

In the Eye of the Storm
Plays speaking to issues of displacement
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Terrorism in England
Deadly bombing at Grande concert
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Explore the Vanport Mosaic

Festival brings history to life

BY CHRISTA MCINTYRE
 THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The Vanport Mosaic Festival is a celebration to explore, educate and remember the history and impact of those who lived and died in a community that was destroyed by floodwaters 69 years ago this month while also illuminating stories of struggle and resilience that illuminate Portland's African American history.

A large line up of events told through film, theater and historical exhibits are planned for this Memorial Day weekend beginning on Friday, May 26 and continuing through Monday, May 29. The second annual festival is collaboration between artists, churches, educators and community groups who have worked for years to preserve the memory of this lost city.

The festival presents a thoughtful, thorough and fresh look at one of Oregon's most tragic events while also exploring issues of housing discrimination, migration and displacement that continue today.

Vanport, a combination of the names Vancouver and Portland, was built in 110 days, was the second largest city in Oregon for five years, and destroyed in less than one day. The town was created as a short term answer to a 1943 housing crisis that was brought on by thousands of people moving to Portland to work in the shipyards during World War II. It was the largest war-time housing development in the United States. The population at its height was 42,000 with residents who came from 46 of the then 48 states.

The migration of people to work building liberty ships swelled the African American population of Oregon by five fold. One-third of Vanport's population was black and represented the largest migration of black residents to Oregon up to that time.

Though the walls of Vanport's buildings were not built to last, the city left an incredible legacy. Vanport was uniquely designed to serve both black and white residents as an integrated community where residents went to the same schools, community centers, movie theater and stores.

Vanport College which later became Portland State University was built for and first served homecoming veterans who lived in Vanport. It was the students and teachers of the school who sent out an emergency warning to residents to flee the flood of May 30, 1948, when a levee broke and a ten foot wall of water from the Columbia River began to swell.

There was little time for people to reach safety. The

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PHOTO BY CHRISTA MCINTYRE/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Marge Moss, a former resident of Vanport had a positive experience living in the city as a child.

Memories of Vanport

Survivor recalls flood and the aftermath

BY CHRISTA MCINTYRE
 THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Marge Moss, a retired nurse and former employee at the Urban League of Portland, has been involved with the Vanport Mosaic Festival since its inception last year.

She was 12 when her family moved from the small town of Tallulah, Louisiana, to Vanport in 1944. Both of her parents worked in the shipyards and her father made extra money on Saturdays by giving haircuts for 25 cents a person. Her father, Ural Pete Moss was a church deacon at Vanport and also at the Vancouver Avenue First Baptist Church, one of the Portland area's historic African American congregations.

On some Sundays after church, Moss and her family went to Vanport's popular 750 seat movie theater.

The family made a home in a standard Vanport apartment on a street called Broadacres, close to Denver Avenue. For Moss, who had lived most of her life in the South, Vanport was a positive and eye opening experience.

In the South, where segregation and Jim Crow Laws imposed a social and economic rule akin to the vestiges of slavery, Vanport offered the young Moss the experience of acceptance for all races. At school, in the community centers, grocery stores and movie theater people could move and sit where ever they liked.

In an interview with the Portland Observer, Moss remembered her Vanport interactions as riendly. No one had to sit at the back of the bus and no one had to drink from a designated

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Bomb Explodes at Concert

A bombing struck an Ariana Grande concert in Manchester, England on Monday night killing 22 people, including children at a venue packed with young fans of the American musician.

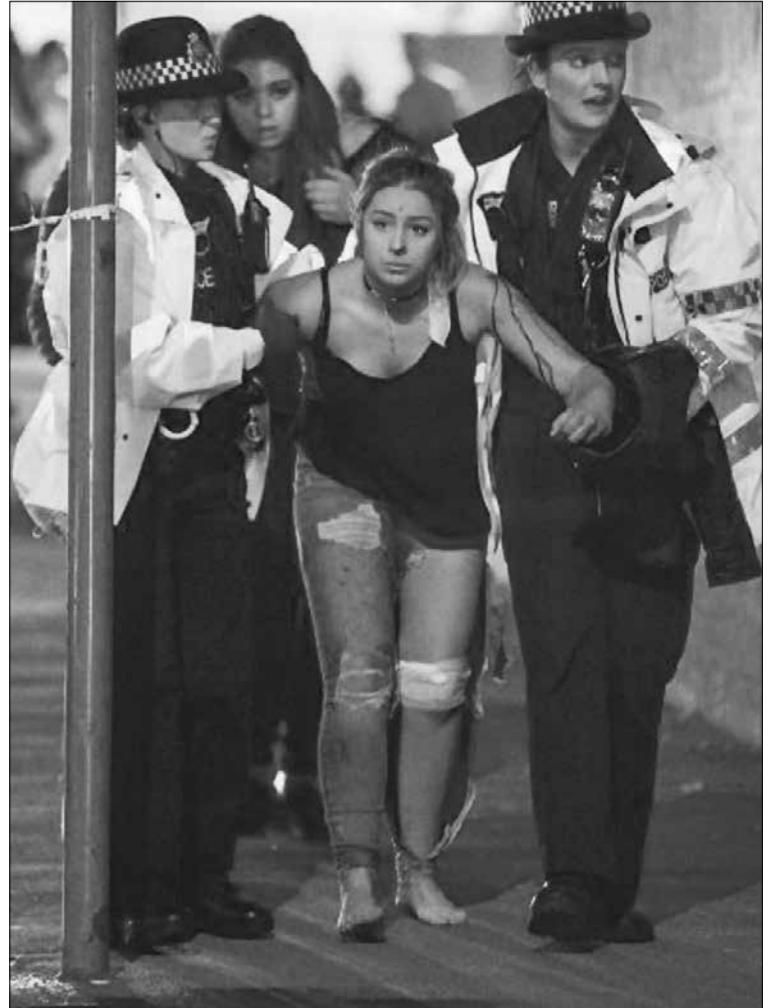
Parents separated from their children during the mayhem were told to go to nearby hotels, where many concertgoers had taken refuge. Grande was not injured.

The Islamic State has claimed responsibility for the bombing, the deadliest terrorist attack in Britain since 2005.

Salmon Abadi, 22, a man born and raised in Britain was identified as the suicide bomber. The device exploded outside a crowded exit as the concert ended.

Prime Minister Theresa May on Tuesday said Britain's threat level from terrorism has been raised to critical - meaning another attack may be imminent. The level previously stood at the second-highest rung of "severe" for several years.

May said critical status means armed soldiers may be deployed instead of police at public events such as sports matches.



A survivor from Monday's bombing at an Ariana Grande concert in Manchester, England. (AP photo)

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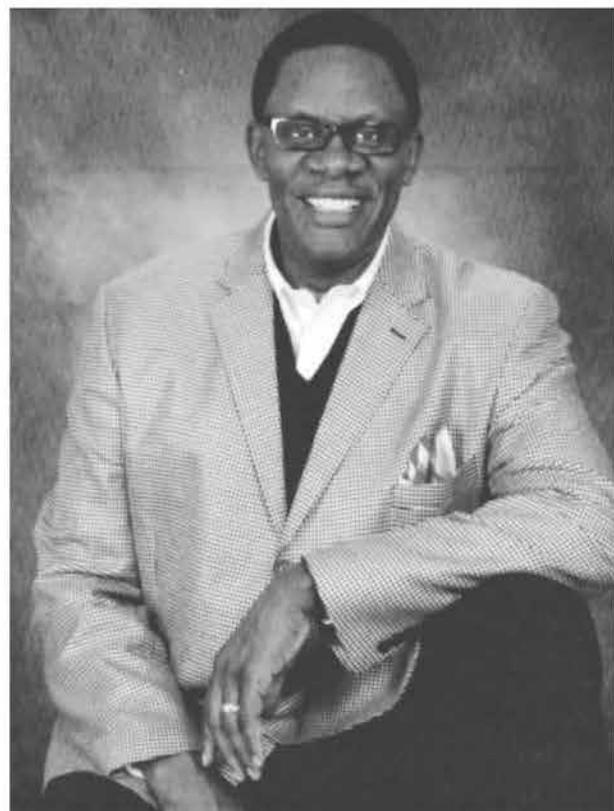
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What's on your list today?®



Portland Community College Professor James Stanley Harrison is the official historian for the Vanport Mosaic Festival.

On Vanport's History: Expert pens work about 'The Miracle City'

BY CHRISTA MCINTYRE
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Portland Community College Professor James Stanley Harrison is the official historian for the Vanport Mosaic Festival taking place this long Memorial Day weekend at multiple sites in north and northeast Portland.

In 1998, Harrison walked into Terrell Hall on the PCC Cascade Campus and saw a large photo exhibit about the deadly flood in 1948 that wiped out a city with a large black population near Portland called Vanport. It was the first time, although Harrison had spent decades as a historian in African-American history, that he heard of the city.

Harrison has been filling in the gaps by spending the last 10 years researching and writing a new comprehensive book about Vanport. His account, with a first draft expected by the end of the year, will add to the only one of official book on Vanport written in

the late 1980's by Manly Maben, a teacher from Vancouver who was a witness to the Vanport Flood and primarily relied on accounts from the Housing Authority of Portland.

While Professor Harrison believes it's not possible to tell the whole story of Vanport, also called "The Miracle City" in one book, his documentation is bringing new insights about Vanport through his extensive research of other historical documents and interviews with former residents.

One of the myths Harrison wants to dispel is that Vanport was built hastily.

His research found that two major construction firms in Portland built relatively solid structures at Vanport.

"Quickly constructed, yes. But hastily, the term which I have seen, has a different implication," he said.

Harrison said Vanport had one of the most efficient yards for building Liberty Ships during

World War II. Unlike earlier East Coast shipyards, Vanport had a team of welders, instead of riveters and they used a prefabrication assembly line method similar to the automotive factories that Henry Ford developed in Michigan. It would take an East Coast yard 6 months to finish one ship; Vanport once finished a ship in 14 days.

It wasn't just shipbuilding that changed, so did the opportunity for work. Before the war, black Americans could often find only menial jobs or employment as porters on the railway lines making around 40 cents an hour.

In Vanport, black workers learned a skilled trade on equal footing with other workers and could make up to \$5 an hour, which is equal to around \$12 an hour today. The first African American teachers in Oregon taught in Vanport schools and the first African American librarian in the state

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Portland Voters Pass Historic Bond

Portland voters delivered a decisive victory last week to a historic property tax levy to rebuild or remodel Benson, Madison and Lincoln high schools, Kellogg Middle School, and make health and safety repairs to nearly every school building in the district.

Passage of the \$790 million bond follows a similar measure approved in 2012 to support the restoration and modernization of the city's public education facil-

ities. The new measure will also be used to address lead in school drinking water, asbestos and other environmental safety concerns that have plagued a district with aging schools.

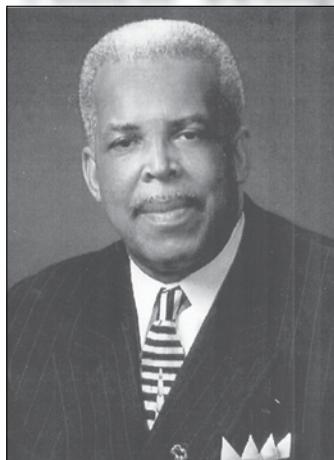
The vote-by-mail election also saw three new members elected to positions on the Portland Public Schools board. Rita Moore, Scott Bailey and Julia Brim-Edwards will claim their seats in July.

Moore, who has spent years act-

ing as a watchdog for the district and was endorsed by the teachers union, defeated widely endorsed new-comer Jamila Singleton Munson, a member of Portland's black community. Brim-Edwards, a Nike executive who previously served on the board from 2001 to 2005 will once again resume her seat, and Bailey will be bringing his two-decade's worth of experience working on the PPS budget and policy advisory committees to the board.

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Memories of Vanport

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

water fountain.

"They didn't care about my color. We played together. The teachers were just fabulous," she said.

Outside of Vanport, a different reality existed for the black community. Signs hung in nearby Portland store windows saying: "No colored allowed. We serve whites only."

Moss's mother would go once a month to shop at the now closed Newberry's store downtown and as a treat would buy chocolate covered peanuts from the restaurant, but said only white people could sit and eat at the lunch counter.

Moss recalls with fondness the school she attended in Vanport with her brother and sister. Moss was given the nickname Caldonia after the Louis Jordan hit and the neighborhood boys would tease her with a lyric from the song: "What makes your big head so hard?" She took regular classes and enjoyed electives like home economics, sewing and basketball.

An experience in gym class brought back the memories of segregation she learned in the South. She fouled a girl in a game of basketball and suddenly became terrified that she wasn't supposed to touch white people under the norms of prejudice so prevalent at the time.

"All that came back from when we were living in Tallulah," she said. "I had wrapped my arm around a post and the teacher came by and said 'What's the matter, Marge?' I told her, I touched the girl and the teacher said: "That's okay. That's okay. It's just a game. I couldn't get the message and could not let go of the pole, but the teacher was so nice

to me."

On Sunday, May 30, 1948 Moss was making dinner with her mother at home in Vanport, and her siblings were at the movies when the flood alarm began to sound. Her father rushed to the theater to grab the children and a dinner guest, who was one of the few to own a car, and they piled the Moss family inside the vehicle to escape to safety.

Once they reached Denver Avenue, Moss looked out at what was once the most welcoming town in her young life and saw the wooden houses uprooted and floating.

The family lost everything in the flood, except her mother's sewing machine, which she requested to be put in the car at the last minute. A city bus transported Moss and others to Boise School in north Portland which served as an evacuation center. She saw hundreds of people in tears, feeling lost and in shock. The government provided a more permanent shelter for the Moss family in an apartment near the Willamette River, but the location terrified her because it was so close to another river that was seen as dangerous because of high spring runoffs.

Moss says she suffered from post traumatic stress disorder for years after the Vanport flood, not from just witnessing the destruction, but also from losing a community that was open and inviting to her as a young African American girl.

"For us, Vanport was a good place to be," she said. "There are people who say it wasn't, unfortunately many of them are from the white community. But, the story is coming out now and I'm so proud to be a part of it."

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Residents flee the deadly devastation when the Columbia River breaks a railroad levy and floods the town of Vanport on May 30, 1948. (Photo courtesy the Oregon Historical Society)

Mosaic Festival

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

African American community relied for the most part on public transportation and the closest bus stop was two miles away. The wooden apartment buildings and their foundations were quickly picked up by floodwaters and floated away like match stick houses. People clung to the dark pitched roofs for their lives; parents waded through waist deep waters with children in their arms. Bodies floated down the Columbia River and in final reports, up to 17 lives were lost.

Options for relocating in Portland were difficult with racial discrimination and redlining practices in place and an already packed Albina neighborhood where black people were allowed to reside, but had few options to find homes.

The Vanport Mosaic Festival is designed to celebrate and preserve the individual stories and cultural nuances of Vanport with events throughout north and northeast Portland.

Performances of plays from the African American perspective will be at the Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center in tandem with a museum-quality exhibit of artifacts and photos collected from

former Vanport residents.

Oregon Public Broadcasting's documentary on Vanport, "Lost City, Living Memories," and another independently-produced documentary "Priced Out" capturing today's legacy of housing displacement, will be screened during the festival. Vanport authority and history professor James S. Harrison will lead an education workshop with other local academics on curriculum development for teaching the history of Vanport.

One of the festival's found-

ers and a self described story midwife, Laura Lo Forti will be hosting opportunities for Vanport and Albina residents to document their stories. Scheduled bus tours of Vanport are already sold out. You can download an app on your smart phone for self guided tours. There is also a bike tour and oral history performance titled "Gentrification is Weird." Most events are free or sliding scale. For a complete schedule of events and to make reservations, visit vanportmosaic.org.

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OPINION



A Sustained Attack against the Free Press

Journalists in Trump's crosshairs

BY PETER CERTO

How can you tell an authoritarian when you see one? We know the 20th century hallmarks — brown shirts, street rallies, and the like.

But there's an autocratic attitude, some historians suggest, that can easily be traced across the centuries.

To put it simply, New York University professor Ruth Ben-Ghiat told Democracy Now recently, "authoritarians believe that institutions should serve them, and not the other way around."

Just ask Jim Comey — who, as recently as October, might've been Donald Trump's favorite person.

Less than two weeks before the November vote, the now-former FBI director announced that he was reopening an investigation into one of Trump's favorite subjects: Hillary Clinton's emails. For that, Trump praised

Comey's "guts," while Clinton now blames Comey's announcement for costing her the election.

Trump seemed happy to accept that help. But in a twist, Comey also found the guts to investigate whether Trump accepted help from the Russians, too. For that, he was fired this month. "This Russia thing" was "a made-up story," Trump complained by way of explanation.

All that's explosive enough. Even more so was a subsequent revelation: That Trump had called on Comey to "let go" of an investigation into Michael Flynn, Trump's national security adviser who'd been ousted for lying about his own contacts with the Russians.

That little bombshell is now headline news all over. But buried in the New York Times story about that memo was another, less noticed bomblet: "Alone in the Oval Office," the paper reported, Trump said "Comey should consider putting reporters in prison for publishing classified information."

That's right: In addition to asking Comey to stop investigating his friend Flynn, the president called on the FBI director to ar-

rest journalists who published things Trump found unflattering. Perhaps including stories like this one.

Was this an impulsive request? Not likely. In fact, the administration appears to have been laying the groundwork for this for some time.

Take WikiLeaks. Trump once said he "loved" the group for publishing leaked Clinton campaign emails. But then it earned the White House's enmity by also publishing details about CIA hacking.

Trump's CIA director has since described WikiLeaks as "a hostile foreign intelligence service" and warned that "America's First Amendment freedoms" will not "shield them from justice." Attorney General Jeff Sessions is now trying to bring a case against the group's founder, Julian Assange.

While leaking classified information may be a crime, publishing it most certainly isn't — that's been protected by the Supreme Court since the early 1970s. In this respect, any charges brought against WikiLeaks could equally be brought against virtually every newspaper and TV station in the country.

Which, by all appearances,

is the idea. When CNN asked if the WikiLeaks case could lead to charges against other outlets, Sessions didn't bother to deny it.

Of course, this is all under the auspices of a candidate who called journalists "lying, disgusting people" and even wondered aloud about whether he'd kill them as president. (He ultimately said no, but seemed reluctant.) And it's the same White House that wants to sue journalists whose reporting it disputes.

But consider that Michael S. Schmidt, the Times reporter who broke the Comey memo story, happens to be the very same person who reported on Hillary Clinton's use of a private email server. Has anyone benefited more from that reporting than Trump?

It all depends on the headlines that come next, apparently.

They've surely been spotty about it, but in a democracy public institutions — from law enforcement to the free press — are supposed to serve the public, not the president. If Trump can't accept that, maybe he's the one who should be fired.

Peter Certo is the editorial manager of the Institute for Policy Studies and the editor of OtherWords.org.

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

Boosting Brain Power in Early Childhood

Simple and fun activities to share

BY MARIAN WRIGHT EDELMAN

What if boosting a toddler's brainpower was as easy as turning on a light switch? In fact, "Flip the Switch" is one of the simple activities suggested by Vroom, an initiative that provides creative tools and materials to help families turn daily interactions with children into "brain building moments."

On one side of an electronic "flashcard" Vroom describes this idea for children between six months and two years old: "Before leaving the house today, let your child be the one to turn off the lights. Help them flip all the switches and talk about how their actions turn the lights off for darkness and on for light."

On the reverse side Vroom explains the "brainy background" behind it: "This game teaches your child about cause and effect. When one of you hits the switch, your child will observe how the lights turn off and on. Have a conversation about what is happening so they learn some new words too."

Vroom, an initiative of the Bezos Family Foundation, is one of a number of initiatives across the country focused on empowering parents to boost early childhood brain development. The first five years of life are



the time of greatest brain development. Early nurturing interactions with caring adults form the basis of a healthy brain foundation. The strong case for increased federal investments for quality child care and other early childhood programs is bolstered by the great local work supporting families and communities in building healthy brains during children's earliest years of life.

A baby is born with a brain 25 percent as large as an adult brain. Researchers at the Institute for Learning and Brain Science at the University of Washington tell us that by the time she reaches her fifth birthday, her brain is already over 90 percent of the size of her mature brain. That startling period of growth in size is mirrored by the growth in neural connections needed to learn how to process information and build skills.

The Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University reports that in the earliest years of a child's life more than one million of these connections are formed every second, with simpler connections paving the way for more complex ones. These early connections build the foundation for children's future health, education and behavior.

Every time adults respond appropriately to a young child's calls for attention, they are helping build and strengthen neural connections and supporting the development of a strong brain foundation. The Center on the Developing Child refers to this quality

parent-child communication as "serve and return" interactions and says the absence of them is a "serious threat" to a child's development.

Following a 2011 conference by Dr. Ron Ferguson devoted to discovering what parents need to know to help eliminate skill gaps already evident at age two, an advisory committee of researchers came up with five "basics" all parents should practice with their children to support healthy brain development: Maximize love and manage stress; 2) Talk, sing and point; 3) Count, group, and compare; 4) Explore through movement and play; and 5) Read and discuss stories.

The Boston Basics Campaign is being infused throughout the Boston community — engaging health care providers, places of worship, libraries and museums, barber-shops, early childhood centers, and schools to ensure parents are saturated with information about how to support their child's brain development wherever they go.

Boston Basics demonstrates the potential for private organizations and government partners to come together in support of young children in a community. The Black Philanthropy Fund was instrumental in investing time and resources to lead the campaign, which is now being expanded to a number of other cities.

"Too Small to Fail," a joint initiative of the Clinton Foundation and the Opportunity Institute, launched the excellent public

awareness and action campaign "Talking is Teaching: Talk, Read, Sing," which uses books, parent videos, text messaging, and social media to share fun and easy ways for parents and caregivers to boost their child's early brain and vocabulary development. There are now "Talking is Teaching Word Gap" campaigns in dozens of cities across the country.

Just as the latest research shows that investments in quality early childhood programs generate an average annual return of more than 13 percent on every dollar invested, every effort made in boosting young children's brainpower — including the thousands of simple, fun, and free activities parents and caregivers can weave into everyday life — benefits all of us later on.

These important community initiatives are essential but cannot make up for needed public investments in programs that support children's early development. High-quality child care and other early opportunities are out of reach for too many children and families that need them but are also critical for further strengthening children's early brain development.

Healthy early child brain development is not a partisan issue. Congress should embrace the evidence and make the investments needed today to guarantee every baby has a strong start to ensure a strong America tomorrow.

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

Pleasing Wealthy Donors and Wall Street Corporations

Why Congress wants to cut your health care

BY CHUCK COLLINS

Members of the House GOP were in a hurry on May 4 to pass their bill to gut Obamacare. They rushed it through before anyone even had a chance to check its cost or calculate its impact on people's access to insurance.

Their urgency, however, had little to do with health care. The real reason for the rush? To set the table for massive tax cuts.

Indeed, the House health plan would give a \$1 trillion boon to wealthy households and pave the way for still bigger corporate tax cuts to come, as part of the so-called "tax reform" they're pushing.

Meanwhile, dismantling the Affordable Care Act will cause up to 24 million people to lose their health coverage, according to the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office. (Though even that estimate is based on the less ex-

treme version of the bill that failed to pass in April. The new plan may be even worse.)

Why would a GOP politician support an unpopular bill that fewer than 20 percent of voters think is a good idea? Why risk angry constituents showing up at town hall meetings?

Put simply, to please their wealthy donors and Wall Street corporations. For complex legislative reasons, repealing Obamacare's taxes on the rich first will make it easier for them to slash corporate taxes next.

As the "tax reform" debate begins, prepare for sermons about how cutting taxes for rich and global corporations will be great for the economy. Slashing the corporate tax rate, we'll be told, will boost U.S. competitiveness.

But if Congress were really concerned about the economy, policy wouldn't be driven by tax cuts. The real parasite eating the insides of the U.S. economy isn't taxes, billionaire investor Warren Buffett explained recently, but health care.

In fact, taxes have been steadily going down, especially for the very wealthy and global corporations. "As a percent of GDP,"

Buffett told shareholders of his investment firm, the corporate tax haul "has gone down." But "medical costs, which are borne to a great extent by business," have increased.

In 1960, corporate taxes in the U.S. were about 4 percent of the economy. Today, they're less than half that.

As taxes have fallen, meanwhile, the share of GDP spent on health care has gone from 5 percent of the economy in the 1960s to 17 percent today.

These costs are the real "tax" on businesses. As any small business owner can tell you, health care costs are one of the biggest expenses in maintaining a healthy and productive work force.

Yet the GOP bill will weaken health care coverage and regulation, which will increase costs and hurt U.S. companies.

U.S. employers, remember, must compete with countries that have superior universal health insurance for their citizens and significantly lower costs. While health care eats up 17 percent of the U.S. economy, it's around just 11 percent in Germany, 10 percent in Japan, 9 percent in Britain, and 5.5 percent in China.

No wonder Buffett concluded that "medical costs are the tapeworm of American economic competitiveness."

Buffett observed that the House health care bill would give him an immediate \$680,000 annual tax cut, a break he doesn't really need, while only allowing that tapeworm to bore deeper.

For all its limitations, the Affordable Care Act has expanded coverage and the quality of life for millions of Americans. It's also put in place important provi-

sions to contain exploding health care expenses, slowing the rise of costs.

The GOP plan to reduce coverage and deregulate health care will take us in the wrong direction. That's a pretty poor bargain for yet another tax cut for the richest Americans.

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.

The Law Offices of Patrick John Sweeney, P.C.

Patrick John Sweeney
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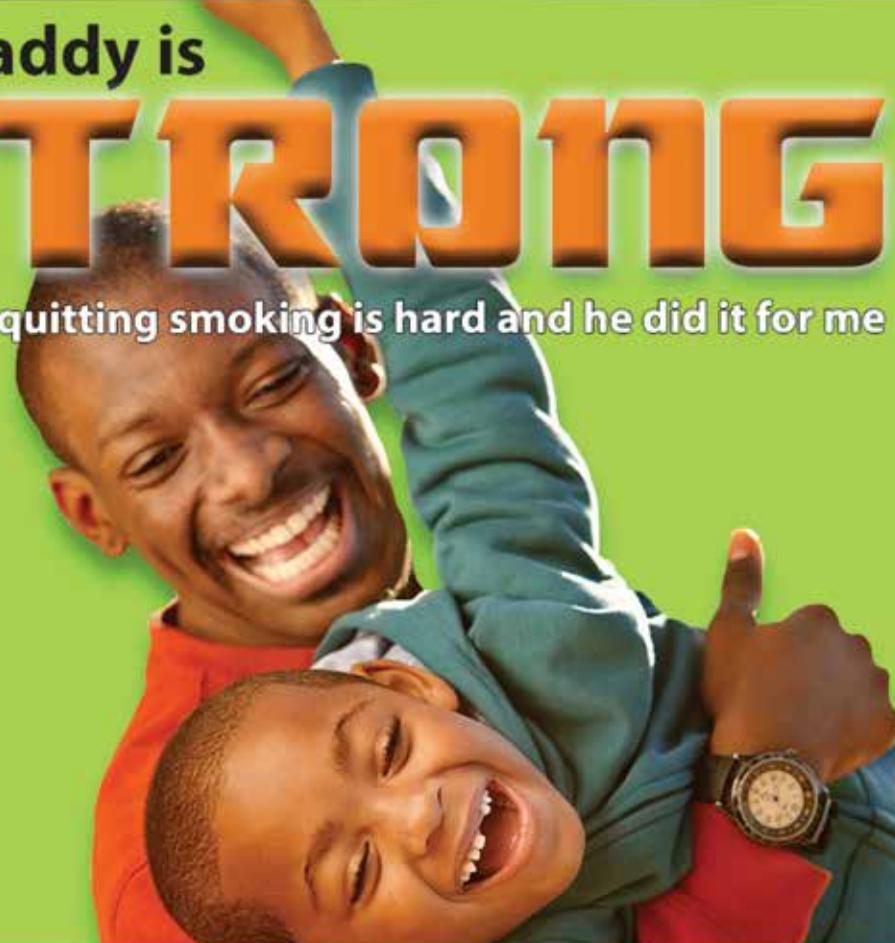
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Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

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Benefit Concert for Reo's Ribs

The Legendary Beyons, a Portland gospel group, will be doing a benefit concert on Saturday, May 27 at New Song Community Church for Reo Ribs and its employees after a recent fire gutted and closed the popular restaurant. Starting time for the concert will be 6 p.m. A \$5 donation will be welcomed at the door. MCs for the event will be Ms. Dana Lin from Phoenix, Ariz. and Portland's own Rev. J.W. Friday.

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PHOTO BY ANTONIO HARRIS

The cast of two plays about the housing, Hurricane Katrina and the American Dream take the stage this weekend for the Vanport Mosaic Festival honoring the struggle and resilience of people displaced from their homes from the African-American perspective.

In the Eye of the Storm

Vanport Mosaic plays take the stage

River levels soar to dangerous heights and break through inadequate manmade barriers, sweeping away a city, leaving a community without shelter, safety and a sense of belonging. The story could be

about the Big Easy succumbing to the forces of Hurricane Katrina more than a decade ago or the Vanport Flood in Portland a half a century earlier.

The Vanport Mosaic Festival this weekend presents two staged readings of one act plays performed by a talented cast of actors about displacement from the African American perspective.

“Hercules Didn’t Wade in the Water,” by Portland-based actor, writer and director Michael A. Jones and directed by Vanport Mosaic Co-founder Damaris Webb takes a look at the unfulfilled dreams of two men struggling to survive on a rooftop in the middle of Katrina.

“American Summer Squash” by Don W. Glenn and directed by Jocelyn Seid tells

the story of a church leader sheltering his congregation from a storm while reflecting upon the loss of culture.

Six performances will run at The Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center in north Portland from Friday, May 26 through Monday, May 29. Admission is sliding scale \$5-\$25. Visit vanportmosaic.org to reserve tickets.

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

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Oye Oya -- The Milagro Theatre presents the world premiere of "Oye Oya," a modern interpretation of Shakespeare's "The Tempest," that takes place in today's Cuba. Now playing through Saturday, May 27 at 525 S.E. Stark St. Admission is \$27 in advance, with discounts for students, seniors, veterans, groups, people with disabilities and people with the Oregon Trail Card. Visit milagro.org or call 503-236-7253.



Jam Night -- Kenton's Celebration Tabernacle and the Celebration Tabernacle praise team presents Jam Night, a family-friendly, hilarious show with sketch improv comedy and live music by Samantha Travis and Anders Johnson on Sunday, May 28 at 7 p.m. Free admission. For more information, visit [Facebook.com/jamnightpdx](https://www.facebook.com/jamnightpdx).



Portland Rose Festival -- The Portland Rose Festival's annual celebrations begin on Friday, May 26 with the opening of CityFair on the Tom McCall Waterfront Park; opening night fireworks will follow at 8 p.m. CityFair will be open for the Memorial Day weekend through Monday, May 29, and then reopen Friday, June 2. The Starlight Parade will take place on Saturday, June 3 beginning at 8:30 p.m. For more information on Rose Festival event, visit rosefestival.org.

Norman Sylvester -- 'Boogie Cat' Norman Sylvester plays Friday, June 2 at 8 p.m. at the Alberta Rose Theatre; Saturday, June 3 at 8 p.m. at the Merry Time Bar in Astoria; Friday, June 9 at 8:30 p.m. at the Trail's End in Oregon City; Saturday, June 10 at 9 p.m. at The Spare Room.

A Phenomenal Concert -- Some of Portland's finest musicians will be playing "A Phenomenal Concert," on Friday, June 2 at the Alberta Rose Theatre. The event is presented by Norman 'Boogie Cat' Sylvester. The special performance will celebrate the history of gospel and blues. Guests will include Chata Addy, LaRhonda Steele, Lenanne Sylvester, Tevis Hodge, Jr. and Bill Rhoades. Visit albertarosetheatre.com for tickets and more information.



Free Youth Fishing Clinics -- The Mt. Hood National Forest is hosting annual free fishing clinics for kids 12 and younger; Saturday, June 3 and Saturday, June 24. Bring lunch, warm clothing, a rod and reel if possible and a cooler to bring home your catch! For more information, call 503-630-8801.

Jefferson Dancers -- The Jefferson Dancers' Spring Recital will be taking place on June 1 at 7 p.m. at the Jefferson High School campus. The recital will showcase the troupe's accomplishments in jazz, tap, modern, African, ballet and hip hop. Tickets are \$6 for adults and \$3 for students and seniors. For more information, visit jeffersondancers.org.

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Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



Spring Recital A Night with the Jefferson Dancers

You're invited to a night of ballet, tap, hip hop, jazz and modern dance with the Jefferson Dancers, an elite, multi-ethnic troupe of 14-to-18-year-olds who attend Jefferson High School for dance training.

The Jefferson Dancers' Spring Recital will be held on Thursday,

June 1 at 7 p.m. in Jefferson High School's Robert Ford Memorial Auditorium. The squad has been performing in the Portland area and beyond for more than four decades.

Tickets are \$6 for adults and \$3 for students and seniors, and available at the door.

A call out is also out for future Jefferson Dancers. If interested, the troupe will be holding their 2017-18 auditions at Jefferson's dance studio the following week, on Friday and Saturday, June 5-6, from 3:30 p.m. through 6:30 p.m. For more information, visit jeffersondancers.org.



The splash pad at Peninsula Park on North Rosa Parks Way and Albina Avenue is a popular way to get cooled off on a warm day.

Splash Pads Open for Season

Portland Parks and Recreation turns on the water for splash pad features this long Memorial Day weekend, starting Friday, May 26.

Splash pads are located in parks across the city, and like the inter-

active fountains downtown, you can get wet and have fun! The only difference you'll notice is that they are located in our neighborhood parks, versus downtown parks and plazas like Waterfront Park. They

run through the end of September, from 11 a.m. to 9 a.m. daily.

A list of Portland Parks & Recreation park splash pads, plus the interactive fountains is available at portlandoregon.gov/parks.



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Dr. Charles Drew



12th Annual Community Blood Drive



Dr. Charles Drew Blood Drive

Saturday, June 17th, 2017

7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

American Red Cross Portland Blood Donation Center
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11:30 AM - 12:30 PM Discussion Panel
Guest Speaker: Marcia Taylor, Executive Director,
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Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



Performing in Portland's Kukatonon Children's African Dance Troupe inspires confidence in the participants and broadens their awareness of African and African American cultural traditions.



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End of Year Showcase

The Kukatonon Children's African Dance Troupe's End of the Year Showcase will be held on Friday, June 9 at 6:30 p.m. at Jefferson High School and the community is invited.

Kukatonon is a nonprofit community organization that has been expanding awareness of African and African American culture in Oregon for more than 34 years. The troupe provides tuition-free after school courses in West African drumming and dance, as well as classical ballet.

The organization reaches students in underserved communities, and provides Portland's diverse audiences with culturally rich community-based arts programming.

The showcase will feature performances by the Kukatonon dancers and drummers as well as guest performances from the West African dance company Sebe Kan and the African drumming ensemble Baramakono.

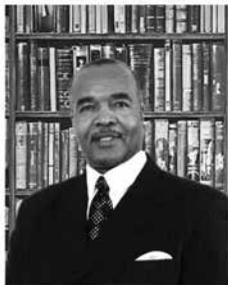
Tickets are \$12. Visit kukatonon.org for more information.

Mallory Church of Christ

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Sunday, June 4th thru Wednesday, June 7th 2017

Join us for Tribute to Our Father in Heaven



Bro. Frankie Lemons
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Theme: "Faith without Works is Dead" ~James 2:26

Sunday, June 4th

9:30 a.m. Bible Study
10:30 a.m. Morning Worship
Fellowship Meal: following morning worship services.
2:00 p.m. Celebration & Program.

Gospel Meeting 7:00 P.M.

Monday, June 5th 2017 to Wednesday, June 7th 2017

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7 P.M. - 9 P.M.
PAPA SMURF

9 P.M. - 12 Midnight
MIKE SHANNON

SUNDAY

12 Midnight - 3 A.M.
MIKE SHANNON

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

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

12 NOON - 1 P.M.
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Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

Vanport's History

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

worked at Vanport. The city had four African American police officers, as well.

"It changed the nature of work and boosted salaries if you're looking specifically at black people," Harrison told the Portland Observer.

"Before that about 90 percent of blacks in Portland worked with the railroad," he said. "There were very few professionals. In fact, there was only one black doctor who was brought in specifically to minister to the railroad workers, but also to anyone else in the city."

But Vanport wasn't a utopia for African-Americans, Harrison said. The Housing Authority of Portland, for example, imposed de jure segregation. Portland's fear of outsiders and racism influenced the attitudes many people and politicians took towards the city and its residents.

Harrison traces his interest in history to being a student in high school in Harlem when he poured over books by African-American authors like Harlem Renaissance writer and poet Langston Hughes. Author Frederick Douglass, an escaped slave who taught himself to read and became an advisor to presidents, became his personal hero.

He began doing his own research in African-American studies in college and graduated from Hunter College in New York in 1967. He taught for almost 20 years at Portland area high schools before becoming an instructor at PCC.

Stand Up Comedy Showcase

An actor and comedian making a splash on the national stage will land in Portland this holiday weekend for *Minority Retort*, one of two Hollywood Theater stand-up comedy showcases planned for this year featuring comedians of color.

David Gborie will perform on Friday, May 26 at 7:30 p.m. at the historic theater located at 4035 N.E. Sandy Blvd.

Gborie made his TV debut last year on the Viceland TV series *Flop House* and has since appeared on *Conan*. Originally from San

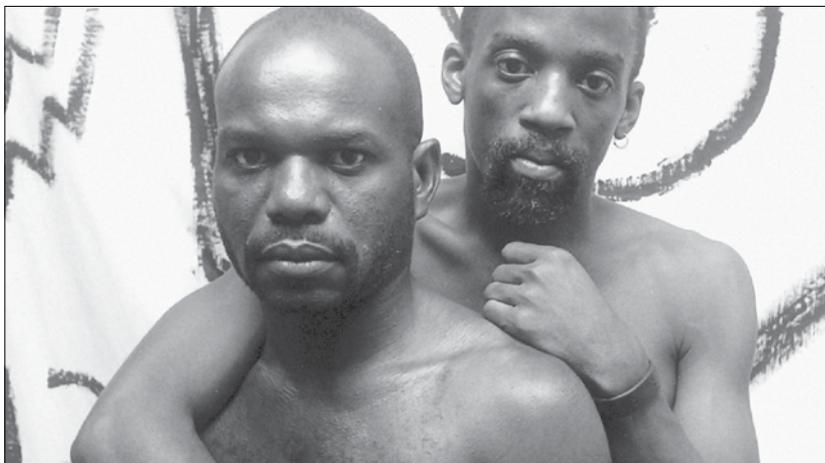
Francisco, he has appeared at The Bridgetown Comedy Festival, the SF Indie Fest, and Denver's Too Much Funstival, as well as the SF Punchline, The Denver Comedy Works, and other impressive venues.

Hosted by Jeremy Eli, the *Minority Retort* show will also feature popular Portland comedians Mohanad Elshieky, Debbie Wooten and Anthony Lopez.

Tickets are \$12. Call 503-281-1142 or visit hollywoodtheatre.org.



David Gborie



Touching and Heartbreaking

The NW Film Center at the Portland Arts Museum continues its 'Constructing Identity' black cinema series with a screening of 'Tongues Untied!' a 1990 documentary that is one of the most important films on black gay life in the U.S. Among filmmaker Marlon Riggs' touching and heartbreaking topics are remembrances of his own sexual awakening and of friends lost to AIDS. Shows on Saturday, May 27 at 4:30 p.m. For more info, visit nwfilm.org.



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CALENDAR May 2017

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
<div style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">22</div> Victoria Day in Canada Buy-A-Musical Instrument Day	<div style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">23</div> Peter Parnall born, 1936 Penny Day	<div style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">24</div> First Morse Code Message Sent from Washington DC to Baltimore, 1844	<div style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">25</div> ● National Missing Children's Day National Tap Dance Day	<div style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">26</div> Blueberry Cheesecake Day	<div style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">27</div> Ramadan Begins Golden Gate Bridge Opened in 1937	<div style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">28</div> Jim Thorpe Born in 1888
<div style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">29</div> Memorial Day John F. Kennedy Born in 1917	<div style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">30</div> Ice Cream Freezer Patented In 1848 by William Young	<div style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">31</div> Jay Williams born, 1981 World No Tobacco Day				

CLASSIFIED/BIDS

SUB BIDS REQUESTED

Multnomah County Health Department Headquarters Project

Sectional Door Re-Bid

Overhead sectional door

Bid Date: May 31, 2017 at 2:00 PM

Bid Documents will be available electronically at the following FTP site on May 17th

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HUD Waitlist

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The Maples II (503) 681-9096 (1BD)
Marion Street (971) 277-1296 (2 BD Only)
Taylor Street (503) 760-0928 (Studio, 1BD)
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Covington Commons (360) 892-6757 (1BD, 2BD, 3BD, 4BD)
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All information is current as of May 1ST, 2017

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS 3346

Metropolitan Exposition Recreation Commission Oregon Convention Center Construction Manager/ General Contractor

Bid Date: June 27, 2017 at 2:00 p.m.

Metropolitan Exposition Recreation Commission (MERC), an appointed commission of Metro, a metropolitan service district organized under the laws of the State of Oregon and the Metro Charter, located at 600 NE Grand Avenue, Portland, OR 97232-2736, is requesting proposals for Construction Manager/General Contractor (CMGC) for Plaza, Entries and Interiors at the Oregon Convention Center.

Metro is seeking proposals from qualified firms to perform services in a two-(2) step process; preconstruction phase services and construction phase services. With a construction budget of \$24 million, the scope of work includes improvements to the Plaza, Entries and Interiors as described in the solicitation documents.

A voluntary pre-proposal conference will be held at the Oregon Convention Center, Holladay Suites, 777 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Portland, Oregon on Thursday, June 1, 2017 at 10:30 a.m. Interested proposers and subcontractors are encouraged to attend the conference in order to gain information about the RFP requirements.

Sealed proposals are due no later than **2:00 p.m. June 27, 2017** in Metro's business offices at 600 NE Grand Avenue, Portland, OR 97232-2736, Attention: Julie Hoffman, Procurement Analyst, RFP 3346.

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

Metro may accept or reject any or all proposals, in whole or in part, or waive irregularities not affecting substantial rights if such action is deemed in the public interest.

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Metro and its contractors will not discriminate against any person(s), employee or applicant for employment based on race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, religion, disability, political affiliation or marital status. Metro fully complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes and regulations in all programs and activities. For more information, or to obtain a Title VI Complaint Form, see www.oregonmetro.gov.

SUB BIDS REQUESTED

OHSU CHH South

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Bid Package #16 - Block 28/Block 29 Interior Signage

Bids Due: June 5, 2017 @ 2:00pm

Bid Documents: www.hoffmancorp.com/subcontractors



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Administrative Technician, full-time, Oregon Convention Center, \$19.95 - \$26.95 hourly. Deadline date: June 5, 2017

These opportunities are open to First Opportunity Target Area (FOTA) residents: This area includes the following zip codes located primarily in N, NE and a small portion of SE Portland: 97024, 97030, 97203, 97211, 97212, 97213, 97216, 97217, 97218, 97220, 97227, 97230, 97233, 97236, and 97266, whose total annual income was less than \$47,000 for a household of up to two individuals or less than \$65,000 for a household of three or more.

Visit 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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The City of Portland, Bureau of Development Services invites applications for the position of City Planner II - Land Use. Salary \$31.44 - \$36.34. Recruitment opens May 22, 2017 and closes June 5, 2017. For details and to apply please visit www.portlandoregon.gov/jobs. The City values diversity and encourages everyone who is interested in employment with the City to apply - we are an equal opportunity affirmative action employer

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Obituary

In Loving Memory

B. J. Finleybranch

B.J. Finleybranch suffered a heart attack on April 27, 2017 and on May 3, 2017 slipped into the arms of the Lord Our Savior while surrounded by friends and family.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, June 3 at 2 p.m. at the Madeleine Parish Fireside Room, 3123 N.E. 24th Ave. Following the ceremony, friends and family are invited to celebrate and reminisce at McMenamins-Kennedy School, 5736 N.E. 33rd Ave.

Finleybranch was born on April 11, 1948 in New York City to Inez Brown and Westly Finley. Following the death of her mother, she was raised by her maternal aunt Lesley Warren, later attending and graduating from the High School of Commerce in Manhattan.

She married Harrison Branch Sr. and it was through that union that her only son, Harrison, was born. The family lived in various cities across the country, including New York, New Haven, Conn. and San Francisco before finally settling in Corvallis.

Following a divorce, she moved to Salem where she went on to earn a Bachelor of Science degree in corrections from Colegio Caesar Chavez in Mt. Angel in 1977. She then earned an academic fellowship and studied at Baruch College in New York City.

She had a long career in state and county government, including work as a corrections officer at the Lane County Jail in Eugene; serving an investigator for the Bureau of Labor Industries; as a certification manager for the state of Oregon; and holding positions with the Oregon Youth Authority; Parole and



Probation in Vancouver and Clackamas County.

Anyone who knew her knew she was an advocate who always taught and encouraged individuals to stand up for their rights. She was fearless when it came to fighting for social, legal, civil and political injustices. In 1980, she was appointed chairperson to Oregon's Commission on Black Affairs by the late Gov. Victor Atiyeh.

She was very spiritual and enjoyed cooking, fishing, camping and going to the beach. She enjoyed watching her favorite movies and TV shows like Downtown Abbey and The Big Bang Theory. She also raised several four footed family members that she loved dearly, including Grizzly, Symone, Liam and Kacio (recently adopted).

She was a volunteer on the Multnomah County Citizen Involvement Committee; vice chair of Elders in Action; and served at several Catholic parishes, including Madeleine, where she was a member, and St. Charles and St. Andrew, also in northeast Portland. She was also a past member of Sigma Gamma Phi Sorority. Inc.

She was preceded in death by her parents; maternal aunt Rebecca Cobb; maternal uncle Norman Brown; and beloved pets Grizzly and Symone.

She leaves to mourn her passing, son Harrison Branch, his wife Annisa, and grandchildren Rianna, Nyah and Dylan Branch of Oregon; sister Michelle Hardy and her husband Emanuel of Westbury, N.Y.; maternal aunt Lesley Warren of Holly Hill, S.C.; paternal aunt Jane Rienzie and her husband Louis of Columbia, S.C.; as well as a host of cousins, other family members and friends who loved her.

Cremation services have been provided by Farnstrom Mortuary in Corvallis.

In Loving Memory



Charles "Joyce" Clardy

Charles "Joyce" Clardy died May 6, 2017. She was born Oct. 16, 1942 in Jersey, Ark., to Sterling Hampton and Maxcine Johnson.

She graduated from Manual High and Vocational School in Kansas City, Mo., and moved to Portland, in 1966 to further her education. She worked a number of odd jobs before landing a permanent position with Oregon Adult and Family Services, where she retired after 35 years of service. She was a loyal steward of

First A.M.E. Zion Church.

Funeral services will be held Wednesday, May 31 at 11 a.m. at First A.M.E. Zion. A public viewing will take place one day prior, on Tuesday, May 30 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Terry Family Funeral Home.

For more information, visit terryfamilyfuneralhome.com or call 503-249-1788.

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SUBMIT NOMINATIONS BY MAY 21st

CONTACT: Co-Chairpersons

Rev. Rhonda L. Smith • (971) 801-3406
Email: rhondiva3@gmail.com
or Sister Regina Green • (503)282-9813
Email: rgreen6025@gmail.com

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FOOD

Roasted Asparagus



Ingredients:

- 2 pounds fresh asparagus
- Good olive oil
- Kosher salt, and Freshly ground black pepper

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees F.
2. Break off the tough ends of the asparagus. Place asparagus on a baking sheet, drizzle with olive oil, then toss to coat the asparagus completely.
3. Spread asparagus in a single layer and sprinkle liberally with salt and pepper.
4. Roast the asparagus for 25 minutes, until tender but still crisp.

IERNVAULT
 LEGAL SERVICES

EFREM LAWRENCE, ESQ.
 Attorney at Law

efrem@iernvault.com
 503-293-3550

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