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**Building  
the Wall**  
*A story about  
what happens  
if fear wins*  
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**Fluffy  
Iglesias  
on Tour**  
*'I'm not  
fat' star has  
Portland date*  
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# The Portland Observer

Volume XLVI • Number 17



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Wednesday • April 26, 2017



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PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON JR./THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler (center) addresses issues of housing affordability, police reform and other topics during a visit to the offices of the Portland Observer. Welcoming the mayor are Portland Observer Publisher Mark Washington (right) and Editor Michael Leighton.

## City Matters Mayor up front on the issues

BY ZACHARY SENN  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler pushed his agenda on the critical issues of housing affordability and police reforms during a visit to the offices of the Portland Observer, Oregon's longest serving minority publication Friday.

Wheeler, who assumed office in January, laid out his vision to make housing more accessible to lower income and minority communities by supporting workforce training programs and higher paying jobs; the construction of

affordable housing units; and fair housing practices. He also spoke of how he hopes to guide the Portland Police Bureau on new policies to fight bias in its procedures and practices and the overrepresentation of black and minority defendants in the criminal justice system.

Wheeler, who was elected in May of 2016, succeeded Charlie Hales as the mayor of Oregon's largest city. He previously served as Oregon State Treasurer and chair of the Multnomah County Commission.

Speaking to the critical lack of accessible housing in the Portland area, Wheeler said it was important for city officials to rethink how they are approaching issues of housing and affordability.

"The problem is that we're disconnecting housing from the reality of our economy," Wheeler said.

In order to make housing more accessible to disadvantaged communities, the mayor points to the city's new 2035 Comprehensive Plan to better link education and vocational programs to growing a workforce with incomes to sup-

port housing.

"The economic displacement is now being exacerbated by a lack of access to the educational and job training opportunities," Wheeler said. "It's a vicious circle at this point."

The mayor, who was a key proponent of newly elected City Commissioner Chloe Eudaly's stopgap ordinance to make landlords pay tenant relocation expenses under certain circumstances, says that the city must begin thinking about how it can help to keep Portlanders economically competitive.

"If we can connect more people to the education and the job training they need so that they can latch on to those economic opportunities, they will be much more likely to be able to stay right here," Wheeler said.

The city's renter assistance policy, which was enacted in February, mandates that landlords pay the relocation expenses of their tenants in the case of a no-cause eviction or if the rent is raised by 10 percent or more. The payouts can range from

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

## The Portland Observer

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# Helping Hungry Families

Focused on alleviating hunger and helping people become more food secure, Smithfield Foods joined forces with Fred Meyer to donate nearly 25,000 pounds of protein to Oregon Food Bank last week.

The donation, equivalent to nearly 100,000 servings, will help families fight hunger across Oregon and southwest Washington where one in five individuals are food insecure.

"Each year, we provide millions of meals to the many people in need throughout our community," said Katie Pearmine, strategic sourcing manager for Oregon Food Bank. "We are grateful to Smithfield and Fred Meyer for this large protein donation, which allows us to provide high-quality protein to agencies and people throughout our service area."



A donation of 25,000 pounds of protein products from Smithfield Foods and Fred Meyer is donated to the Oregon Food Bank to help hungry families in Oregon and southwest Washington. Pictured (from left) are Mariah Gonzalez of Fred Meyer; Dennis Pittman of Smithfield Foods and Katie Pearmine of the Oregon Food Bank.

## Trump Can't Withhold Funds

A federal judge in San Francisco ruled Tuesday that President Donald Trump cannot punish so-called sanctuary cities, like Portland and hundreds of other locales, by withholding federal funds. The ruling temporarily halts part of an executive order that involved stopping the flow of money to communities that do not cooperate with federal immigration authorities.

## Open to Self Driving Cars

Mayor Ted Wheeler and City Commissioner announced on April 19th an autonomous vehicle pilot program will begin by the end of the year. The Mayor hopes the program will bring cutting edge technology to the city, along with business from inventors and investors. Three other cities in the

## The Week in Review

United States are also testing self driving vehicles.

### Second Elephant hit by TB

34 year old Sung-Surin, one of the Oregon Zoo's Asian elephants, has tested positive for tuberculosis. Sung-Surin is being taken care of by zoo veterinarians and shows no sign of illness. Last year, the zoo's celebrated elephant Packy was put down after a long battle with TB.

### Woman Strangled at Motel

Police arrested a man Friday wanted in connection with the strangulation death of Valerie Johnson, 42, at the Motel 6 on Powell Boulevard in southeast Portland.

Joshua Carlson, 31, was charged with murder in the domestic abuse case, police said.



### School Hit with Hate Graffiti

Members of the Cully Neighborhood's Trinity Lutheran Church and School spent Sunday morning cleaning up swastikas and racial slurs found tagged on the property

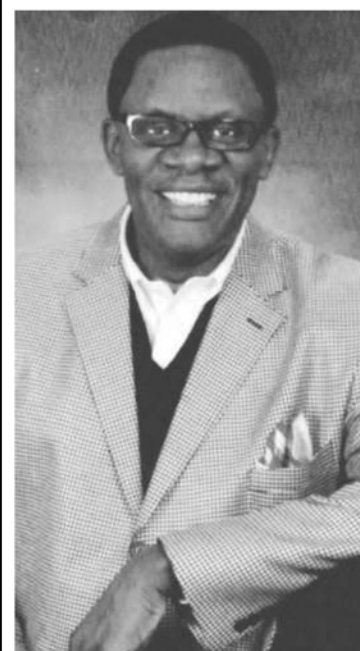
the morning before. Detectives are investigating the crime and asking the public to come forward with any information.

### Earth Day Clean Up

SOLVE's 28th annual Earth Day clean up event drew over 5,000 volunteers Saturday who collected 35 tons of trash in Portland neighborhoods, parks, school grounds and nature areas. Volunteers also cleared out invasive plants and debris.

### Jeff Champs Recognized

The Jefferson High School boys basketball team was recognized for winning the 2017 state championship during a special appearance before the Portland City Council last week. City Commissioner Dan Saltzman led the ceremony.



Dr. Billy R. Flowers

**Q:** What age groups can a chiropractor help most?

**A:** This is like asking which age groups benefit most from good health. And yet, each age group has specific problems for which your chiropractor has specific answers.

### Infant and Young Children

Other mothers are often amazed

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to see a mother carrying her infant out of the adjusting room. And yet, since the delivery process itself causes a high percentage of subluxations, infants to need chiropractic care.

Obviously, children and infants are treated differently than adults. There are new, highly sophisticated methods of adjusting children and infants to insure the best possible results with the least possible discomfort. Though young children can't tell you they're in pain, their irritability is often a sign of the need to be checked.

### Young Adults and Teenagers

More and more young adults and teenagers are getting involved in active sports. As a result, more and more of them are getting injured, requiring prompt chiropractic care.

Obviously half of the girls in our society develop scoliosis (curvature of the spine) during puberty. Left untreated, scoliosis keeps getting worse over time. However, it can almost always be corrected when chiropractic care is initiated in time.

Needless to say, every teenage girl should be checked regularly for scoliosis and all teenagers and young adults should see their chiropractor regularly to make sure their newly active sports lives aren't creating spinal problems they'll have to live with the rest of their lives.

### Adults

The world today is experiencing a terrible level of stress. Long work weeks, seemingly impossible deadlines and economic woes create incredible pressures. In addition,

most adults breathe in polluted air, drink chemically treated water and consume an average of nine pounds of food additives and chemical preservatives in a year, putting even more stress on their bodies. One sure way to keep the stress level from causing potentially dangerous subluxations is with regular chiropractic checkups.

### Senior Citizens

Retirement age for many people has become just plain tiresome. Aches and pins, often the result of untreated subluxations, abound. Yet it hardly seems fair that having to suffer with pain or being drugged into numbness are fair rewards for all the years of hard work.

Depending on the degree of subluxations degeneration, your chiropractor can often provide help.

For senior citizens who've been fortunate enough to suffer minimal trauma in their lives, virtually complete spinal recovery should be almost as easy as it would be for younger people.

For those who have suffered needlessly for years, your chiropractor can often slow or stop the degeneration, making life more comfortable. It is certainly worth the effort so that our senior citizens get the dignity of health care they deserve.

### Something for Everyone

As you can see, there are practically as many reasons to have regular chiropractic checkups as there are people. Make an appointment for yourself and your loved ones soon.

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This page  
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PHOTO BY ZACHARY SENN THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Portland Police Bureau officers face off against protestors during a Jan. 20 rally decrying the inauguration of President Donald Trump.

## Police Oversight Hurdles

### Community fight to keep reforms on track

BY ZACHARY SENN  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Portland community leaders are fighting to keep efforts to reform the Portland Police Department on track amidst a slew of delays, complications and opposition from the Trump Administration.

A framework for Portland police reforms was established after a federal Department of Justice investigation found that the Portland Police Bureau had used excessive force against those suffering from mental illness. As a result of the subsequent 2012 court case,

“United States v. City of Portland” a settlement between the Justice Department and City Hall was reached which spelled out what law enforcement policies, procedures and oversight measures needed to be enacted or changed.

But since that time, the citizen committee formed to track progress has been slow going and was essentially dissolved in January due to constant in-fighting. A new blow came earlier this month when Attorney General Jeff Sessions spoke out against being involved and ordered a review of all Justice Department agreements with local law enforcement offices across the country.

Rev. Dr. Leroy Haynes Jr., a lifelong black civil rights activist, beginning with his commu-

nity organizing work in Dallas in the 1960s, and since moving to Portland in 1997, has been instrumental in the push for police reforms. Haynes serves as the pastor of Allen Temple CME Church in northeast Portland and as the chair of the Albina Ministerial Alliance Coalition for Justice and Police Reform.

Following a series of officer-involved killings, including those of James Chasse and James Jahar Perez, the AMA justice coalition successfully joined other activists including the Portland NAACP and Copwatch to call for a federal audit of the city’s law enforcement department.

“Out of that audit, we had the

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 5**

## Arrest in Fire Attack at Denny’s

Scott Ranstrom, the 69-year-old man who suffered critical injuries when an apparent stranger set him on fire at a Denny’s restaurant near the Clackamas Town Center was on life support Tuesday at a Portland hospital, his family said.

The attack happened last Wednesday night when a young man entered the restaurant and sat in booth adjacent to the victim. Police said surveillance vid-



Deshaun Swanger

eo showed the man dousing the victim with gasoline and tossing a lit match.

Police arrested Deshaun Swanger, 24, on Friday on a charge of attempted murder after getting a tip from one of his neighbors. They said he was living in transitional housing with about 18 people.

A GoFundMe page was established to help with Ranstrom’s medical expenses.

# City Matters

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

\$2,900 to \$4,500, depending on the size of the housing unit.

The measure, which will only last through October is part of emergency reprieve granted to low and middle-income renters in the city. Wheeler says that his soon-to-be-released Fiscal Year 2018 budget will be reflective of longer-term solutions for abetting the housing crisis.

The mayor would like to see more regulatory wiggle room for future housing developments winning city approval, insisting that zoning rules can be loosened up to aid developers who are attempting to create more housing. By allowing more structures such as duplexes to be constructed within single residence zones, for example, the city can maximize usage

on its increasingly expensive real estate, Wheeler said.

"If we're really serious about housing affordability, then we need to go down that road," Wheeler asserts.

*My job as mayor isn't to create this unattainable vision of what policing will look like in the future. It's being consistent in terms of stating what our values are, and making sure that our practices are consistent with those values.*

-- Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler

The mayor is bracing for little immediate help on housing from state and federal resources. He said the Trump Administration in Washington, D.C. has clearly sig-

naled its support for cutting federal funds for low-income assistance programs. A budget crisis affecting Oregon state government also limits new funding options.

"I don't want to be one of those politicians who paints a doom and gloom view," Wheeler said, "but the truth is, there's very little reason for optimism beyond City

anti-gang task force at the Police Bureau's North Precinct on Friday and helped dedicate a Rotary Club of Portland Peace Pole at the precinct, said changes to police use of force policies and other changes to root out bias in the system must be approached holistically.

"It's got to go beyond the structure, to the culture of the organiza-

"My job as mayor isn't to create this unattainable vision of what policing will look like in the future," Wheeler says, "It's being consistent in terms of stating what our values are, and making sure that our practices are consistent with those values."

Wheeler explains that while increasing diversity in the Portland Police Bureau is a key component of success, other reforms which would make young people of color feel more comfortable in law enforcement presents a unique challenge.

The city is currently reviewing the police bureau's use of force guidelines, and the mayor supports creating clearer expectations and guidelines for how officers will engage with citizens in future confrontations.

"Those standards are under review right now, and we have solicited community input," he said.

Wheeler recently imposed some of his own new rules on decorum at City Council meetings hoping to help protestors safely express their First Amendment rights while limiting disruptions on the council's agenda.

"Civil disobedience, the right to assemble, the right to express discontent with government is fundamental to American democracy," said the mayor. "I support that 100 percent."

tion," he explained.

The aim is to give Portland the most diverse administration in the history of city government which will ultimately help run the city more effectively, Wheeler said.

"I believe I have achieved that objective in terms of having a great leadership team that actually can relate to and understand the issues in our community," he said.

Reforming the city's police bureau to address bias, officer involved shootings and other issues, has presented Wheeler with a unique challenge, he said.

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TOM JOYNER

7 A.M. - 10 A.M.  
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10 A.M. - 1 P.M.  
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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

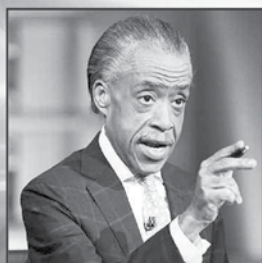
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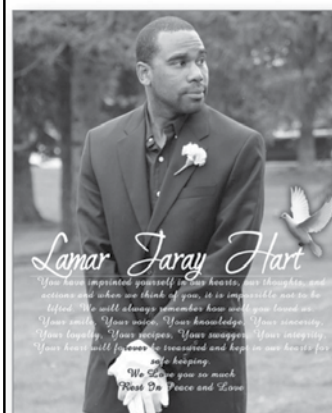
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# Police Oversight Hurdles

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

issuing of this settlement agreement," said Haynes, in an interview with the Portland Observer. "The investigation came back and showed that the Portland Police Bureau used excessive and unnecessary deadly force against persons that are mentally ill."

Most major cities with DOJ settlement agreements are assigned a court-appointed monitor to ensure that reforms are properly carried out. Portland, however, opted for an experimental model of reform enforcement that created a community-based committee, the Community Oversight Advisory Board (COAB).

The COAB is a diverse coalition of community stakeholders that is charged with assessing whether or not the Portland Police Bureau is meeting the terms of their DOJ agreement. By reporting their findings and recommendations to a compliance officer and community liaison, the panel was empowered to direct how police reforms would be carried out in the city. But when the group disbanded, so did the effort to evaluate the reform efforts effectiveness.

"There were mistakes made at the beginning of the development of the board, by not having any training or orientation," Haynes

said.

Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler, who serves as the police commissioner managing the Police Bureau, said he supports and understands the need for police reforms.

"We have a large number of senior level individuals in the Bureau on paid administrative leave or who are under investigation," Wheeler said. "Many of the potential violations occurred in the past and the inquiries into officer misconduct are still ongoing."

During his election campaign, the mayor promised a nationwide search for a new police chief, a pledge he says he is keeping by looking for a department leader who can commit to making the reforms spelled out in the consent decree.

"We are going to be a 21st Century police bureau," the mayor said, adding, "We're going to be diverse. We are going to focus on conflict resolution, de-escalation, and demilitarization. That is what the community wants."

Wheeler said that one key component of his approach to police reform is de-escalating conflicts by attempting to limit minor infractions that officers can use to cite citizens.

"If we tell our police officers to stop citing people for spitting in public or crossing the road at

something other than a 90 degree angle... then (police) no longer have the Constitutional hook to do a random police search," the mayor explained, adding, "That's the direction I want to move."

Threatening to pursue legal action if the new Trump administration attempts to modify any of the standing federal oversight agreements with troubled police departments is the NAACP in Washington, D.C.

NAACP President and Chief Executive Cornell Williams Brooks promised April 7 to continue fighting for justice for people of color nationwide, calling the potential rollback of federal oversight a "morally bankrupt step that could have disastrous results regarding the protection of black lives."

Haynes gives credit to some of the progress that has already been made in Portland to the federal government coming as a form of

leverage that is "totally separate from the city government."

One meaningful reform implemented as a result of Portland's DOJ agreement shaved down some of the bureaucracy related to the processing of civilian complaints against Portland police officers, Haynes said.

"The DOJ described the system in Portland as Byzantine when citizens filed complaints," he said. "They have been mandated by the settlement agreement to correct that problem."

Additionally, revamped training measures and an emphasis on mental health awareness have helped the Portland Police Bureau reform some aspects of its day-to-day operation. An April 3 compliance report by the COCL found that the Portland Police Bureau has partial compliance or substantial compliance with nearly all of the DOJ's orders.

Haynes said that the federal pressure placed on the Portland Police Bureau is important for maintaining the momentum to reform.

"DOJ is a not a panacea," Haynes added, "It won't solve all the problems. But it is another leverage of oversight."

Regardless of whether or not the Justice Department continues its oversight of the Portland Police Bureau, Haynes said community members must continue to hold officers accountable.

"Citizens have to be engaged in the process of community policing, engaged in the accountability process," he explained.

Wheeler agreed, stating that the pressure from activist community groups on city government is healthy in a democratic society.

"There should be a healthy tension, because we have to be held accountable," Wheeler said.

Both Rev. Dr. Haynes and Mayor Wheeler agree that reforming the Portland Police Bureau will require more than procedural shifts: it will require a change in the organization's culture.

"Ultimately," said Haynes, "It's about creating a culture of treating people as human beings."

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# OPINION



## Taxes to Fund Disastrous Nuclear Weapons

**Change will  
not happen  
on its own**

BY ROBERT F. DODGE, M.D.

"Don't tell me what you value. Show me your budget and I'll tell you what you value," said former Vice President Joe Biden, quoting his father. He knew that a federal budget reflected the values and priorities of our nation.



Each April our country funds its priorities. Ultimately, as the Rev. Jim Wallis has said, "Budgets are moral documents."

Each year Physicians for Social Responsibility Los Angeles calculates how much money the United States spends on nuclear weapons programs for the current tax year.

The Nuclear Weapons Community Costs Project has identified that for tax year 2016 the United States spent \$57.6 billion on nuclear weapons programs.

California contributed more than \$7 billion to this amount while Los Angeles County sent approximately \$1.8

billion to the federal coffers to fund weapons that can never be used. In Flint, Mich., where we have allowed our children to be poisoned by lead in their drinking water, \$9 million was spent. In the nation's poorest county, Buffalo County, South Dakota, they spent more than \$142,000 on nuclear weapons.

Every dollar spent on nuclear weapons is a dollar taken from programs that support the health and well being of our country, our communities, and our loved ones. These are critical funds that we can never get back.

The Trump Administration is proposing a dramatic increase in the budget for nuclear weapons while simultaneously proposing a dramatic decrease for social and environmental programs. This is in addition to the nuclear grand bargain of the Obama administration's proposed buildup of our nuclear arsenal to the tune of \$1 trillion over the next three decades. This is the opening salvo as other countries follow suit in this new nuclear arms race.

Having grown weary of our actions and failure to meet our legally binding commitment to work in good faith toward the abolition of nuclear weapons, the non-nuclear nations are refusing to be held hostage by the nuclear states any

longer. Taking their future into their own hands the vast majority of the non-nuclear nations will complete negotiations at the United Nations this July on an international nuclear ban treaty that will outlaw nuclear weapons just as all other weapons of mass destruction have been banned. This will leave the United States and other nuclear nations once again in breach of international law.

Fortunately, a world under constant threat of nuclear apocalypse either by intent or accident is not the future that has to be. But change will not happen on its own. Each of us has a role to play.

Ultimately it will take the people of the United States to awaken from our trance and join the rest of the world in demanding that our leaders work to abolish nuclear weapons and to redirect these expenditures to secure a future for our children and address the real needs of our country. The time for action is now.

Contact your representatives at [usa.gov/elected-officials](http://usa.gov/elected-officials)

Robert F. Dodge, M.D., is a practicing family physician, writes for PeaceVoice, and serves on the boards of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, Beyond War, Physicians for Social Responsibility Los Angeles, and Citizens for Peaceful Resolutions.

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# OPINION

## Defending Voting Rights across the Nation

### A commitment to equality and opportunity

BY MARC H. MORIAL

A federal court this month dealt a blow to Texas' efforts to disenfranchise voters of color.

Texas' draconian 2011 voter identification law has now been struck down for the fifth time. Among the attorneys representing the plaintiffs, Texas State Conference of NAACP Branches and the Mexican American Legislative Caucus of the Texas House of Representatives, are the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law and the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, who have worked tirelessly to defend voting rights across the nation.

The U. S. District Court for



the Southern District of Texas determined the law intentionally discriminates against black and Latino voters. The determination raises the possibility that Texas voting procedures could be placed under federal supervision, as it was from the 1965 passage of the Voting Rights Act until the Supreme Court's disastrous 2013 gutting of the Act with its Shelby v. Holder decision.

The court found that when the Texas legislature considered the bill, the lawmakers were aware that only two people, out of 20 million votes cast in the previous decade, had been convicted of in-person voter fraud. Other, more common forms of voter fraud were not addressed by the bill.

The law was easily the most restrictive in the nation with respect to permitted identification.

A Texas state handgun license — which may be legally obtained by some non-U.S. citizens — is a permissible form of identification under the law, while a federal or state government ID, nor a student ID, are not.

The recent ruling was the second time Judge Nelva Gonzales Ramos had ruled on the law. At the 2014 trial, experts testified to Texas shameful history of suppressing minority voters, from reconstruction up to the present day. Between 1895 and 1944, Texas permitted all-white primary elections. From 1905 to 1970, Texas voters were prohibited from taking people with them to the polls to assist them in reading and interpreting the ballot. Between 1902 and 1966, Texas required a poll tax.

And even though the Voting Rights Act of 1965 put Texas' voting procedures under federal preclearance, Texas continued

discriminatory practices. When the voting age was lowered to 18 in 1971, Waller County — home to historically black Prairie View A&M University — prohibited students from voting unless they or their families owned property in the county. A court struck down the requirement in 1979, but Waller County continued attempting to enforce the law as recently as 2003.

Waller County violated the preclearance requirement during Barack Obama's 2008 campaign for President, improperly rejecting voter registrations and placing limits on the number of new registrations. The witnesses also noted that in every redistricting cycle since 1970, Texas has been found to have violated the Voting Rights Act with racially gerrymandered districts.

"Minorities continue to have to overcome fear and intimidation when they vote," Judge Ra-

mos wrote in her 2014 decision. "Reverend Johnson testified that there are still Anglos at the polls who demand that minority voters identify themselves, telling them that if they have ever gone to jail, they will go to prison if they vote. Additionally, there are poll watchers who dress in law enforcement-style clothing for an intimidating effect."

While we join other civil rights groups in celebrating the court's decision, Texas persistence in continuing its long history of racial discrimination against voters is disheartening. We call on Texas' leadership to heed the blindingly clear message that voter suppression is unacceptable in 21st Century America, and move forward with a commitment to equality and opportunity.

Marc H. Morial is president and chief executive officer of the National Urban League.

## Congrats, Graduates! Here's Your Diploma and Debt

### It doesn't have to be this way

BY CHUCK COLLINS

It's that time of year again. Flowers are flowering, spring is springing, and across the country college graduates are graduating with their newly awarded degrees held high.

Also high is the mountain of student debt most of these recent graduates are taking on. All told, 44 million Americans now owe student debt — including 7 in 10 graduating seniors last year, who owe an average of \$37,000.

If you're not one of those tens of millions of people, you might've missed how out of control student debt has become. Total student debt is approaching \$1.4 trillion, surpassing auto loans and credit card debt.

Between job searches and

apartment hunting, post-graduate life is already stressful — and student debt makes it worse. The average monthly payment for borrowers in their 20s is \$351.

If you're making minimum wage, that's 48 hours of work for your loans alone — never mind shelter and food. No wonder more than 4 in 10 have either

stopped making payments or fallen behind.

There is nothing positive about student debt.

Many indebted graduates begin their work lives with damaged credit histories and greater economic vulnerability. They're less able to start a business or work in public service. And they delay starting families and buying houses, which makes them less wealthy in the long run.

The only winners are the predatory loan servicing agencies.

One reason for the explosion of student debt is that states and the federal government have drastically cut education spending, forcing students and parents to pick up the costs. Public college spending is still \$10 billion below pre-recession levels.

To make things worse, Trump's secretary of education, billionaire Betsy DeVos, is reversing protections put in place by the Obama administration to protect student loan borrowers by regulating loan servicing companies and capping interest rates at 16 percent (at a time when bank loan rates are below 6 percent).

It shouldn't be this way. And it doesn't have to be.

Ask the millions of people who attended college between 1945 and 1975 and graduated with little or no debt. Millions of baby boomers paid tuition at the great flagship universities of this land just by working summer jobs. That wasn't on a different planet

— it was mere decades ago.

Some places are experimenting with new models. At the city level, San Francisco has taken the lead by creating a free tuition program for anyone who's lived in the city for at least a year, regardless of income. It's funded by a voter-approved tax on properties worth over \$5 million.

At the national level, Sen. Bernie Sanders and Rep. Pramila Jayapal recently introduced the College for All Act, a plan Sanders got into the Democratic platform last summer. It would eliminate tuition and fees at public universities for those with incomes under \$125,000 — all paid for by a small sales tax on Wall

Street trades.

These ideas could mean a brighter future for students to come. But what about for those already crushed by debt?

For them, there's a silver lining. When you owe \$50,000, the bank owns you. But when the bank's trying to bleed you for \$1.4 trillion, you own the bank.

It's time for the 44 million student debt households to flex our muscles and demand change.

Chuck Collins is a senior scholar at the Institute for Policy Studies and a co-editor of *Inequality.org*. He's the author of the recent book *Born on Third Base*. Distributed by OtherWords.org.

### Letter to the Editor

### Not My Priorities

Republicans are against increasing the minimum wage, the working class, the middle class, women, funding K-16 education; social security, seniors, blacks, Hispanics, Muslims, universal health care, voter rights, endangered species, renewable energy, and global warming. In addition,

they call the media "the enemy of the people."

Republicans are pro gun, torture, more nuclear weapons, big oil, cigarette manufacturers, all corporations, Russia, non-taxed foreign bank accounts, the top one-percent, building a border wall of over 1,000 miles, and billionaires.

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Black colleges in America have educated the architects of freedom movements and cultivated leaders in every field for generations. The long overdue piece of history is told in the new documentary "Tell Them We Are Rising: The Story of Black Colleges and Universities."

## A Feast of Films to Watch

My annual sojourn to the Full Frame Documentary Film Festival earlier this month offered a feast of films to watch for. I reviewed the first eight two weeks ago; here is the second half of the films I saw, in the order of my admiration and including three worthy windows into African American life and fascinating studies of political quagmires in New Delhi and Oakland, Calif.:

"Tell Them We Are Rising: The Story of Black Colleges and Universities" is a long-overdue feature-length documentary on a piece of history that too few of us know. The material is in good hands; director Stanley Nelson ("Black Panthers: Vanguard of the Revolution," "Freedom Summer," "Freedom Riders") has made a career of documenting crucial pieces of black history. Here he has enough for a miniseries, but in 85 minutes has placed the history of Historic Black Colleges and



Universities (HBCUs) in context, from America's history of denying, even criminalizing education to slaves and freedmen; to a shocking 20,000 people who were killed for educating blacks during just the first six years after abolition. The film addresses contrasting views about black education from Booker T. Washington and W.E.B. DuBois; the role of HBCUs in creating a black middle class and seeding the black Civil Rights Movement, and their importance in preserving places where black students can experience a level of community that otherwise often is not possible. The film will air on PBS in February 2018, and its website, [hbcuring.com](http://hbcuring.com), features

an online yearbook for alums to make and celebrate connections.

"Quest" won awards, including a Full Frame Grand Jury Prize, for its attentive depiction of the life of a black family from North Philadelphia. Filmmaker Jonathan Olshefski allows them to speak for themselves, and Christopher and Christine Rainey simply allow us into the world they share with their young daughter and the friends for whom they offer a studio space to sing, talk, and rhyme. Christopher, whose hip-hop nickname gives the film its title, overcame addiction to become a solid partner to Christine, who goes by Ma, and a patriarch to their daughter and, in some ways, to their community. Their neighborhood is left behind in terms of resources and influence; they and their neighbors work hard and struggle against poverty and neighborhood

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

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# Building the Wall

A play about  
what happens  
if we let fear win

The Portland theater company Triangle Productions has joined other theaters around the county in rolling out a world premier play about what happens if we let fear win.

“Building the Wall,” is a terrifying and gripping story, written by Pulitzer Prize/Tony Award winning playwright Robert Schenkkan, about an immigration round-up of unprecedented scale and a declaration of martial law.

In a play that harkens George Orwell’s 1984 and the Nazi regime, the Trump Administration has carried out his campaign promise to round up and detain millions of immigrants. Now 2019, a history writer interviews the supervisor of a private prison as he awaits sentencing for carrying out the federal policy that has escalated into the unimaginable.

The illuminating drama delivers a powerful warning and puts a human face on the inhuman, revealing how when personal accountability is denied, what seems inconceivable becomes inevitable.

Shows run Thursday, April 27, Friday, April 28 and Saturday, April 29 at 7:30 p.m. at Triangle Productions, 1785 N.E. Sandy Blvd. in the Sandy Plaza. For tickets and more information, call 503-239-5919 or visit [trianglepro.org](http://trianglepro.org).

PHOTOS BY TISHA WALLACE

Gavin Hoffman (left) is a prison warden who has been “left out to dry” by the Trump Administration and Andrea (Whittle) Vernae is a history writer trying to figure out “why he did what he did” in the play “Building the Wall,” a terrifying and gripping production by the Triangle theater group about what happens if we let fear win.

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# Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

## ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE



**Breakout Tuesdays Hip Hop** -- JAMN 107.5 and Cool Nutz from the Breakout Show present Breakout Tuesdays each third Tuesday of the month at the Ash Street, 225 S.W. Ash. The shows will feature performances from some of the top rappers from the Northwest. Hosted by Juma

Blaq and DJ Fatboy.

**Norman Sylvester** -- 'Boogie Cat' Norman Sylvester plays Saturday, May 6 at the Blue Diamond; Friday, May 19 at Clyde's; Saturday, May 21 at the Rogue Pub in North Plains; and Sunday, May 22 at 4 p.m. at the Crystal Ballroom for the CBA's 30th anniversary.



**Exploring Black Cinema** -- Featuring films by visionaries, rebels and pioneers willing to tell it like it is, the NW Film Center at the Portland Art Museum hosts a black cinema series through June 11 in conjunction with the museum's African American exhibit "Constructing Identity." For complete listings and advance tickets, visit [nwfilm.org](http://nwfilm.org).

**Poetry Month at the Chinese Garden** -- Celebrate poetry month with a series of events at the Lan Su Chinese Garden in Old Town. The series will bring historical and aesthetic traditions of poetry in Suzhou-style Chinese gardens with workshops, tours and multiple poetry series. For more details, visit [lansugarden.org](http://lansugarden.org).

**History Hub** -- Oregon Historical Society exhibit for young people explores the topic of diversity with interactive objects and pictures that tell the stories of the people of Oregon, past and present. With puzzles, touch screen activities and board games, History Hub asks students to consider questions like "Who is an Oregonian?," "How has discrimination and segregation affected people who live in Oregon?," and "How can you make Oregon a great place for everyone?"

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

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# Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



## ‘Fluffy’ Iglesias on Tour

Gabriel ‘I’m Not Fat, I’m Fluffy’ Iglesias performs Friday, April 28 at Veterans Memorial Coliseum as part of a world tour to celebrate his 20 years of stand-up comedy. The California native employs storytelling, affected voices and sound effects in his act, whose other trademarks include references to his weight and his use of Hawaiian shirts. He has been called a “comedy genius.”



## Young R&B Singer on Tour

Ella Mai, a young R&B singer from London, will open for Kehlani’s Sweet Sexy Savage Tour, on Tuesday, May 2 at the Crystal Ballroom, downtown. Mai is celebrating the release of her third DJ Mustard-produced EP, “Ready.”



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# Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



PHOTO BY NINA JOHNSON

Jazz composer and pianist Darrell Grant and his MJ New Quartet comprised of Marcus Shelby on bass, Mike Horsfall on the vibraphone and Carlton Jackson on drums, kick off a two week string of Oregon performances Sunday, April 30 for International Jazz Day at the Portland Art Museum.

## New Classic Jazz Quartet

Portland jazz composer and pianist Darrell Grant kicks off a two week tour of Oregon concerts this weekend with his MJ New Quartet, a group inspired by the legendary group Modern Jazz Quartet.

Grant's virtuoso group of players includes Marcus Shelby on bass, Mike Horsfall on

the vibraphone and Carlton Jackson on drums. The quartet will perform Sunday, April 30 for International Jazz Day at the Portland Art Museum. Audiences will be transported by the spirit of the 1920's Harlem Renaissance that is carried forward with selections from classic MJQ recordings including "Blues on

Bach", "Django" and "Under The Jasmin Tree" as well as original compositions and arrangements by this cadre of multi-talented artists.

For more details about the other performances on the tour, visit [darrellgrant.com/mj-new-jazz-quartet](http://darrellgrant.com/mj-new-jazz-quartet).

## Playback Confronts Mental Health

You're invited to an evening of interactive community theater aimed to help break the stigma surrounding mental health.

Playback Theater Portland, in collaboration with two non-profit organizations; NAMI Multnomah and Cascadia Behavioral Healthcare, brings several true stories of struggle, triumph and hope in "Break the Silence, Break the Stigma," Wednesday, May 3 at 6:30 p.m. at the Curious Comedy Theater, 5225 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr.

Blvd.

Mental health challenges affect us all in one way or another, yet the shame and stigma surrounding mental health keeps many of us silent. For one night only, "Break the Silence, Break the Stigma" uses the power of theater for the community to come together in hopes to create a positive movement around mental health.

Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door.

## Obituary

### In Loving Memory

#### Velesia R. Campbell

Velesia R. Campbell (aka Felicia) was affectionately known as grandma Lesia to all the young people that knew and loved her. She loved many things, but most of all she loved spending time with her grandchildren and riding passenger with her husband, soulmate and love of her life Charles Campbell.

Felicia was born and raised in Portland. Her parents welcomed her to the world on Nov. 10, 1963m and the Heavenly Father called her home to Glory on Sunday, April 16, 2017 surrounded by family and friends.

Felicia will be remembered for holding no punches. She would always let you know what was on her mind. We will forever in our hearts remember her



keen sense of humor, the love she had for her family and friends and inseparable relationship she had with her charming cat Frank.

Felicia was preceded in death by her mother Shirley "Dean" Hadley. She leaves to celebrate her memory, husband Charles Campbell; daughter Quintoshia Bell; son, Larry Bell Jr.; grandchildren Chanteaje' Taylor, Adrian Bell, Cameron Bell, Jaliyah Jointer, Josiah Jointer and Amari Winston; and a host of other family members and friends. May our loving mother and grandmother rest in heavenly peace.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, April 26, at the Highland Christian Center. The Arrangements were under the direction of Terry Family Funeral Home.

### In Loving Memory

#### Henry Knight

Henry Knight was born Sept. 14, 1924 in Colbert, Okla., and passed away April 19, 2017 in Portland.

He leaves to cherish his memory, sisters, Roberta Jackson and Rosie Hughes; brother, Jordan K. Knight (Jean); special friend Marguerite Moore; niece, Ola Mackey; nephew, A.W. Williams (Louise); God daughter, Sharon Hennessee; and a multitude of nieces, nephews and friends.

A public viewing will be held Monday, May 1 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Terry Family Funeral Home, and again Tuesday, May 2 at Vancouver Avenue First Baptist Church, in the one hour prior to the scheduled 10:30 a.m. funeral service, also at the church.

For more information see [terryfamilyfuneralhome.com](http://terryfamilyfuneralhome.com) or call 503-249-1788.



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Visit [oregonmetro.gov/FOTA](http://oregonmetro.gov/FOTA) for the complete job announcement and a link to our online hiring center or visit our lobby kiosk at Metro, 600 NE Grand Ave, Portland.

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### METRO

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Sealed bids are due no later than **2:00 pm May 16, 2017** in Metro's business offices at 600 NE Grand Avenue, Portland, OR 97232-2736, Attention: Kim Bardes, Procurement Analyst, RFB 3329.

Bidding documents can be viewed and downloaded from the Oregon Procurement Information Network (ORPIN), at <http://orpin.oregon.gov/open.dll/>.

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## SUB BIDS REQUESTED

### Fowler Middle School Renovation – Bid Package #1

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**Job Walk: 4/24/17 @ 4:00 PM**

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**The Project consists of the following:** Seismic upgrades and renovations of the existing middle school including roof restoration, relocation of the main office and attendance, renovation of the choir room, science and STEM areas, finish upgrades to the counseling center and upper gym.

**Bid Package #1 will include the following scopes of work:** Hazardous abatement, demolition, concrete, and roofing.



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## SUB BIDS REQUESTED

### 10th & Yamhill Smart Park Renovation Project

Howard S. Wright is requesting proposals for Mechanical, Electrical, Plumbing and Fire Protection Design-Build services on the 10th & Yamhill Smart Park Renovation Project.

**RESPONSES DUE May 4, 2017 @ 2:00PM**

Attn: Aaron Braun  
Via email: [brauna@hswc.com](mailto:brauna@hswc.com)

#### Voluntary Pre-Bid Meeting

Date: April 25, 2017 @ 10:00AM

NOTE: THIS IS NOT A MANDATORY SITE WORK. Proposers shall meet with Howard S. Wright personnel at the project site; corner of SW Morrison and SW 9th Street. Personnel protective equipment not required.

#### PROJECT CONTACT

[brauna@hswc.com](mailto:brauna@hswc.com)

#### BID DOCUMENTS

[brauna@hswc.com](mailto:brauna@hswc.com)



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## SUB BIDS REQUESTED

### Riverplace Parcel 3

**Portland, Oregon**

**Bid Package: #2 – Elevators**

**Bids Due:** May 9th at 2:00pm  
**Bid Documents:** [www.hoffmancorp.com/subcontractors](http://www.hoffmancorp.com/subcontractors)



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# A Feast of Films

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

violence. This film gives this particular family a place of respect and challenges the dominant narrative about African American life by holding up the mirror of truth. I really hope this empathetic film finds a platform and an audience.

"Step" was the best of the three documentaries I saw about school life. Amanda Lipitz, directing her first feature-length documentary, chooses to follow the senior year of the first graduating class at the Baltimore Leadership School for Young Women, which aims to successfully place all its students into college and to equip them to succeed there. The film focuses on three young women and on the dance team to which they are all devoted. It provides useful windows into the struggles that are typical of African American girls and the amount of fight and sheer luck it takes for even those in such supportive environments to aspire and reach goals beyond survival. The role that dance plays for these girls is also important, planting into their bodies a sense of determination and expression they didn't know they possessed. I'm not completely sure the filmmaker knows what she has here, but she handles her young subjects with care and respect so that the film doesn't feel exploitive as other such films do. It is headed for a theatrical release (I just saw a preview for it in a theater this weekend) and is worth watching for.

"An Insignificant Man" is a fascinating window into Indian politics, following the insurgent campaign of Arvind Kejriwal for political office in New Delhi. A

tax official, turned activist, turned politician, Kejriwal is a polarizing figure, fighting against corruption amidst criticism that he is himself is arrogant and controlling. The film follows two years in which he headed the formation of the Common Man's Party and an anti-corruption movement that certainly appears necessary. Unassuming and compelling, the fascinating mixture of his alliance with another anti-corruption politician with whom he later splits, as well as various dramatic events, leave viewers to wonder where the truth

access to police and officials carrying out their jobs, and elects to simply show rather than using talking heads to tell the story. In many ways, the real life action is an effective choice, forcing viewers to struggle with how difficult it is to evaluate which police and leadership choices are the most defensible and the soundest. On the other hand, the film's dispassionate tack may increase the possibility that viewers will simply project and then take away the same perspective they brought into the theater. Still, it's interesting to watch an apparently well-meaning, new police chief earnestly express fairly solid ideas

geous" (available now online on YouTube Red) is a pleasant but not particularly illuminating look at the life and transition of a transgender online personality. In his early years, Greg Lazzarato, the second of three brothers in a loving middle-class family, was an ebullient character and diving champion. At age 14, he established an online presence, coming out as gay and dispensing makeup tips as Gregory Gorgeous. After the passing of his beloved mother, he began transitioning to female, a process which is documented here. Gigi is pleasant and warm, but because she has such a loving family and significant

ered up, but it would help to know more than I did about the context of the crimes. The film opens with a description of the discovery of a truck filled with bodies at the bottom of the Danube and continues narrating the discovery of mass graves. The narration consists of voices of those who unearth these finds, and also people who were witnesses or victims or perpetrators of the tragedies they reveal. The filming itself is mostly of barren landscapes connected to the sites, which gives the film an apocalyptic feel but also diminishes its impact, especially since American audiences will be reading the narration in subtitle form. Worth seeking out if you are interested in this particular set of war tragedies; though they are typical of what happens in war, this film is a bit hard for someone outside Serbian culture to access for its full impact.

"Storyboard P, a stranger in Sweden" follows a talented street dancer to Sweden, where he dances and teaches and hustles and refuses to compromise in even the smallest way in deference to his art. He's a wonder when he dances, but both he and this film are intermittently exasperating in their disdain for practical reality and refusal to engage with who is bearing the costs of Storyboard P's choices. I always want to root for art, but this particular example sometimes made that difficult, especially since the filmmaker doesn't add much insight to the exercise.

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



Tayla Solomon (from left) Cori Granger and Blessin Giraldo from the documentary "Step."

of Kerjiwal's own capacity to bring change may lie. Follow the film at insignificantman.com.

"The Force," which won a documentary directing prize at Sundance, is a two-year look at the Oakland Police Department during a period in which it was under federal monitoring and pressure to reform. Director Peter Nicks was given unprecedented

at reform and then blink when he has to make a particularly difficult moral choice; and then to watch a similar transformation in a well-meaning mayor. There are a lot of questions raised and not answered in the film, but that approach offers some benefits for deepening understanding of this complex topic.

"This is Everything: Gigi Gor-

means, her story feels more like that of Kaitlyn Jenner (whom she admires) than that of most transgender people -- and she is not insightful enough to add much self-reflection or insight in the retelling.

"Depth Two" probes deeply for the truth of war atrocities in Serbia soon after they are cov-



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MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY SUNDAY

24

Library of Congress  
established (1800)  
Pigs-in-a-Blanket  
Day

25

Anzac Day (Australia,  
New Zealand)  
Hubble Telescope  
launched, 1990  
World Penguin Day

26

Administrative Pro-  
fessionals/ Secretar-  
ies Day  
Hug a Friend Day  
National Pretzel Day

27

Take Our Daughters and  
Sons to Work Day  
Take Our Daughters  
to Work Day  
Tell a Story Day

28

Arbor Day  
James Monroe born,  
1758 (5th Presi-  
dent)

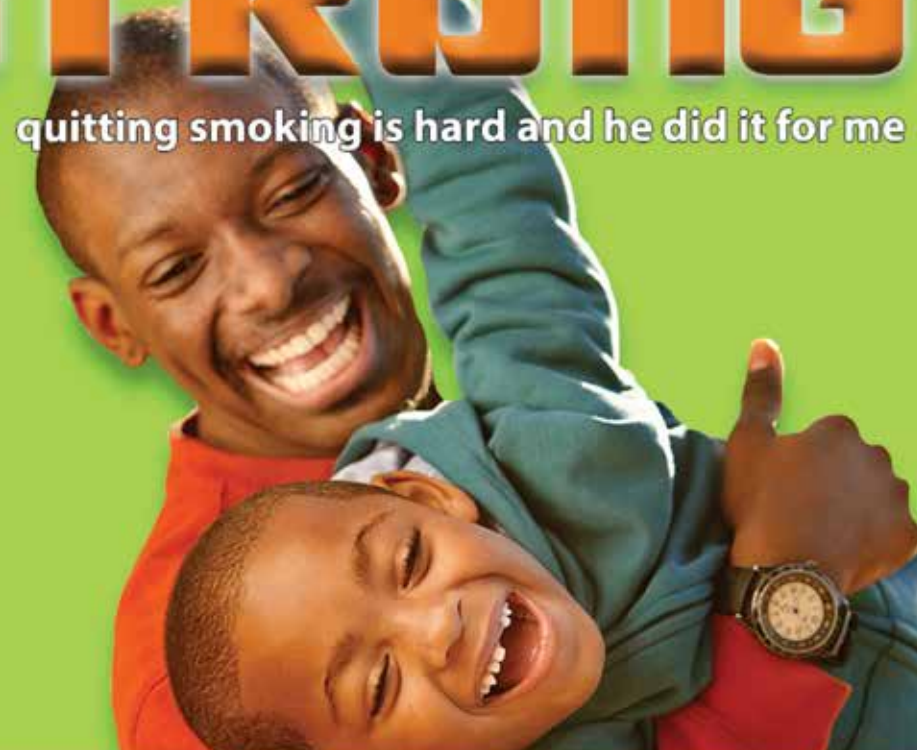
29

Zipper Day (patented  
by Gideon Sund-  
back in 1913)

30



National Honesty Day  
Anniversary Lou-  
isiana Purchase  
completed (1803)

**My daddy is**  
**STRONG**  
 quitting smoking is hard and he did it for me



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# FOOD



## Hungarian Goulash

### Ingredients:

- 1/3 cup vegetable oil
- 3 onions, sliced
- 2 tablespoons Hungarian sweet paprika
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 3 pounds beef stew meat, cut into 1 1/2 inch cubes
- 1 (6 ounce) can tomato paste
- 1 1/2 cups water
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1 teaspoon salt

### Directions:

1. Heat oil in a large pot or Dutch oven over medium heat. Cook onions in oil until soft, stirring frequently. Remove onions and set aside.
2. In a medium bowl, combine paprika, 2 teaspoons salt and pepper. Coat beef cubes in spice mixture, and cook in onion pot until brown on all sides. Return the onions to the pot, and pour in tomato paste, water, garlic and the remaining 1 teaspoon salt. Reduce heat to low, cover and simmer, stirring occasionally, 1 1/2 to 2 hours, or until meat is tender.



4 out of 4 new  
 parents agree,  
 pregnancy brain  
 is...  
 wait, what were  
 we talking about?

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