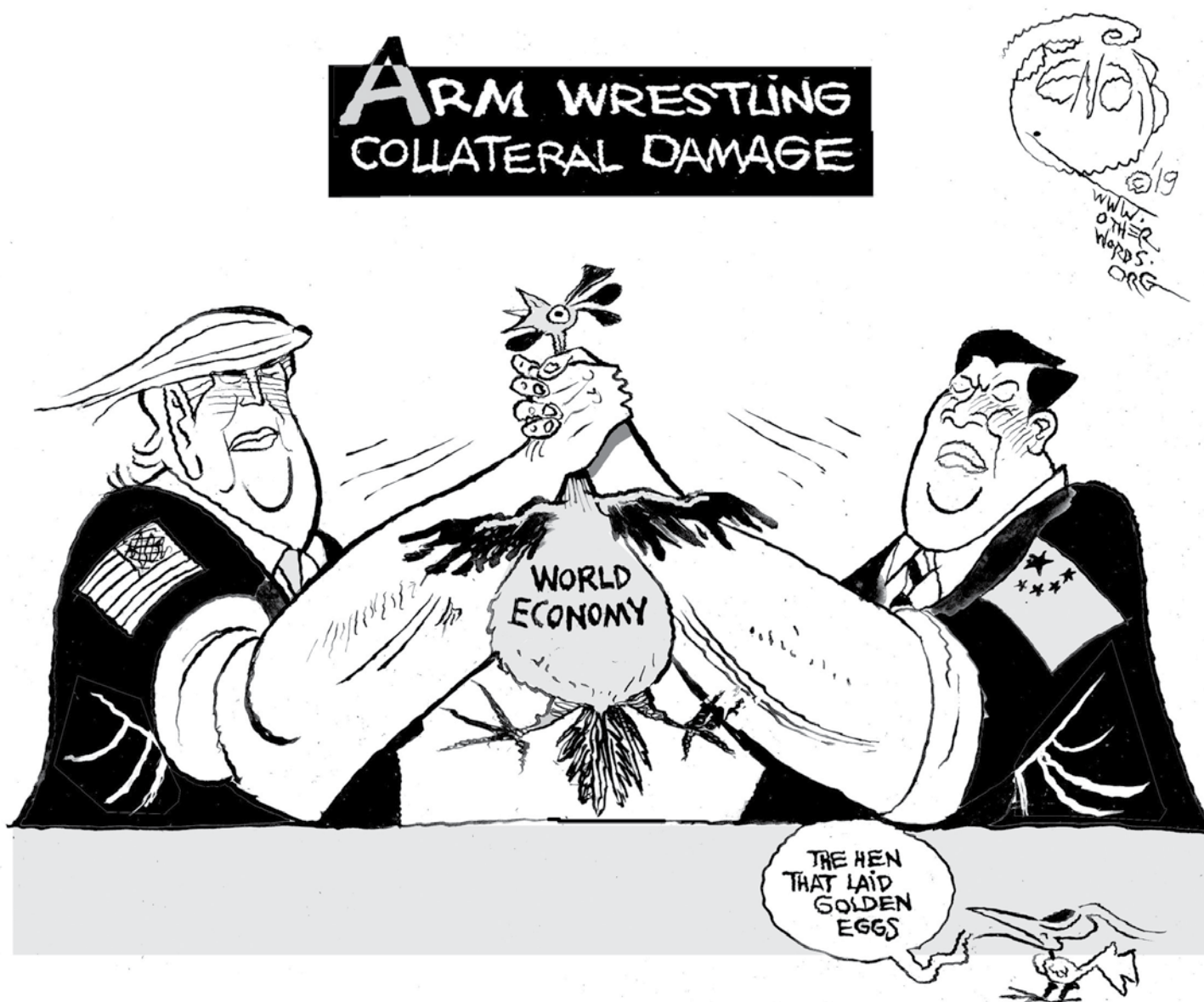
Gifted artist, musician and ancestor, Gil-Scott Heron captured this soul wrenching pain and suffering of black people in his song, "Who'll Pay Reparations On My Soul?" Bernie... Cornel I think this question is for the two of you. Barack feel free to chime in.

Tolson Banner is a writer and columnist, Vincent Jones also contributed to this article.

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.

OPINION

ARM WRESTLING COLLATERAL DAMAGE



Let's Rethink the POW/MIA Flag

The banner nurses old wounds

BY KEVIN BASL

You've probably seen that black and white POW/MIA flag flying somewhere nearby. The stark banner dedicated to American prisoners of war and those missing in action.

If a new bipartisan bill passes, you may see it more often.

The bill — backed by Democratic senators Elizabeth Warren and Kyrsten Sinema and Republicans John Thune and Tom Cotton — would require prominent federal properties to fly that flag all year, as opposed to on specific holidays like this past Memorial Day. With its stark image of a war prisoner and the words "you are not forgotten," it would become the only permanent fixture alongside Old Glory.

I'm a veteran myself. If people choose to fly the POW/MIA flag on private property, that's their right. However, the controversial history of that flag ought to make us question whether it should be displayed on federal and state properties.

As a teenager, I remember the POW/MIA flag conjuring scenes from Rambo and The Deer Hunter. I pictured gaunt soldiers enduring forced labor and torture thousands of miles away in remote jungle camps. How could the



U.S. government leave our troops behind in Vietnam? Why didn't our military go in and take them back?

This was the very sentiment the flag was meant to conjure. Created in the early 1970s by a group called the National League of POW/MIA Families, the now-iconic image would adorn t-shirts, bracelets, posters, bumper stickers, and more.

The problem? There's no solid evidence POWs were actually left behind.

Interestingly, the Nixon administration had only introduced the new "POW/MIA" designation several years earlier. All troops "missing in action" were now considered possible prisoners of war. This made it seem like there were more POWs than there actually were.

This helped justify continuing the war until North Vietnam accounted for all POW/MIAs. And groups like the National League of Families, led by relatives of POW/MIA service members, trumpeted the cause.

Yet all known POWs were returned to the U.S. following the Paris Peace Accords in 1973. Several exhaustive studies, including one led by Vietnam veteran senators John Kerry, Bob Smith, and John McCain (himself one of the POWs returned in 1973), turned up no evidence.

Historians like H. Bruce Franklin and Michael J. Allen have written books on the issue, disproving the many theories, sightings, and photographs that have emerged purporting to show prisoners still in Vietnam.

At best, the POW/MIA flag has become yet another ill-informed, if well-intentioned, "support our troops" symbol. At worst, it's an issue exploited by politicians, subjecting families of service members whose bodies were not recovered to unnecessary emotional hardship.

It foments bitterness toward Vietnam, a country the U.S. normalized relations with over two decades ago. It distracts us from current issues affecting veterans and service members, including homelessness, suicide, poverty, service-linked cancers, and water contamination on military bases.

Instead of making it a law to display a controversial flag, Congress ought to properly fund the VA and fill its over 45,000 staff vacancies so veterans can get the care they need.

While they're at it, they ought to close the hypocritical, illegal U.S. prison at Guantanamo Bay, where our own country continues to hold detainees without charge or trial.

And they should make sure military families never have to endure another POW/MIA controversy by preventing unnecessary U.S. wars — an urgent consideration as the U.S. stumbles toward wars with Iran and Venezuela.

Instead of nursing resentments over wars past, let's take care of our veterans today — and stop the wars that lead so many to need care in the first place.

Kevin Basl served in the U.S. Army, twice deploying to Iraq. He's a member of About Face: Veterans Against the War and Veterans for Peace



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The RFQ can be downloaded at www.prosperportland.us/bids (under "Open Public Bid Opportunities"). Proposals must be received no later than the proposal due date and time listed above via email to bransonk@prosperportland.us. Fax proposals will not be accepted.

Direct any questions regarding this RFQ to solicitation coordinator Kristy Branson at 503.823.3688 (direct) or bransonk@prosperportland.us (email). Prosper Portland encourages the participation of firms certified by Oregon's Certification Office for Business Inclusion and Diversity (COBID) in this and all other Prosper Portland contract opportunities.

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Bidding Documents may be viewed and/or obtained electronically on SmartBidNet through a Bid Invitation issued by the Contractor. To be issued a Bid Invitation, contact Robert Means at: Robert.Means@jedunn.com. Bidding Documents may also be viewed at the locations listed in Plan Rooms section below.

Use the Bid Proposal Form in Section 00 41 23 and include other bid information (scope breakdowns, narratives, etc.) for reference. Bids will be received by the Contractor Attn: Robert Means, 424 NW 14th Ave, Portland, OR 97209. Bids may also be delivered by email to Robert.Means@jedunn.com

Bids due 2:00pm PST June 14, 2019

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

A non-mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be located at The Port of Portland Headquarters, located at 7200 NE Airport Way, Portland, OR 97218 in the Multnomah Conference Room on Wednesday, May 29th, 2019 at 1:00pm for the purpose of answering any questions from prospective Bidders. Attendance is strongly encouraged. No other Pre-Bid Conference will be held.



JE Dunn Construction reserves the right to select the best value response, negotiate with multiple bidders, or reject all responses. This is an Equal Opportunity and encourages Minority, Woman, Veteran, and Emerging Small Business participation.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Portland Community College (PCC)

Metro Center AE Services

Portland Community College (PCC) seeks Architectural and Engineering services for the college's Portland Metropolitan Workforce Training Center (located in NE Portland). It is anticipated that this contract will be three years from the date the contract is signed by PCC. The proposed project will demolish the existing two buildings and combine all college functions into one, multi-storied, 40- to 50,000 square foot facility with sufficient parking on two-acres of the three-acre site. This new structure will include classrooms, meeting rooms, event space and staff offices as well as space for service partners such as the Oregon State Department of Human Services. Anticipated services as part of the project include Architectural Interior Design, Landscape, Structural, Mechanical, and various others disciplines. More detailed information is available in the full RFP.

Interested Proposers must submit a Proposal pursuant to the provisions of this Solicitation to Robert Lowe, or designee, at Office of Planning & Capital Construction, Suite #260, 9700 SW Capitol Highway, Portland OR 97219. **NO LATER THAN:**

SOLICITATION DUE DATE AND TIME (CLOSING):

July 15th, 2019 at 2:00 PM Pacific Time

Proposals will be opened and recorded. The number of Proposals received, the identity of Proposers, or the contents of any proposal will not be disclosed to the public until all proposals have been evaluated, negotiations completed if required, and a recommendation for Award has been published.

Proposers are solely responsible for ensuring that Portland Community College receives its Proposal.

LATE PROPOSALS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

Prospective Proposers may obtain the RFP and its mandatory Addenda at our solicitations website:

<http://www.pcc.edu/purchasing>. Interested Proposers who are not equipped to download the document may request a copy of the RFP by contacting: Robert Lowe, Planning and Capital Construction by email: robert.lowe3@pcc.edu.

Emerging small businesses, as well as minority-owned, women-owned, and service disabled veteran owned enterprises are encouraged to submit a response to this RFP solicitation.

All questions and comments regarding this solicitation shall be directed ONLY IN WRITING to Robert Lowe, by email to: robert.lowe3@pcc.edu.

PROPOSALS SHALL BE PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SOLICITATION. THE COLLEGE MAY REJECT ANY PROPOSAL NOT IN COMPLIANCE WITH ALL PRESCRIBED REQUIREMENTS.

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Bids will be received at Howard S. Wright Constructors offices located at 1455 NW Irving Street, Suite 400, Portland, OR 97209.

Bids may be E-mailed, Faxed or hand delivered.

HSW Contact: Aaron Braun brauna@hswc.com
phone: 503-757-0366.

Bid Documents: E-mail Aaron Braun for bid documents.

All bidder questions must be submitted in writing by June 19, 2019 @ 5:00PM.

All bidders must comply with requirements of the prevailing wage law in ORS 279C.800 through ORS 279C.870. All bidders must be registered with the Construction Contractors Board at the time of bid submission.

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Homeowner Fights Back

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

that allow higher density housing, including where Batson lives, as presenting “many complex issues, including how to increase the power capacity in an area” to accommodate new developments in existing neighborhoods.

Batson and Ruiz grew up in northeast Portland, eye-witnesses to the urban renewal projects that have razed homes in inner north and northeast Portland since the 1960s.

“Due to gentrification, I’m one of two black homeowners on Ivy Street and feel this is ra-

cial. I grew up a few blocks from this neighborhood and remember when the Emanuel Hospital and the freeway came through and decimated our neighborhood forcing people to sell their houses for very little. We had no way to fight big business and the city because we were poor with no one to help. I feel this is happening all over again,” Batson said.



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June 2019

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
 <div>3</div> <div>First U.S. Space Walk By Ed White in 1965</div>	<div>4</div> <div>Eid al-Fitr, Muslim Holiday Aesop's Birthday First Hot Air Balloon Flight; Montgolfier brothers in 1783</div>	<div>5</div> <div>First Apple II computers sold, 1977 National Gingerbread Day</div>	<div>6</div> <div>World Environment Day First Drive-in Movie Theater, 1933 National Applesauce Cake Day</div>	<div>7</div> <div>Donut Day Nikki Giovanni born, 1943</div>	<div>8</div> <div>Frank Lloyd Wright Born in 1867</div>	<div>9</div> <div>Race Unity Day Donald Duck born, 1934</div>
 <div>10</div> <div>Maurice Sendak born, 1928 National Yo-Yo Day</div>	<div>11</div> <div>E.T. Movie Premiered In 1982 Robert Munsch born, 1945</div>	<div>12</div> <div>Anne Frank born, 1929 The Baseball Invented In 1839 Magic Day</div>	<div>13</div> <div>Mary Kate and Ashley Olsen born, 1986</div>	<div>14</div> <div>National Flag Day (U.S.) 'Pop Goes the Weasel' Day Sand Paper Invented, I. Fischer Jr., 1834</div>	<div>15</div> <div>Fly a Kite Day Power of a Smile Day</div>	<div>16</div> <div>Father's Day National Fudge Day</div>

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