



Power to the People Tour

A walking tour of black historic sites

See Metro, page 6



Good in the Hood

Images from Saturday's parade!

See photo essay, page 8



Portland Observer

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Committed to Cultural Diversity



PHOTO BY DANNY PETERSON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Representatives of Self Enhancement, Inc., the non-profit serving the African American community, and the Portland Water Bureau, are assisting qualifying low income households and those in temporary financial crisis with financial support to help pay their water and sewer bills. Pictured (from left) are Melissa Navarro of SEI, Anna McDonald of the Water Bureau, Sahaan McKelvey of SEI, Corbett White of the Water Bureau, Megan McGinnis of SEI and Fabiola Casas of the Water Bureau.

Helping Make Ends Meet

SEI and Water Bureau assist low income

BY DANNY PETERSON
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Representatives from Portland Water Bureau and Self Enhancement, Inc. are on a mission to let economically struggling families know about the financial assistance options the city utility offers, which have been increased this past year.

The Water Bureau has expanded discounts for qualifying low income households and those in temporary financial crisis, opened a relocated and more trans-

portation-friendly office, and established community partnerships with culturally specific groups, like Self Enhancement Inc., the non-profit serving the African American community of Portland.

All those actions spelled good news for Iva, a senior citizen who was living off of a fixed social security income when health issues brought her in and out of the hospital for a six week stretch. Her water bills fell behind and she accrued late fees, unable to do much else other than focus on her health.

Thanks to Water Bureau's utility crisis voucher—which recently increased from \$150 to \$500—Iva was able to get back on top of her payments after she got well.

"We were able to help her out," Melissa Navarro, an SEI Intake Coordinator, told the Portland Observer.

Navarro recalled others she's helped in similar situations, including a single parent who had lost her job, living off of savings, and had been denied unemployment; and another single mom whose car, which she depended on to make ends meet working for both Uber and Lyft, suddenly needed costly repair.

"Personally, I just love my job because a lot of times people...you can see them getting teary eyed and cry, they're just so grateful. I mean, I get hugs every week so it just feels good to be able to do that type of work," Navarro said.

Though the utility crisis voucher can only be used per customer once per 12 month period, the Portland Water Bureau



Michael Booker, beloved for his community advocacy work, died Friday at the age of 64.

Safe, Clean and Sober Leader Dies

Miracles Club director had life of advocacy

BY DANNY PETERSON
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A longtime advocate of the African American community of Portland passed away Friday after an unexpected liver cancer diagnosis just three weeks prior.

Michael Booker, 64, most recently helmed the executive director position at the Miracles Club, a non-profit for recovering addicts of the African American community.

"The reaction is there is a lot of sadness. The community is mourning. What I'll say just from my personal perspective is that everybody has a special story about Michael or about their relationship with Michael," Liliana McDonald, who is the Miracles Club program director and also shares a child with Booker, told the Portland Observer.

McDonald confirmed that in late May Booker was diagnosed with liver cancer and found out a week later that it was very serious.

"He was an icon of the community," McDonald added.

Before taking over as Executive Director

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Reparations Taken Up in Congress

(AP) -- The debate over reparations catapulted from the campaign trail to Congress last week as lawmakers heard impassioned testimony for and against the idea of providing compensation for America's history of slavery and racial discrimination.

Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, D-Texas, the sponsor of a resolution to study reparations, put a fine point on the discussion: "I just simply ask: Why not and why not now?"

It was Congress' first hearing on reparations in more than a decade, and came amid a growing conversation both in the Democratic Party and the country at large about



Actor Danny Glover (right) and author Ta-Nehisi Coates testify about reparation for the descendants of slaves during a hearing last week before the House Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, at the Capitol in Washington, D.C. (AP photo)

lingering racial disparities in the United States. Once considered a fringe topic, mostly pushed aside in Congress, the possibility of reparations was treated with seriousness by the witnesses and lawmakers alike, though Republicans made clear their opposition.

The hearing coincided with Juneteenth, a cultural holiday commemorating the emancipation of enslaved black people in the United States, and it attracted a crowd. More than a hundred people were lined up to try and get a seat in the hearing room. Those inside frequently reacted to testimony and comments from members of Congress with cheers and boos.

At one point, an audience member shouted "You lie!" at Texas Republican Rep. Louie Gohmert.

22nd Woman Accuses Trump

President Trump issued another denial after the 22nd woman to come forward accusing him of sexual misconduct. Tuesday, in response to Elle columnist E. Jean Carroll saying that Trump assaulted her in a dressing room in the mid-90's, Trump said Carroll is "not my type." "I'll say it with great respect: Number one, she's not my type. Number two, it never happened. It never happened, OK?"



The Week in Review

Tenant Protections Victory

New rules to ease the rental application process in Portland, aimed at helping people with criminal histories and poor credit, was passed by the City Council last week. Championed by Commissioner Chloe Eudaly, the ordinance seeks to increase housing for people who have been locked out of the conventional market.

Portland HIV Cases Spike

A spike in local HIV cases appears to be tied to infected needles.

Multnomah County health authorities last week reported that they have found 42 new cases of HIV in the last year and a half among people who report using methamphetamines or other drugs via syringe. In contrast, only 25 people who were diagnosed with the disease were tied to infected needles for the previous two years.

PSU Delays Guns Decision

The Portland State University Board of Trustees has postponed until the fall a decision of the issue

of whether campus police officers should carry guns. PSU is re-evaluating the use of an armed police force after campus police shot and killed a black Veteran and postal worker trying to break up a bar fight near the campus last year.



Blazers Draft and Trade

The Portland Trail Blazers have made two significant moves of the offseason. The team on Monday traded Evan Turner to the Atlanta Hawks in exchange for Kent Bazemore. A few days earlier the team selected North Carolina freshman Nassir Little with the 25th pick in the 2019 NBA draft, swooping up what ESPN analyst Jay Bilas called "an absolute steal" late in the first round.

Republicans Flee Capitol

Republican members of the Oregon Senate have been in hiding for the past week, fleeing the state rather than be forced to vote on a climate bill that would put a hard cap on greenhouse gas emissions. Speculation has them running out the clock until the legislative session ends Saturday, robbing majority Democrats a major priority.



5-Star Hotel Coming

Marriott International announced Thursday it would build a 5-star Ritz-Carlton hotel in the downtown space that has long been home to Portland's most iconic pod of food carts. The new hotel will have 251 rooms and 138 residential units in the 35-story tower.



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The INSIDE

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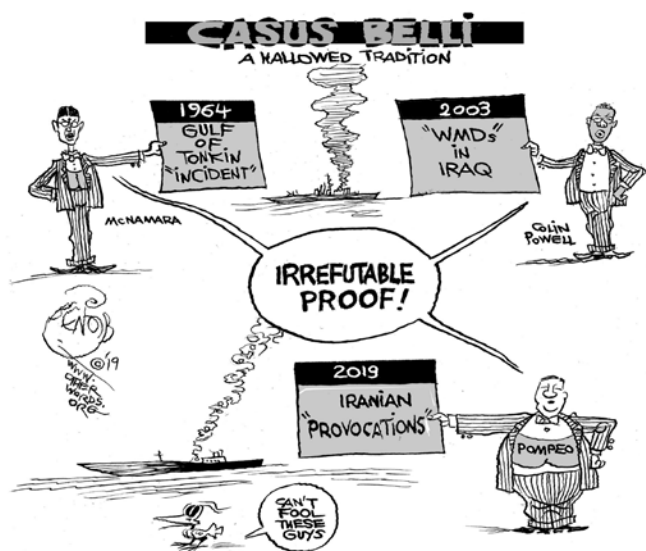
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LOCAL NEWS



Mary Holden Ayala, 59, stole \$1 million from a foster home agency serving the black community from a residential property on Northeast Rodney Avenue. Friday she was sentenced to prison and ordered to pay back the money. The house has since been purchased by the neighborhood to keep it from being demolished.

Foster Mom Sentenced

She stole \$1 million from agency serving black kids

Mary Holden Ayala, 59, of Portland, was sentenced Friday to 33 months in federal prison and three years' supervised release for stealing over \$1 million from a foster care agency serving the black community where kids under her care suffered from a lack of food and other neglect.

Ayala, the former president, executive director and primary agent for Give Us This Day, a private foster care agency and residential program for youth, was convicted in February after a trial before a

federal jury in Portland. She was also found guilty of money laundering and filing false personal income tax returns.

"Mary Holden Ayala was responsible for protecting and caring for children in Oregon's foster care system. Instead she callously stole from them," said Billy J. Williams, U.S. Attorney for the District of Oregon. "Stealing from vulnerable children she was entrusted to serve with taxpayer money is a despicable act and warrants severe consequences."

The stolen monies were intended to provide support for juvenile foster kids entrusted in her care, but instead she spent the funds selfishly on a luxurious lifestyle, and then hid her personal use of the funds by filing false tax returns, said IRS Criminal Investi-

gation Special Agent in Charge Justin Campbell.

According to court documents, since its inception in 1979, Give Us This Day was primarily funded by the Oregon state and federal government for foster care services including hiring and screening foster parents for community placements, compensating foster parents for services and placing foster children in residential or group homes.

Prosecutors said from 2009 through 2015, Ayala exercised sole and complete control over the foster agency's finances and withdrew cash at will, using the organization's bank accounts as her own.

The stolen money was used

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Police Enlarge Hiring Window

Will now accept applicants without degrees

Portland Police Chief Danielle Outlaw has changed the bureau's hiring criteria to lower some standards, including college degrees, to enlarge the pool of applicants and make some progress on what the officials call a critical staffing shortage.

The Portland Police Bureau currently has 128 officer vacancies, with a large number of additional projected retirements in 2020, officials said. The changes to hiring practices is taking place as the bureau is actively recruiting and hiring



Chief Daniel Outlaw

officers and continues to review and refine its process.

Beginning July 1, Portland po-

lice will align with Oregon state law enforcement standards for certification, including its education requirement. The state requires a high school diploma or GED to be certified as a police officer and the Police Bureau will adopt this standard.

Outlaw said the Bureau will continue to provide incentive pay to officers who pursue higher education and earn degrees. PPB will also continue to develop training and learning opportunities to ensure all officers receive necessary education and tools to develop and advance.

The department will also align with the state in regard to the hiring test, which is administered through

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Habitat Homes in Cully Completed

Habitat for Humanity is celebrating a patch of new affordable homes in the Cully Neighborhood. Seven of the 15 Habitat homes at Cully Place on Northeast 57th and Killingsworth are now complete.

Habitat homes are constructed with donated labor and the sweet equity of the new homeowners themselves. The Cully homes would not be possible without the support of The Standard, Chris and Lana Finley, The Whiteley Family, and Habitat for Humanity's Women Build program, officials said.

Each Habitat homebuyer dedicates 300 sweat equity hours as they build their homes alongside volunteers and later purchase the homes with an affordable mortgage. Habitat is the only organization in the Portland Metro area that consistently offers affordable homeownership opportunities to families making as little as \$30,000 (for a family of four).



Minh, a single mother and current Cully resident, gets ready to move into her new affordable Habitat for Humanity home in the same Cully neighborhood of northeast Portland.

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Foster Mom Sentenced

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

to pay her mortgage, remodel her home and fund other retail, travel and transportation expenses, authorities said. She was also accused of using some of the proceeds to fund other business ventures, including a media company, Big Mary's fish and ribs restaurant in Portland, and to purchase and flip a commercial property.

During the time of the thefts,

residential house managers at the foster care home complained about a lack of basic necessities, including but not limited to food, toiletries and cleaning supplies.

During sentencing, U.S. District Court Judge Marco A. Hernandez forfeited more than \$451,000 in net proceeds Ayala received from the sale of a commercial property on Northeast Martin Luther King Boulevard that officials said she purchased with the stolen foster agency funds.

Police Enlarge Hiring Window

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

the National Testing Network. Currently, all applicants must take this test; effective July 1, candidates with bachelor's degrees and lateral experience will not be required to take the exam. All others will be required to pass the test within 60 days of being placed on the Bureau's eligible list.

The Bureau is also considering changes to the grooming standard policy to include, considering candidates with tattoos above the collar line. Currently tattoos are allowed below the collar, but are reviewed to ensure there is nothing that is sexually explicit, racially and/or sexually biased or could

be viewed as discriminatory. This standard will also apply to any tattoos above the collar.

Lastly, the bureau is considering changing its grooming standards to allow sworn members to grow a beard as long as the beard does not interfere with the proper fit of protective equipment.

"These changes to policies were made after careful review of our hiring process in the attempt to identify potential barriers to entry," said Outlaw. "We will revisit the effectiveness of these changes after two years to determine if our hiring numbers have increased."

To learn about the entire hiring process, visit joinportlandpolice.com.



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Read for Fun and Prizes

Young people are exploring from a universe of stories and enjoying a galaxy of fun this summer as the Multnomah County Library system hosts its Summer Reading program.

Geared to babies, kids and teens, sign



PHOTO COURTESY THE LIBRARY FOUNDATION
Multnomah County encourages kids to read for fun and prizes this summer. The annual Summer Reading program is in full swing at all branch libraries.

ups are now being taken at any neighborhood library. To help grow interest, the library also offers dozens of free summer

reading events, camps and classes to keep youth of all ages playing and learning. Young people can craft origami, meet miniature horses, learn about constellations, listen to and perform music, and more!

About 85,000 students are already

signed up through their schools, reinforcing the fact that summer reading is critical for school success. The program is open to kids of all ages, from birth to high school students entering grade 12. High school students have the option to play online.

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A 1960s era photo from city of Portland archives shows Kent Ford (left), Freddie Whitlow and Percy Hampton, leaders and members of the Portland Black Panthers addressing community concerns. Ford will share his memories of revolutionary activism and community services at the time during his Power to the People: Black Panther Party Legacy Tour of Albina.

Power to The People Tour

The Vanport Mosaic organization and the Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods will continue its collaboration with Kent Ford, founder of the Portland Black Panthers, for his Power to the People: Black Panther Party Legacy Tour of Albina.

After being sold-out during the

Vanport Mosaic Festival this past Memorial Day Weekend, another walking tour of black historic sites in inner north and northeast Portland will take place this Saturday, June 29 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Tickets are \$10 and a RSVP is recommended by visiting [eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com).

Ford, who started Portland's chapter of the empowerment organization back in the 1960s, will conduct the tour, sharing his personal memories of revolutionary activism and community service, and inspiring others to continue the fight for change.

The tour, with some car pooling between sites, will start at the Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods, located next door to King Elementary in northeast Portland and end at the Matt Dishman Community Center on Northeast Knott Street and Williams Avenue.

Storybook Musical Twist –

Theater performers Andrew Jones, Josie Seid and Kayla Dixon will take you into the enchanted world of magic beans and moonlit nights in “Into the Woods,” a favorite among musical lovers and a timeless masterpiece. Now playing through June 30 at the Broadway Rose Theater in Tigard.



Summer Free for All – Portland Parks and Recreation’s “Summer Free for All” series is back with amazing events all summer long for both kids and adults, including movies, concerts, free lunch and play events and more. For details, a guide is posted online at portlandoregon.gov/parks.

‘On the Edge’ Art Quilts – This summer through Aug. 15, the Oregon Historical Society, downtown, hosts an original exhibit of art quilts developed by the local Studio Art Quilt artists titled ‘On the Edge,’ a theme to draw on

being on the edge, be it physically, geographically, emotionally, philosophically or in personality.

Norman Sylvester Band – The Norman Sylvester Band plays Friday, June 28 at Clyde’s; Saturday, June 29 at the Mosier Festival; Monday, July 1 at Buddies Sports Bar in Aloha; Friday, July 5 at Catfish Lou’s; Saturday, July 6 at 5 p.m. at the Waterfront Blues Festival, downtown, and again at 10:30 p.m. for the Portland Spirit Waterfront Blues showcase; and Sunday, July 7 at 3 p.m. at Confluence Winery in Ridgefield.

Explore Washington Park – Free shuttle service to Washington Park, with stops to all major attractions including the Oregon Zoo and Children’s Museum, now runs year round on weekends and offers daily service during spring and summer through October.

Columbia Gorge Express – The Oregon Department of Transportation’s Columbia Gorge Express bus provides transportation to Rooster Rock State Park and Multnomah Falls. The bus has proven a convenient and popular way to visit the Gorge for tourists, local residents and regular transit riders. For more information, visit columbiagorgeexpress.com

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Good *in the Hood* Images from Saturday's parade!

PHOTOS BY DANNY PETERSON/
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER



Participants of all ages enjoy the fun.



Students from Self Enhancement, Inc. march in Saturday's parade.



Rose Festival Queen Mya Brazile greets members of her community.



Providence Health and Services employees and family members show their community pride.



Portland Commission Amanda Fritz shares in the community spirit.



CareOregon representatives who help community members get the health care they need enjoy Good in the Hood.



Portland Fire mascot Sparky has a big hello for young Good in the Hood Parade participants Deandre Perez, Jamar Tarver and Korie Washington Ta.



The Portland Observer is represented by Publisher Mark Washington (right) and Michael Mangum and his wife.



Carrying the banner for the Good in the Hood parade.

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

Closing Racial Wealth Divide Requires Bold Thinking

But so did ending slavery

BY JESSICAH PIERRE

One day in late June, 1865, Union soldiers arrived in Galveston, Texas. They carried some historic news: Legal slavery had ended some two and a half years ago with President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation. And so some of the last enslaved people left in America were freed.

The day became known as "Juneteenth," a holiday still celebrated today in black communities across the United States.

Yet more than 150 years after slavery, black wealth still lags centuries behind white wealth. A report by the Institute for Policy Studies found that it would take 228 years for black families to amass the amount of wealth white families already own today.

In fact, the racial wealth divide is greater today than it was decades ago and still widening. That divide won't close without bold, structural reform to match the

structural injustices that created it — from slavery itself to Jim Crow, red lining, and mass incarceration.

A more recent report by the institute offered a number of promising solutions to close this gap. Some ideas include:

1. Baby Bonds: Baby bonds are federally managed accounts that could be set up at birth for all kids and grow over time. When a child reaches adulthood, they could use these federally seeded funds for education, to buy a house, or start a business.

2. Guaranteed Employment and a Living Wage: Bridging the racial wealth means creating good jobs that pay a living wage for everyone who can work. A federal jobs guarantee would provide universal job coverage and eliminate involuntary unemployment. A much higher minimum wage would ensure all jobs actually support families.

3. Affordable Housing: Secure housing remains out of reach for millions of families, and homes are the biggest source of middle class wealth. We need big investments in public housing, rent control, and down payment assistance for first-time buyers from margin-

alized backgrounds to ameliorate historical injustices and address the current crisis.

4. Medicare for All: People of color accounted for more than half of the 32 million non-elderly uninsured people in 2016, putting them at serious medical and financial risk. Medicare for All would drastically reduce bankruptcies from health care, the single largest source for all Americans.

5. Postal Banking: People of color are particularly vulnerable to being unbanked, along with rural people and the elderly. The Postal Service could offer short term, low-interest loans to these populations to protect them from predatory payday lenders.

6. Higher Taxes on the Ultra-Wealthy: Significantly raising taxes on the extremely rich would reduce the corrupting influence of wealth on our politics while producing significant revenue to create opportunities for those who've been blocked from generating wealth.

7. Fixing the Tax Code: We spend \$600 billion per year on tax subsidies that ensure the wealthy are able to become wealthier. Shifting these expenditures to-

ward low-wealth people would have a monumental impact.

8. Reparations: A bill called HR 40, championed currently by Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX-18), would create a commission to study the issue of reparations and grapple with what they could really look like. That's a welcome step.

9. Better Data Collection: It's difficult to understand the scope of the racial wealth divide without good information on the full range of racial diversity in the United States. Localized data on household assets and debt by race would provide better insight for policy making.

10. A Racial Wealth Audit: All laws and policies can have unintended consequences. So we need a framework to assess the impact of new ideas on the wealth divide.

All of these are bold ideas. But none are so bold as the news that greeted Galveston in 1865: Slavery was over. This Juneteenth, let's keep thinking radically about how to take on this incredibly important challenge.

Jessica Pierre is the inequality media specialist at the Institute for Policy Studies. Distributed by OtherWords.org.



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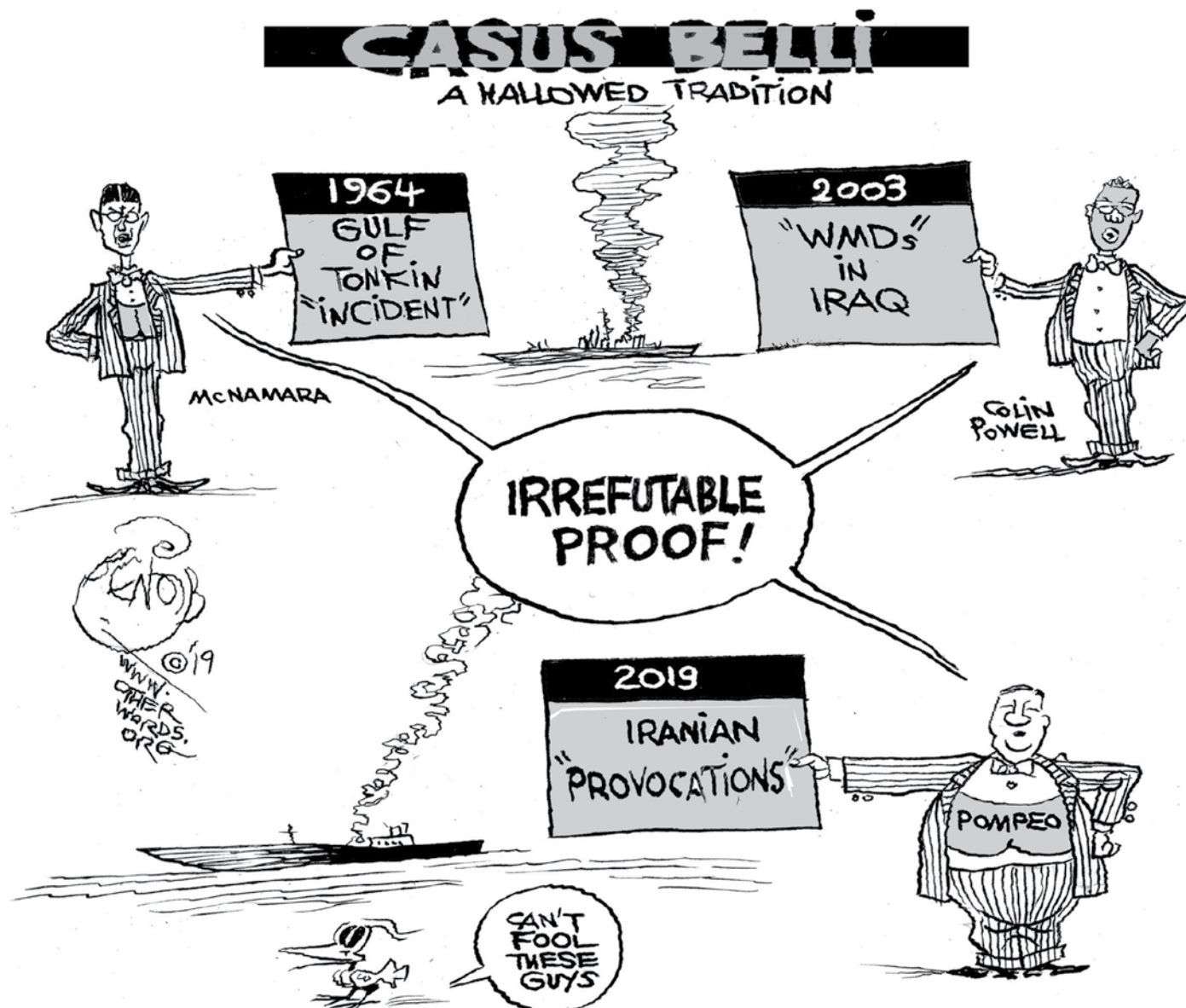
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OPINION

Threat to Deport Millions Sows Fear

Editor's note: The following opinion is from Multnomah County Chair Deborah Kafoury and the entire Board of County Commissioners, Sharon Meieran, Sushee-

la Jayapal, Jessica Vega Pederson and Lori Stegmann:

President Donald Trump's latest threats to deport millions of people remind us that the need for service, justice, peace and love is as great today as it has ever been.

Such rhetoric is designed to sow fear and political division in our country, without regard for the safety and well-being of some of the most vulnerable families in our community. Policies like this make our communities less safe and less healthy by scaring people away from the public safety system and the critical services they need.

Multnomah County has responded with fairness and compassion. In 2017, the Board of County Commissioners declared Multnomah County a Welcoming County and joined a national network of local governments and nonprofits that share best practices on serving immigrant and refugee residents. We funded immigration legal defense for people facing imminent deportation, as well as navigation services to connect families facing crisis to the critical services they need. We continue to invest in this work today.

As President Trump continues to spread fear and political division in our communities, Multnomah County will remain steadfast to our values. We welcome all, and we are here to serve the people in need in our community regardless of their immigration status.

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Helping Make Ends Meet

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

also now offers two tiers of discounts for customers who are at 60 percent—and 30 percent—median family income of Portland, respectively. One of the changes the utility recently made was to use city median family income, rather than go by state measures to better reflect local needs.

Though the program has been around since 1995, effective July 1 of last year, its services were enhanced under City Commissioner Nick Fish. The bureau is currently under the direction of City Commissioner Amanda Fritz.

That was also the time when the main customer service building of the utility changed from being downtown—which often incurred complaints of having to pay for parking or lack of accessibility for public transport from customers—to their new location at 664 N Tillamook St. Now there's free parking and it's along the Max Yellow Line and 35 bus line.

In addition, the agency has launched a partnership with Home Forward, Multnomah County's housing authority, to provide up to \$500 in rental assistance annually to income-qualified renters living in a multi-family dwelling and at risk of eviction.

"Many people who live in

apartments never get a water bill or water and sewer bill. So how do you give a discount to someone who doesn't receive a bill? We figured out a pathway to do that for people that are in crisis, that are risk of eviction, by partnering with Home Forward," said Portland Water Bureau Public Information Officer Jaymee Cuti.

SEI, which is one of seven community partners the Water Bureau works with, helps their clients get connected to benefits such as these for families who are struggling financially.

"Really we try and prioritize making people who are coming in for energy assistance more of a one stop shop," SEI Energy Pro-

gram Manager Megan McGinnis said. "If someone's coming in, [we] just have them bring that water bill with them. And then we can enroll them in their bill discount as well. Kind of saves them an extra trip."

McGinnis added that SEI does this by completing the verification of income and other qualification measures on behalf of the Water Bureau.

"[W]e try to make sure that our staff, before providing any form of energy assistance, are having a more comprehensive conversation about what might be creating that need," explained SEI Director of Community and Family Programs Sahaan McKelvey. "We'll be as thorough as we can... trying to get behind some of the root causes of why a family may be struggling with being able to [pay their] utility bills."

McKelvey said he's very appreciative of the steps that local agencies like the Portland Water Bureau are taking to create assistance opportunities for people, but that there's more work that needs to be done for multi-family units "to make that system more ideal and accessible as it needs to be for the families that are trying to tap into it."

Portland Water Bureau Financial Assistance Program Manager Corbett White, who has worked at Portland Water Bureau for 27 years, now oversees two other employees tasked with assisting cus-

tomers with financial assistance inquiries—additional positions that were part of the enhancements that were enacted last year—when before only one person did the job.

She recalled a case where a woman was devastated by becoming involved with the payday loan system.

"She was a single mom facing her water being shut off. And she said it's not that I don't make money, it's just that they get the money before I do. And I was able to turn it around for her," White said.

She added that it's those moments of positively impacting customers' lives that gets her excited about coming into work each morning.

"There's a lot of people out there that are having a rough time financially. If they give us a call, there's ways for us to help and that's the message that we want."

White said there's two numbers for Portland Water Bureau customer service inquiries: a general line at 503-823-7770 where payment arrangements, such as monthly installments, or an explanation of the bill can be provided. Inquiries requiring more attention from the financial assistance specialists' line can be reached at 503-865-4357. Customers can also receive service by visiting a partnering organization, like SEI, or visiting the utility in person at 664 N Tillamook St., or online at portlandoregon.gov/water/.



PHOTO BY DANNY PETERSON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Fabiola Casas (left) and Anna McDonald serve the public as financial assistance program specialists for the Portland Water Bureau, positions that have been added to the staff at Portland Water Bureau as part of an enhancement to its Financial Assistance Program.



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CALENDAR

June 2019

MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY SUNDAY

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

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Safe, Clean and Sober Leader Dies

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

of Miracles Club, located at Northeast Martin Luther King Boulevard near Skidmore Street, Booker worked at the House of Umoja, a residential gang intervention program, and Stay Clean, Inc., an addiction treatment facility.

Booker took the leadership position at Miracles Club in 2016, where he oversaw its substantial growth in the form of the non-profit opening a secondary residential location, Miracles Central in the Lloyd District. His leadership was needed after a previous executive director, Herman Bryant, was sentenced to three years in prison for embezzlement.

Booker was himself a longtime, card carrying member of the Miracles Club and served as a board member before then, during the organization's infancy in 1993. He later grew into a mentorship role for others in recovery.

Booker had known for years the Miracles Club founders—Sam Brown, Johnnie W. Gage, and Johnnie A. Gage, the latter of whom has now taken up the mantle of interim Miracles Club executive director.

In addition, Booker also owned a historic family business, Courtesy Janitorial, and was a Deacon at Vancouver Avenue Baptist Church.

Miracles board member and friend of Booker Tim Wilson said the many hats Booker wore is how he was able to positively impact so many people's lives.

"[Y]ou got different people at the church, you got different people he's dealing with up in his business. And he was up there in all of those. I mean he was just the man in all of those," Wilson said.

"He was just a loyal, great man that left much too early," Mark Bradley, Booker's childhood friend, added.

Bradley and Booker's fathers were friends, Bradley explained, having survived the 1948 Vanport Flood together and later both moved to northeast Portland, where their sons were born and raised. Bradley's father owned a paint shop while Booker's father owned the family's janitorial supply store. Later, the sons took up the respective businesses of their fathers and helped each other out, lending equipment to each other for different jobs.

Bradley recalled that when his mother died, the always sharply dressed Booker took a new suit out of his own wardrobe and gave it to Bradley to wear during his mom's funeral.

"He was just that type of guy. Had a heart of gold," Bradley said.

Thomas Cooper, a chef at Heavenly Taste Café adjacent to the Miracles Club, told the Portland Observer Booker was his mentor in recovery and had known him for over two decades.

"He taught us how to live, pretty much to live life... He was a pillar in the community," Cooper said.

Pastor Dwight Minniweather owns the Heavenly Taste Café, which many Miracles Club members frequent, though it is a different business entity.

Minniweather told the Portland Observer he still hasn't really grasped Booker's passing.

"It's still kind of hard for me to come explain how I feel about it," Minniweather said, adding that the hole Booker left in the community has left people "scattered."

"He was doing a whole lot."

Minniweather, who is a special events committee member of Miracles Club, had worked with Booker for different projects over the past 15 years.

"When Miracles was at this emergency point, he was the man who pulled us through the storm and got everything back in order."

Minniweather said he hoped Booker's name could one day be dedicated to a future project of Miracles Club, like a library or building.

"I just really think it's important for the word to get out to the people of how important he was to our community. I truly think that needs to be driven home."

Booker was in talks to open an additional Miracles Center facility across the street from their current location, on Garfield Avenue and Mason Street, Minniweather said. Like their previous two locations, it would include housing and mixed use facilities. A Miracles program in Gresham was also in the works.

Michael Booker's funeral is being planned for Vancouver Avenue Baptist Church and a tentative date is scheduled for July 10, McDonald said.

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