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Portland Observer

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Committed to Cultural Diversity



PHOTO BY DANNY PETERSON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Workers in Construction

Construction workers put the finishing touches on the Alberta 13 Apartments, the culmination of an 18 month build and representing a boom in construction across the city, mostly related to housing and mixed use retail. This week's Portland Observer issue gives special coverage to construction and the boost it gives to family wage jobs.



PHOTO BY DANNY PETERSON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Veteran Portland rapper Mic Crenshaw is using his music to fight racial and economic injustice and empower young people to thrive in their creative fields. His work will get a boost over the next two years because of the support of local organizations providing grant funding.

Mentoring on Rap

Mic Crenshaw expands reach with new support

BY DANNY PETERSON
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Veteran Portland hip-hop emcee Mic Crenshaw is one of Portland's best known rap artists who this month releases a new album with fellow rapper and Max train stabbing survivor Micah Fletcher. But Crenshaw is also a proven mentor to kids, a role that will grow vastly in the next two years because of the support of two local organizations.

Crenshaw, 48, is the recipient of the Oregon Traditional Arts Apprenticeship Program grant, providing \$4,000 in salary to teach hip hop to aspiring stars of

a new generation; and an Oregon Humanities Fields Artist Fellowship that will pay him \$100,000 over a two year period to advance his artistic practice while helping young people get past the "opportunity gap" the disparities in life outcomes for Oregon children born into poverty and children of color.

"To me, it's a life changing blessing. It's one of the biggest opportunities I've ever encountered," Crenshaw told the Portland Observer when we caught up with him at Portland Underground Recording Studio in southwest Portland, fresh off of recording seg-

ments for two collaborative songs with his longtime producer Prince Strickland.

The financial support will give him the chance to solely focus on his entertainment career, something he said he's rarely gotten the chance to do.

"There's an opportunity to work less, to hustle less, and to be more creative. So I'm looking forward to that," Crenshaw said.

Crenshaw currently is a teaching artist in high school and other educational organizations, such as at the alternative program inside

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

Mural Artist Correction

In a story about a Juneteenth calendar signing event with artist Isaaka Shamsud-Din in last week's issue, the Portland Observer incorrectly attributed him with also creating the murals at the new shopping plaza on Northeast Martin Luther King and Alberta Street. Those murals are actually the works of artists Arvie Smith and Mehran Heard. We regret the error.



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Renovation Falls Short

Renovation of the Portland Building is over budget by \$19 million, has not complied with equity goals, and the work needs greater public transparency, an audit released last week by the City Auditor found. Mayor Ted Wheeler, disagreed with many of the findings, but pledged that the yet-to-be spent \$1 million set aside for equity grants, "though delayed, will be realized."

The Week in Review

Jackie Winters Remembered

Sen. Jackie Winters was remembered as a natural born leader who helped create the Oregon Food Share Program and was known for her character, kindness, confidence and heart, during a memorial service that filled the state capitol in Salem Thursday. Winters, the first black Republican elected to the Legislature and a survivor of the Vanport Flood, died May 29 at the age of 82.



last June are planning to sue the university. A law firm representing Jason Washington's family notified PSU of the pending lawsuit in a letter last week.



Toronto Raptors Celebrate First NBA Championship

After a hard-fought six-game series last week against the Golden State Warriors, the city of Toronto honored their team's first NBA title with a parade through the city Monday. The celebration, however, was marred by a shooting that caused a panic.

Bakery Case Sent Back

The U.S. Supreme Court Monday urged the Oregon Court of Appeals to reconsider its ruling upholding a fine against a Gresham bakery that refused to sell a wedding cake to a lesbian couple. The bakery cited religious opposition to their marriage. But the Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries determined that the company had violated state anti-discrimination laws.

Woman Falls 16 Stories

A woman suffered life-threatening injuries Monday after first responders say she fell 16 stories down a garbage chute in downtown Portland. Portland Fire & Rescue was called out to the building on West Burnside near Providence Park.



Portland Pride Parade

Thousands gathered downtown Sunday for the 2019 Portland Pride Parade, a celebration of the local LGBTQ+ community. Approximately 8,000 people from nearly 200 groups participated, and included such dignitaries as Mayor Ted Wheeler, Sen. Ron Wyden and Portland's new Fire Chief Sara Boone.

PSU Shooting Draws Lawsuit

The wife and daughters of a black U.S. veteran and postal worker fatally shot by Portland State University officers near the campus

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LOCAL NEWS

Promoted to Fire Chief

Sara Boone rises from the ranks

The first female African American firefighter in Portland history has been promoted to become Fire Chief for Portland Fire and Rescue, another glass ceiling shattered.

Fire Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty appointed Division Chief Sara Boone as Fire Chief of Portland Fire and Rescue last week. She has been with the department for 24 years, rising through the ranks from entry-level firefighter.

Boone spent the majority of her career in emergency operations before transitioning into assignments as the Bureau's Safety Chief, Logistics Deputy Chief, and currently, the Division Chief of Medical Services and Training.

"Chief Boone impressed our interview panels with her commitment to community, her technical knowledge, her passion for the fire service, and her leadership style," said Commissioner Hardesty. "Chief Boone is well-respected throughout the bureau and we have a great collaborative relationship. I know that she has the vision and experience to lead the bureau as it takes on new challenges. I am confident that she will make sure our city is safe and cared for under her watch."



Sara Boone is the first black Fire Chief for Portland Fire and Rescue. Her promotion from Division Chief was made last week by Fire Commissioner and City Council member Jo Ann Hardesty.

In 1995, Chief Boone became the first African-American female firefighter to enter the ranks of Portland Fire & Rescue since its inception in 1883 and will become the first African-American Fire Chief for the city. Chief Boone was raised in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



PHOTO COURTESY PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

A recent groundbreaking ceremony at northeast Portland's Madison High School begins two years of construction as the school undergoes a major remodel thanks to a 2017 bond approved by voters. The construction of the new Kellogg Middle School in southeast Portland also broke ground this past month.

Madison High Remodel Begins

District lines up summer construction projects

This summer marks the beginning of a number of Portland Public School modernization and construction projects, including the renovations to northeast Port-

land's Madison High School and the construction Kellogg Middle School in southeast Portland, thanks to a large bond approved by voters in 2017.

Madison High School is set to close for two years starting this fall after it undergoes major mod-

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Madison High Remodel Begins

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

ernization construction, which includes more than 170,000 square feet of new construction, including a theater, commons and gym.

Built in 1955, Madison's 1,700 students will temporarily move into the Marshall High School campus that has been occupied by Grant students the last two years during that school's modernization work. Grant students will move back into their modernized campus in the fall.

The building of the new Kellogg school, slated to open in the 2021-22 school year, will give the students a state-of-the-art facility with over 100,000 square feet

of new construction as the first new school campus to be built in southeast Portland in decades. It will include a performing arts stage, a multi-purpose gym and assembly space, a large flexible commons space, and dedicated outdoor learning spaces.

The old Kellogg campus, which was originally opened in 1917, was demolished starting in July 2018 after permanently shutting down in 2007 during a time of dwindling enrollment and funding.

Other bond work completed this summer includes new seismically strengthened roofs built at Sitton and Rigler Elementary Schools and Jackson Middle School. Rigler and Rose City Park

will also get new elevators, and the seismic retrofitting of Hayhurst Elementary will commence this summer.

Jefferson High School is set to receive a fire alarm and sprinkler upgrade and da Vinci, Community Transition Program at Green Thumb, Jason Lee, Ainsworth, Maplewood, and West Sylvan will also get fire alarm upgrades.

Also this summer: asbestos remediation projects will take place at seven schools, six schools will receive low lead drinking water stations, and lead paint stabilization will occur at 30 sites.

The projects were made possible thanks to a \$790 million bond passed by Portland voters in 2017.



Solar panels are lifted into place for the Oregon Solar Highway Demonstration Project. The archive photo is from the Oregon Department of Transportation.

Diversity Lags in Solar Industry

Solar companies in Oregon and Washington understand the importance of workforce diversity, but they often do not know where to start or lack resources needed to diversify their employees, according to a new study by The Solar Foundation, a nonprofit whose mission is to accelerate adoption of the world's most abundant energy source.

Sponsored by the Northwest Energy Coalition and Energy Trust of Oregon, the report looked at the progress made and challenges ahead in building a skilled, diverse, and inclusive solar workforce in the Pacific Northwest.

A majority of solar employers in Oregon and Washington say that in today's tight labor market, it is

difficult or very difficult to hire qualified workers. The report finds ample opportunity and need for to improve diversity in recruitment and hiring in order to provide equitable access to employment and build a skilled workforce to meet the needs of a modern grid.

"Oregon and Washington face a challenge shared by states across the nation: How do we make the solar workforce more inclusive and representative for women, people of color, the LGBTQ community, and veterans?" said Andrea Luecke, president and executive director at The Solar Foundation. "By meeting this challenge, solar companies can expand the pipeline of skilled workers while also making the industry more innovative and profitable."

Promoted to Fire Chief

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

northeast Portland and still calls Portland her home. She attended Lincoln High School and excelled as an athlete, earning all-state and all-American honors in track and field. She earned an athletic scholarship to Boise State University, where she graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in secondary education. While completing her student teaching at Marshall High School, she had a chance encounter with a fire inspector who encouraged her to test for Portland Fire & Rescue's first firefighter apprenticeship program.

"I am deeply honored to be the next Fire Chief of Portland Fire & Rescue, a bureau I hold in high esteem because of the men and women who serve with honor, integrity, and sacrifice," says Chief

Boone. "My mission has always been caring for the city where I was raised. I am committed to ensuring that our responsiveness and our professionalism live up to the highest ideals of service, integrity, and equity."

When Commissioner Hardesty first took office in January, she planned to execute a national search for the fire bureau's next chief. After receiving feedback from the members of the bureau and meeting department personnel, she decided to start with an internal search.

"It was clear that there were many talented leaders within Portland Fire & Rescue already and I wanted to put my focus there," Hardesty said.

A swearing in ceremony for Chief Boone is planned for the beginning of August.



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PHOTO BY DANNY PETERSON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Mic Crenshaw (left) and his longtime producer Prince Strickland have been recording numerous collaborative pieces of music this summer at Portland Underground Recording Studio in southwest Portland, including an album with fellow rapper and Max train stabbing survivor Micah Fletcher under the moniker Last of a Dying Breed.

Mentoring on Rap

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Benson High School, called Alliance, and teaching at Caldera arts camp. He uses his music to fight racial and economic injustice and empower young people to thrive in their creative fields.

"I'm in numerous relationships with young people who are intent on developing their careers as artists. And so some of the kids that I work with at Alliance, we actually bring them here to record in the studio. And we've recorded about six or seven songs with them here," he said, adding that he's also brought kids to another studio in northwest Portland, called Bodecker, to record songs.

"I don't see that work stopping any time soon."

Crenshaw's recent collaboration with Fletcher, who knew Crenshaw for years before he survived a brutal stabbing on the Max train two years ago, had them doing a hip-project. The pair is known together as Last of a Dying Breed and their debut album, called Brink of Distinction, came out on June 15.

"I was honored that he asked because I actually have a lot of respect for Micah, as an artist as well as just a human being. He's a bright person," Crenshaw said.

Fletcher told the Portland Observer that he was one of the youth who had been mentored by Crenshaw, when he was just 13 or 14, having worked with Crenshaw on a sexually transmitted disease

awareness campaign-centered album commissioned by the State of Oregon.

Fletcher then tied for first place in a hip-hop competition Crenshaw hosted years later at KBOO called Chapel of Skills and the two have been friends ever since.

Fletcher, now 23, said he drifted apart from hip hop after graduating high school, but told the Portland Observer that changed after the trauma he endured.

"After the stabbing that I went through on the 26th of May in 2017, I just ended up, as a way of trying to deal with this, to write more and more. And eventually that led into me having full songs," Fletcher said.

The duo has already dropped two music videos on Youtube—for the songs "Sunlight" and "Heavy Bag"—and has performed in shows in Portland and around the nation, most recently in Minneapolis, Minn.

Reflecting back on the stabbing, when he was attacked while defending two teenage girls from racist taunts, Fletcher said he doesn't think of it any differently than he did back then, an act of senseless violence.

"It was an unfortunate event. It as something that I changed the way I looked at the world for basically the rest of my life it seems," he said. "We're so busy living our own little bubble that we forget to check on the person standing next to us.

Looking back on his career, Crenshaw had reflections of his own.

When he was younger, Crenshaw said, being on MTV or on the cover of XXL magazine defined success.

"I wanted to be respected by people the world over for my lyrical skills—that was the dream."

Now, he said, receiving the support from Oregon Humanities and the other groups is like being validated for his years of work.

Remarkably, Crenshaw had another recent eye-opening level of public support from a former student—a woman over 70—who wanted to learn how to rap and talk about social issues.

The student was a wealthy white woman who believed in reparations, he said. After she heard about a struggle Crenshaw was having with a racist neighbor who had been threatening his family with violence, she gave him \$210,000 to buy a new house.

"I feel for the first time, in a very deep way, the value that other people place in my work and I'm just really grateful," Crenshaw said of the experience.

Last of a Dying Breed's debut album, Brink of Distinction, is available now on iTunes, Spotify, Amazon Music and other digital music services. You can catch the Last of the Dying Breed duo on Thursday June 20 at the Bit House Saloon for a 7 p.m. show with fellow Portland rappers Swiggle Mandela and Mic Capes.

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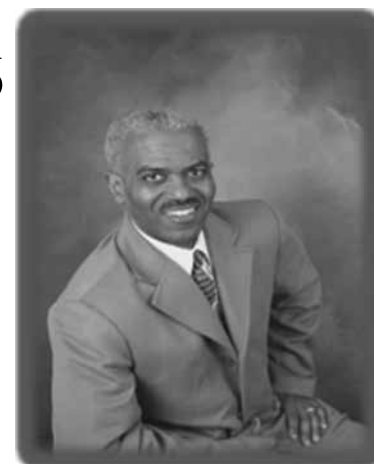
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Celebrating Juneteenth

PHOTOS BY MARK WASHINGTON/
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Community shines at Clara Peoples Freedom Trail Parade



Members of the community group Brown Girl Rise participate in Saturday's annual Juneteenth Parade on Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard.



Ms. Global United 2018-19 Marnett Lewis (left) and Miss Black Oregon US Ambassador 2019 Arya Morman are special Juneteenth guests of honor.



Miss Juneteenth Oregon 2019 Aceia Spade and Little Miss Juneteenth 2019 Rina Tchivandja, age 12, ride atop an open convertible.



Portland's North Star championship basketball team marches in honor.



The King Sun School Drill Team marches in the Juneteenth Clara Peoples Freedom Trail Parade.



New Portland Fire & Rescue Chief Sara Boone gets introduced to the community.



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Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

Native Author for Everybody Reads

Next January, Multnomah County Library will launch Everybody Reads 2020, the library's 18th annual community reading project, with Tommy Orange and his debut novel, *There There*.

There There offers a series of gripping portraits and perspectives of Native people in urban America, told from the perspectives of 12 characters traveling to Oakland, Calif. for a powwow, each of them contending with issues of identity, memory and belonging.

Orange's debut novel has been greeted with praise from critics and readers alike. *There There* was selected as a 2019 Pulitzer Prize Finalist in Fiction and was honored as one of the 10 Best Books of 2018 by the editors of *The New York Times Book Review*.

Everybody Reads 2020 provides an opportunity to explore the experiences and perspectives around the Native experience in urban settings.



PHOTO BY LARRY D. MOORE

Tommy Orange

The library is working with the Native community to center events and discussions around Native voices, organizations and movements. The library will distribute thousands of copies through libraries and high schools across Multnomah County early next year as part of the project.

Orange is a graduate of the MFA program at Institute of American Indian Arts; enrolled member of Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma; grew up in Oakland, Calif.



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Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



Legend of Georgia McBride

Colin Kane (left) and Frederick Williams star in "The Legend of Georgia McBride," Triangle Productions' Oregon premiere about an Elvis impersonator who is pushed to change his act when he is replaced on stage by two drag queens and becomes convinced that in order to get his job back that he too needs to embrace his inner 'female' side. Final shows are Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, June 20-22. For tickets, call 503-239-5919 or visit trianglepro.org.



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Another Great Year!

Congratulations to the Portland Observer softball team! The 11-12 year-old girls just competed another great season in the majors division of the Beaumont Little League of northeast Portland.



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CALENDAR

June 2019

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
<div>○17</div> <div>World Juggler's Day Eat Your Vegetables Day</div>	<div>18</div> <div>Chris Van Allsburg born, 1949 International Picnic Day</div>	<div>19</div> <div>Garfield Debuted in 1978 Juneteenth Tasmanian Devil Debuted in 1954</div>	<div>20</div> <div>American Eagle Day Ice Cream Soda Day</div>	<div>21</div> <div>First Day of Summer</div>	<div>22</div> <div>US Department of Justice Established in 1870</div>	<div>23</div> <div>Theodore Taylor born, 1922 Typewriter Patented In 1868</div>
<div>24</div> <div>World U.F.O. Day (also July 2) 1st modern UFO sighting (by Kenneth Arnold)</div>	<div>☾25</div> <div>LEON Day - LEON is NOEL spelled backwards. It means six months until Christmas</div>	<div>26</div> <div>Bicycle Patented In 1819 National Chocolate Pudding Day Toothbrush Invented In 1498</div>	<div>27</div> <div>Captain Kangaroo (Bob Keeshan) born 1927 Helen Keller Born in 1880</div>	<div>28</div> <div>Paul Bunyan Day</div>	<div>29</div> <div>First iPhone released, 2007 Camera Day</div>	<div>30</div> <div>Meteor Day National Organization of Women Founded In 1966</div>

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

Rockwood Juneteenth Celebration

Beyond Black, a community development corporation that aims to strengthen the African American and black community in the Rockwood neighborhood of Gresham, invites the community to a Juneteenth celebration at Vance Park, 1400 S.E. 182nd Ave., on Wednesday June 19 from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration commemorating when slavery was abolished throughout the entire United States.

Beyond Black hopes this event will draw on and accommodate the

many former residents of north and northeast Portland who have been pushed to reside further east by gentrification.

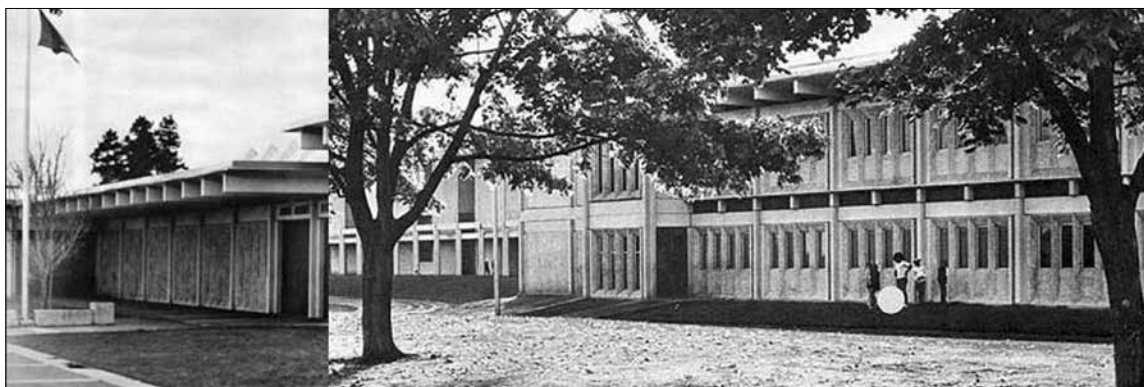
Beyond Black CDC invites the entire Rockwood, Gresham and East County community to join them for the festivities, as there will be live entertainment, fireworks, food, educational and cultural booths, and more. There will also be booths run by the Multnomah County Library, Multnomah County's Healthy Birth Initiative program, and more.

Columbia Gorge Express



Bus service to popular

Columbia Gorge locations begins its fourth summer season. The Oregon Department of Transportation bus now operates year-round, but started its expanded summer schedule this month with eight departures a day from the Gateway Transit Center to Rooster Rock State Park and Multnomah Falls. Gorge visitors can reach the Columbia Gorge Express from anywhere on the TriMet system. For more information, go to Columbiagorgeexpress.com.



A historic photo shows the former and short lived John Adams High School near Northeast 42nd and Killingsworth. A two-event all-class reunion for all alumni, former faculty and staff will take place this summer.

Adams High Reunion at 50 Years

The 50th anniversary of the opening of Portland's most controversial — and shortest-lived — public high school is this year. To celebrate, alumni and former faculty and staff are invited to a two-event all-class reunion.

John Adams High School opened in 1969 in northeast Portland. It was an "experimental" school that was the brainchild of a team of Harvard PhD students. The school closed in 1981 due to

low enrollment.

"Many former students are still deeply connected to the experience they had at Adams," said Rosemary Hardin, reunion committee chair and a member of the class of 1976, "so we're honoring that experience and we're going to party like it's 1969."

The celebration will include a no-host cocktail social and dance Aug. 2 at Columbia Edge-water Country Club. Tickets are

available at adamshs-pdx.com.

They will not be sold at the door. The deadline to buy tickets is July 1.

On Aug. 3, the reunion celebration moves to Columbia Park for a free potluck picnic at 11 a.m. at Picnic Area D. Alumni and former faculty and staff can just show up with a dish to share; no sign-up required. Columbia Park is located at North Lombard Street and Woolsey Avenue.

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Portland International Airport (PDX) Parking Additions and Consolidated Rental Car Facility (PACR) Bid Package 11

JE Dunn Construction invites written Bids from qualified Trade Partners to provide construction services for the following scopes of work on the PACR project:

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- P3 Garage Paint
- Fire Sprinklers

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 21, 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.

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



Prison Census Counts Enhance White Power

The fight against unjust prison gerrymandering

BY OSCAR H. BLAYTON

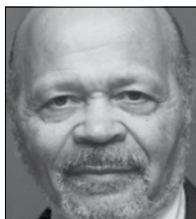
Almost every high school student in America knows about the compromise reached during the drafting of the U.S. Constitution resulting in enslaved people being counted as three-fifths of a person during the national census held every 10 years.

Even while white Southerners denied enslaved people in those states the rights guaranteed to citizens, they still demanded that the enslaved people's bodies be counted in the census. The Southerners made this demand because the size of a state's population determined how many representatives those states would be granted in Congress. The more representatives a state had, the greater the state's power in the federal government.

The Northern states, seeing this ploy for what it was, resisted Southerners' demand but, eventually, a compromise was reached where each enslaved body would be counted only as three-fifths of a person.

This is just another example of how white supremacists benefited from the use of black bodies while

not providing one drop of benefit to the souls inhabiting those bodies. It also helps us to understand how black bodies currently are being used to enhance white supremacy in America.



Today, significant numbers of prisons — where brown and black inmates from urban areas are incarcerated — are located in rural, predominantly white census tracts. And for years, these brown and black bodies have been used to inflate the census figures in order to enhance the political power of those rural white areas.

The practice of counting prisoners in the census tracts where they are incarcerated decreases the political power of the home communities of those prisoners and transfers that power to an alien community with diametrically opposed interests. This is what happens when an individual is removed from his urban home in a liberal Democratic district and incarcerated in a district that voted for a white supremacist like Donald Trump. The body of that inmate, who by incarceration is ineligible to vote, has now increased the population count in the conservative district while the count of his liberal home district has been reduced.

The body of the inmate of color, like the body of his or her en-

slaved ancestor, has been stolen in order to enhance the political power of his or her oppressor.

There are approximately 2.3 million Americans in prisons and jails today. It also has been reported that between 1970 and 2000, more than 1,100 prisons were built in the United States, with roughly 70 percent of those prisons being located in rural communities, mostly in conservative Southern states such as Florida, Georgia, Oklahoma and Texas.

Data collected by the Vera Institute of Justice shows that largely rural counties that voted for Donald Trump had a 53 percent higher jail admissions rate than those that voted for Hillary Clinton in the 2016 presidential election.

The national NAACP has reported that while African Americans and Hispanics make up approximately 32 percent of the U.S. population, they made up 56 percent of all incarcerated people in 2015.

A slide rule is not necessary to figure out that when you have large numbers of people victimized by the mass incarceration policies of this country, and a significant number of those inmates are used to further empower white supremacists in rural areas, there is little incentive for conservative politicians to correct this injustice that has been dubbed "prison gerrymandering."

In addition to stealing bodies

to gain political power, these rural areas receive increased federal funding based on their inflated population figures. This takes money from inner cities where many of the inmates had lived and redeposits those funds into the rural, predominantly white areas where the prisons are located. This is a win-win for white supremacy and a significant handicap for urban areas victimized by a lack of services, over-policing and courts that hand down harsh sentences.

The practice of prison gerrymandering is slowly attracting attention. Six states — Delaware, Maryland, Nevada, California, New York and Washington — have outlawed prison gerrymandering and others have started taking steps to reduce or eliminate it.

The year 2020 is coming. It is not only an election year, but a year when the next census will be taken. Battles will be fought over racial gerrymandering and voter suppression. Ending prison gerrymandering is a battle that also must be fought. If prison gerrymandering is taking place in your state, organize and act.

The year 2020 is coming and we must fight against all attempts to foster white supremacy, including prison gerrymandering.

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



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Church Hosts Jazz Concert

Augustana Lutheran Church, 2710 N.E. 14th Ave., will host its second annual Jazz Community Benefit Concert for Sisters of the Road Café on Sunday, June 23 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Sisters of the Road is a

non-profit in Portland's Old Town neighborhood working to create systemic change that will end poverty and homelessness by providing nourishing meals in a safe, dignified space.



Marilyn Keller and Ron Steen will join some of the very finest jazz musicians in Portland for a Sunday, June 23 concert at Augustana Church in northeast Portland to benefit Sisters of the Road.

The Augustana concert will feature some of the very finest jazz musicians in Portland, many of whom are internationally known, including Marilyn Keller, Ron Steen, Kevin Deitz, Nancy King, Shirley Nanette, Chuck Israels, Dan Balmer, Devin Phillips, Noah Simpson, Bobby Torres, Phil Baker, Sherry Alves, Perry Thoorsell, Anandi, Kerry Politzer, John Nastos,

Dan Gaynor and George Colligan.

A suggested minimum donation is \$20 with all proceeds to go to Sisters of the Road.

For more information contact Rev. Dr. W. J. Mark Knutson at 503-757-3697; Marilyn Keller at 503-201-8615; or George Colligan at georgecolligan4@gmail.com.

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A team of AmeriCorps volunteers in the Sabin Neighborhood of inner northeast Portland pose for a photo where they have been working to make improvements to affordable housing properties and create green spaces for residents to enjoy that also promote energy and water conservation. The work is sponsored by the Sabin Community Development, a nonprofit formed to increase affordable housing and bring social equity to Portland neighborhoods.



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