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### Remembering Vera Katz

Three term tough but tender  
mayor broke barriers

See Local News, page 3



# Portland Observer

Volume XLVI • Number 50



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Wednesday • December 13, 2017



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Sita Symonette has helped make waves in equity and inclusion during her five year tenor on the board of Planned Parenthood Columbia Willamette. Now she's the first African American woman to chair the board in its 54 year history.

# Driving Healthcare Equity

## First African American to chair Planned Parenthood chapter

BY DANNY PETERSON  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Planned Parenthood Columbia Willamette has a new chair, small business owner and health care practitioner Sita Symonette, the first African American woman to lead the board in its 54 year history.

Symonette, the operator of Black Pearl Acupuncture in

downtown Portland, was serving as a board member for the reproductive health center since 2012 and vice chair since 2015, when the board last month elected her to lead the nonprofit's governing panel.

"To step into this role is wonderful," Symonette told the Portland Observer. "I'm really honored and humbled to be able to serve."

Planned Parenthood provides affordable sexual and reproductive health care with services that can range from contraception to screenings for sexually transmitted diseases and breast cancer. Narrowing the disparities in healthcare services among women of color is one of Sy-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

# The Week in Review

## Attempted Terror Attack

A man who later told police he was supporting the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria and was inspired by the group, strapped an improvised explosive device to his body and it partially exploded in an underground passageway at a major commuter hub in New York City Monday morning, injuring himself and three other people, officials said.

## Bill Ringer Collects \$10K

Salvation Army bell ringers may seem like they're collecting sparse change, but last week an anonymous donor placed \$10,000 in \$100 bills into one of the nonprofit's red kettles at the Hollywood Fred Meyer on Northeast Weidler Street, the largest donation put in a single Salvation Army kettle ever collected in Portland.



## Police Officer Sentenced

Michael Slager, a white former South Carolina officer, was sentenced to 20 years in prison last week for fatally shooting Walter Scott, an unarmed black driver in 2015. Slager pleaded guilty to violating Scott's civil rights in the case which was



a rallying cry for the Black Lives Matter movement.

## Women Accuse Trump

Three women who've accused President Trump of sexually harassing or assaulting them before he came to the White House demanded a congressional investigation Monday, "People are being held accountable, except for our president," said Jessica Leeds, who said Trump tried to force himself on her, including reaching under her skirt, during a plane ride more than 30 years ago. Yet "his staff made a big point of calling us all liars," she said.

## Franken Out; Contrasts Response

Minnesota Sen. Al Franken said Thursday he will resign in the coming weeks after a number of his Democratic colleagues called for him to step down amid allegations of sexual misconduct against women. He contrasted the response to those against Donald Trump and Alabama Senate candidate Roy Moore, who also face sexual harassment claims.

## Accused of Union Busting

A group of New Seasons Market workers are accusing the Portland grocer of retaliating against them and hiring a "union-busting" consulting firm. The complaints were outlined in a Thursday letter and come just over a month after workers announced they are attempting to organize a union for better working conditions.

## Warming Shelters Open

Lingering cold temperatures and freezing windchill prompted emergency warming shelters in the Portland area to open their doors Monday night. Folks at risk of exposure to extreme weather conditions can call 2-1-1 to get assistance to be transported to warming shelters in Portland and Gresham.

## Fires Devastate California

Ash fell like snow and heavy smoke had residents gasping for air Monday as a huge Southern California wildfire exploded in size again, becoming the fifth largest in state history and driving celebrities from a wealthy hillside enclave. Tens of thousands have fled their homes.



When Rep. Al Green, D-Texas introduced a resolution in Congress last Wednesday to impeach President Trump for associating his presidency with causes rooted in bigotry and racism, none of Oregon's delegation to the House, including all four Democrats would support it. (AP photo)

# Impeachment Vote Fails But Trump behavior cited in resignation calls

BY MICHAEL LEIGHTON  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Accusing President Trump of misdemeanors for associating his presidency with causes rooted in bigotry and racism did not generate any vote for impeachment from Oregon's House delegation last week, but allegations of sexual harassment against the president have now led Oregon's two U.S. senators to ask Trump to resign.

Merkley joined their Democratic caucus members Bernie Sanders of Vermont, Cory Booker of New Jersey and Kristen Gillibrand of New York to say publicly that the president should play a political price for his alleged sexual indiscretions. They also called for a congressional investigation.

Since his campaign for election last year, more than a dozen women have accused Trump of varying degrees of sexual misconduct over the decades, from groping to unwanted kissing, accusations that he has denied.

Last Wednesday, a black Democratic lawmaker from Texas

Sens. Ron Wyden and Jeff

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5



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# The INSIDE

The Week in Review page 2



METRO page 9



Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

pages 7-11



OPINION pages 12-13

CLASSIFIEDS pages 14

CALENDAR page 15

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What's on your list today?™



Former Portland Mayor Vera Katz died Monday at the age of 84 after a long illness. Katz broke gender barriers to become Oregon's first female House speaker, and deployed a tough-but-tender political style to also win three terms as Portland mayor. (AP/Rick Bowmer file photo)

## Vera Katz Remembered

### Three term mayor broke barriers; had tough but tender style

Vera Katz, a former three-term Portland mayor and first female speaker of the Oregon House of Representatives who died Monday after a long battle with complications from cancer is being remembered as a politician who broke gender barriers and deployed a tough-but tender political style to advance her priorities.

Katz was a one-time stay-at-home mom from the 1960s who was inspired to politics by listening to Robert F. Kennedy talk about the poor and disadvantaged. She volunteered with Kennedy's 1968 presidential campaign and went on to serve a combined

30 years in the Oregon legislature and Portland city government.

She broke the all-male restrictions at exclusive social organizations, espoused progressive causes such as gender equality and gay rights long before they were main stream, and helped shape modern-day Portland.

"I'm truly saddened to hear of the passing of Mayor Vera Katz, one of the strongest and most respected leaders our city has ever had," said Portland Commissioner Dan Saltzman. "As Mayor, she never took 'no' for an answer. She was incredibly visionary, thoughtful and tenacious on a wide range of civic issues, and I greatly enjoyed and respected her leadership all the years we overlapped on Portland City Council."

U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden of Oregon called her as an

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

## First Equity Director Resigns

The first director of a Portland office charged with removing barriers in government for Portlanders of color and people with disabilities is leaving his post.

Dante J. James announced his resignation last week saying he planned to move to Colorado to reunite with his family.

James was hired in 2012 to run the newly created office of Equity and Human Rights. Under his leadership, the office elevated the discussion and awareness of racial issues in the city in order to reduce disparities.

"Dante's work was instrumental in creating the budget equity



Dante J. James

tool and our plan to enhance equitable workforce development in city construction projects through our Community Equity and Inclusion Plan, which was unanimously adopted by City Council this year, among many accomplishments," said Mayor Ted Wheeler. "His leadership at the helm of OEHR will be sorely missed."

Wheeler has named Koffi Dessou, currently equity and business operations manager in the equity office, as interim bureau director. Dessou's contributions to the city include creating the city's equity training and education program.

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# Driving Healthcare Equity

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

monette's top priorities.

"Making sure that people have access to high quality health care, and that includes birth control, is so important for our communities, Right. I mean, in the long run, it keeps the community much more healthy if we can have preventative care," Symonette said.

Jimmy Radosta, Planned Parenthood's local media relations director, said reproductive health-care disparities are rampant among women of color. Latinas, Native Americans, and African Americans have higher rates of cervical cancer than other groups and African-American women have the highest incidence rate of breast cancer among women younger than 45. Cervical and breast cancer screenings are one of the organization's flagship services and 40 percent of their patients are people of color, Symonette said.

Some of the other services Planned Parenthood provides are emergency contraception, fertility, sexually transmitted infection testing, pregnancy testing and counseling, well checks, sexual education, abortion care (which accounts for 6 percent of their services), and emergency and preventative contraception medicine.

Back in October, the Trump administration rolled out a mandate which gives all employers, not just religious institutions, the option of not covering employees' birth control medicine on the grounds of religious or other beliefs—a move that overturned an Obama era mandate from the Affordable Care Act.

Planned Parenthood advocates said this could cause as many as 360,000 women to lose coverage of birth control medicine in Oregon in 2018, despite Oregon's Reproductive Health Equity Act passed in August. The law will expand Oregonians' access to no-

cost reproductive health services like contraception and prohibits discrimination in the provision of those services, but won't fully go into effect until 2019, hence the gap in coverage.

According to a 2011 report from the Guttmacher Institute, 58 percent of women have used contraceptive medicine, at least in part, for health needs other than pregnancy prevention, including endometriosis, fibroids, menstrual regulation, and polycystic ovarian syndrome, which is prevalent among women of color.

Besides the Planned Parenthood headquarters in northeast Portland, the local chapter has clinics in southeast Portland, Beaverton, Bend Milwaukie-Oak Grove, Salem and Vancouver. 94 percent of its over 72,000 annual patient visits are for preventative sexual health care like birth control, annual exams, screenings for breast and cervical cancer, HIV testing and counseling, and safer sex counseling. 83 percent of Planned Parenthood patients are also low income.

As a health care practitioner herself, through her acupuncture business, Symonette said she saw a need for people of color to receive culturally competent care.

"I'm a black, queer woman, so I have a personal investment in making sure that we're an equitable and inclusive organization," Symonette said.

Symonette has overseen an expansion of services during the time she has served on the board. She supported and advocated for Planned Parenthood to start providing transgender hormone replacement therapy for people 18 or older, for instance, which just began within the last couple of years. That therapy started at the clinic-level, Symonette said, and then-CEO Stacy Cross also advocated for it. It was later voted in by the board as an official service

offering. And thanks to the Reproductive Health Equity Act's anti-discrimination component, more access to health services like this, as well as cancer screening, will be made available to trans people.

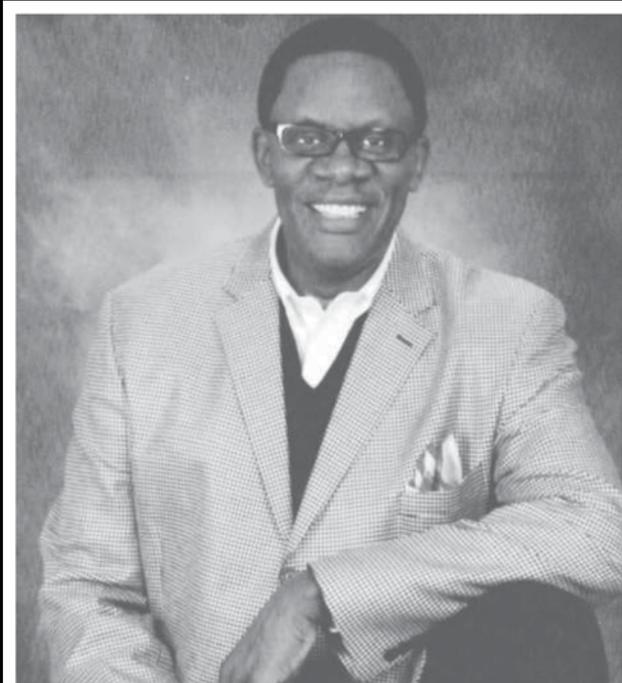
"We provide confidential care and non-judgmental care. And I think a lot of people come to us for that. You know, you might not feel comfortable going to your primary care doctor to get, um, trans-hormonal care, but maybe you're more inclined for Planned Parenthood because you know that we're so supportive of our communities that we serve," Symonette said.

Other services added in the last five years include prenatal care and telemedic services, which is when patients can video conference a doctor or nurse practitioner, for things like prescription refills, remotely.

Symonette has personally advocated for diversity within the organization, promoting African Americans, members of the LGBTQ community, Native Americans, Latinos, and Asians as board members and creating two equity and inclusion positions, both of which were met with support from her fellow board members.

She holds a bachelor's degree in biological psychology from Western Washington University and participated in federally funded neuroscience research while there. She also has a master's degree in acupuncture and Oriental medicine from Oregon College of Oriental Medicine and her practice specializes in women's health-care; fertility, anything related to menstrual cycles, and menopause. She has a 7 month old child with her wife, Lai-Lani.

"I'm the first woman of color to chair this board. It's important for us to see ourselves in places of leadership. I think that that is part of health equity," Symonette said.



Dr. Billy R. Flowers

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Clark College in Vancouver opens the McClaskey Culinary Institute, a modern facility providing healthy dining options and space for its culinary arts curriculum.

## Clark Opens Culinary Institute

### College facility for training and healthy dining

Clark College in Vancouver launched a new era when it hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony last week for the Tod and Maxine McClaskey Culinary Institute.

The modern, 20,615-square-foot facility provides a variety of fast, fresh, and healthy dining options for students, faculty, staff and the community, while also becoming home to the college's Cuisine Management and Pastry Arts program which was restarted this fall after years on hiatus.

The new space features three kiosks, a full-ser-

vice baking retail store and barista bar, and grab-and-go items. Next year, a fourth kiosk and student-run restaurant will open.

"We are so excited to be opening the McClaskey Culinary Institute and bringing food service back to the college," said Genevieve Howard, dean of Workforce, Professional and Technical Education. "The institute provides education for students, nutritious meals for students, and a great place for the community to come in and be part of Clark College."

## Impeachment Vote Fails

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

failed to win a majority in Congress on a vote to impeach President Trump for associating his presidency with racism.

According to a tally by Associated Press, Oregon Democrats Earl Blumenauer, Suzanne Bonamici, Peter DeFazio and Kurt Schrader joined Republican Greg Walden to kill the impeachment resolution, which was tabled on a 364-58 vote.

To back his claim, Green cited incidents such as Trump's blaming

both sides for violence at a deadly white supremacist rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, and his recent sharing of hateful, anti-Muslim videos posted online by a fringe British extremist group.

Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., and Minority Whip Steny Hoyer, D-Md., said in a statement after Green's measure was defeated, that while legitimate questions have been raised about Trump's fitness to lead the nation, they argued "now is not

the time to consider articles of im-

peachment."

Afterward, Green said the vote would not deter him from trying again. He said he was already working on additional articles of impeachment.

"I didn't lobby anybody. I didn't ask anybody, but I'm grateful for those who did vote with the Constitution. I assure you, it's a process and this was a step in the process," Green said.

Pelosi has said any impeachment drive should wait until there's evidence of an impeachable offense.

--Associated Press contributed to this article.



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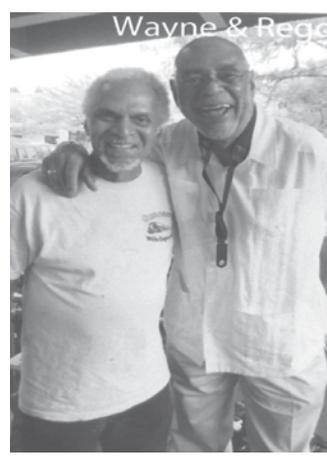



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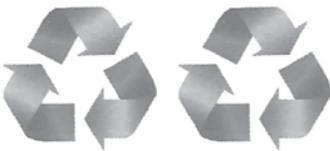


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With multi-sport style helmets in a variety of colors for adults and children, Legacy Emanuel Medical Center will host a free and reduced price bike helmet program on Saturday to promote safety and reduce the risk of injuries.

## Nurses Distribute Helmets Saturday

Trauma nurses at Legacy Emanuel Medical Center in partnership with Oregon trial lawyers and other volunteers will distribute multi-sport style helmets in a variety of colors for adults and children in need at discount prices

on Saturday to promote safety and reduce the risk of injuries.

The helmets will be available for just \$6 and volunteers will be available to fit and adjust the helmets for free, hospital officials said. The Legacy Emanuel Trau-

ma Nurses Talk Tough program, supported with donations from the Oregon Trial Lawyers Association, takes place Saturday, Dec. 16 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the medical center, located at 2801 N. Gantenbein Ave.



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## Vera Katz Remembered

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

“indomitable woman” critical to Oregon’s legacy as a liberal leader.

Multnomah County Commissioner Loretta Smith, only the second black member ever elected to county government, said Katz set a high bar for women in elected office.

“She held to forge the path forward for women and people of color,” Smith said. “Her storied civil rights record is likely the result of her family’s own persecu-

tion. As a child her family fled the Nazis by crossing over the Pyrenees Mountains by foot. This legacy of strength in the face of adversity stayed with her throughout her career and has been a source of inspiration for me.”

Oregon Minority Leader Jackie Winters, a black Republican from Salem and business owner, said she was deeply saddened to hear of Katz’ death.

“She was truly pioneering leader,” Winters said. She will be dearly missed.”

Congressman Earl Blumenauer said he will miss Katz’ constructive criticism, counsel and friendship.

“Vera was bold, shrewd, determined smart and an amazing role model. Our city would not be what it is without her,”

During her tenure as mayor, Katz was known for overseeing the development of several Portland landmarks, including development of the Pearl district, the Portland Streetcar, the Eastbank Esplanade, and the Moda Center.

She is survived by her son Jess, a Los Angeles journalist, and her former husband, Mel Katz.

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# Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

## Fronts Brass Ensemble Concert



LaRhonda Steele will be the guest performer for Sunday's Big Horn Brass holiday concert at Mt. Hood Community College.

Portland's First Lady of the Blues, LaRhonda Steele, will be the guest performer when Big Horn Brass, the Northwest's premier brass ensemble, performs "The Night Before Christmas," a snappy and sassy holiday show

Best Female vocalist, the concert is an annual tradition presented by the Portland Columbia Symphony. Admission is \$10 for youth and \$25 for adults.

Tickets available at [columbiasymphony.org](http://columbiasymphony.org) or by calling 503-234-4077.

coming Sunday, Dec. 17 at 3 p.m. to the Mt. Hood Community College theater in Gresham.

Featuring 13 shining pieces of brass and percussion playing holiday favorites, and Steele, the 2016 Muddy Award winner for

## Obituary In Loving Memory



### Willesha Elene Wade

Services for Willesha Elene Wade of Portland, who died Dec. 1, 2017, will be held Thursday, Dec. 14 at 11 a.m. at New Song Community Church, 2511 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

She was born Dec. 17, 1979 in Klamath Falls, and worked as a nurse at OHSU in the Mother and Baby Unit.

She will be greatly missed.

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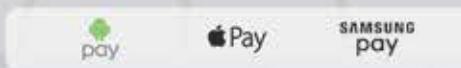
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The Safeway Winter Wonderland holiday light show, powered by Advantis Credit Union, continues every night at Portland International Raceway with donations supporting food and clothing assistance programs.

## Raceway Holiday Light Show

The annual Winter Wonderland holiday light show at Portland International Raceway in north Portland now operates as a fundraiser for the food and clothing assistance programs of the Portland Police Bureau's Sunshine Division. Spectators can enjoy the most

impressive drive-through light show in the region, viewing over 250 colorful light set pieces and many fully animated scenes from the comfort of their own vehicle. and Advantis Credit Union provide funding support as event sponsors.

The show operates from 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Sundays through Thursdays; and 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; throughout the holidays. A detailed schedule of events can be seen at [winterwonderland-portland.com](http://winterwonderland-portland.com).

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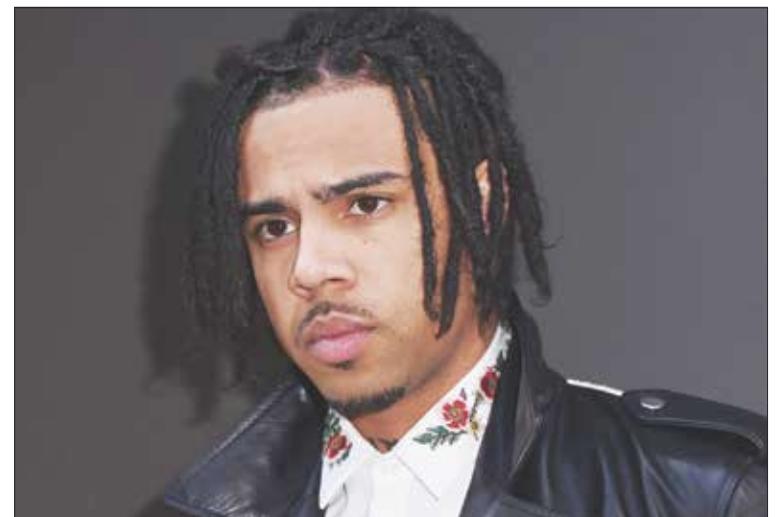
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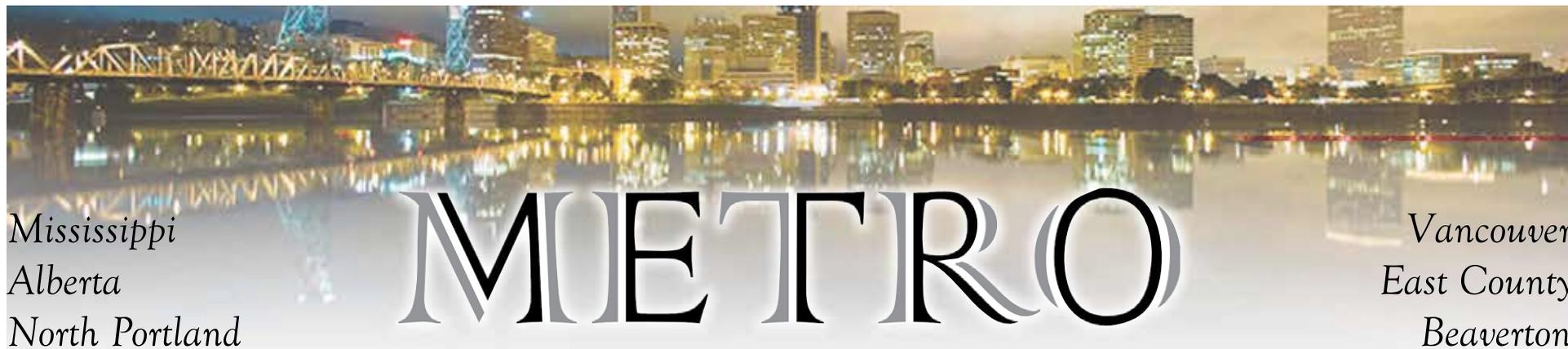
## Jay-Z Protégé to Open Moda Show

Vic Mena, a Jay-Z and Kanye West protégé and one of the most outspoken and socially conscious rappers out right now, is opening for Jay-Z at the Moda Center on Thursday, Dec. 14. Jay-Z is one of the best selling musicians of all time. Mena is a rapper from Chicago who is known for speaking out on systems of oppression, race, the economy and mental health.

He is currently signed to Roc Nation and was a member of the group Kids These Days. He is founder of the hip-hop collective Savemoney which includes frequent collaborator Chance the Rapper.



Outspoken and socially conscious rapper Vic Vensa will open for Jay-Z in Portland on Thursday, Dec. 14 at the Moda Center.



Mississippi  
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# METRO

Vancouver  
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PHOTO BY BRUD GILES/PORTLAND PLAYHOUSE

The diverse northeast Portland-based theater group Portland Playhouse presents 'A Christmas Carol' with shows running through Dec. 30 at the Hampton Opera Center, 221 S.E. Caruthers St.

## A Fun, Festive Favorite

Portland Playhouse presents 'A Christmas Carol'

"A Christmas Carol," the tale of Ebenezer Scrooge's transformative journey of redemption, a mainstay of Portland Playhouse's annual season five years running, is back for the holidays, a fun, festive and family favorite

featuring a diverse cast from a theater group based in northeast Portland.

"For us, A Christmas Carol provides an amazing access point," says Portland Playhouse co-founder and Artistic Director Brian Weaver. "Maybe this is the one play a family sees together every year. Maybe it is someone's first experience with theatre, like it was mine. My grandmother took me to see A Christmas Carol when I was five, and it was my

first introduction to the wonder of live theatre. Why not make this the most engaging and magical experience possible?"

This year's show provides an intimate, heart swelling experience; live music and song performed by a strong, diverse cast of professional actors; members of the Portland Playhouse Apprentice company; and shining new stars in the roles of the Cratchit children.

New for the production will be the staging of "A Christmas Carol" at a different venue. Due to major renovations happening at Portland Playhouse's theatrical home in the former Mt. Sinai Baptist Church building in the King neighborhood, the show will be taking up residence in the Hampton Opera Center's performance space located at 221 S.E. Caruthers St. Shows run through Dec. 30. For tickets, visit [portlandplayhouse.org/acc](http://portlandplayhouse.org/acc).

# Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



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and your kitty will be pretty.*



Mary J. Blige stars in the new motion picture 'Mudbound.'

## Blige Nominated for 'Mudbound'

(AP) - Mary J. Blige is dancing into the Golden Globe Awards as a double nominee - for her acting and songwriting. Blige earned nominations Monday for her work in the Dee Rees' period film "Mudbound." She's up for best supporting actress in a motion picture and best original song for "Mighty River," which she co-wrote.

"I feel so good. I've been thanking God all morning long. I've been up since my phone has been ringing," the 46-year-old singer said.

"Mudbound," released on Netflix last month,

follows two neighboring families - one black, one white - on a hardscrabble farm in 1940s Mississippi. Blige plays the role of Florence Jackson, a mother and sharecropper's wife.

Blige, who grew up in New York, said trips to the South to visit her family also helped her connect to the character: "I would see my grandmother and my aunts and they were this woman Florence, so I saw this woman a lot. I think I probably have her in my DNA."

The 75th annual Golden Globes will air live on Jan. 7.

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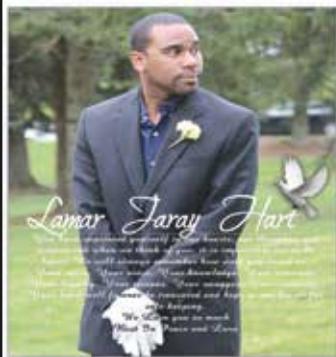
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## Brave Hero Emerges in 'Paranorman'

Young Norman bravely summons up all that makes a hero—courage and compassion—as he finds his paranormal activities pushed to their otherworldly limits in 'Paranorman,' an Academy Award nominee for Best Animated Film by Portland's Laika studios. The Northwest Film Center presents a screening of the feature film on Sunday, Dec. 17 at 2 p.m. the Portland Art Museum, downtown.

# Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

**Black Nativity** -- Portland's African American PassinArt theater group presents Back Nativity, poet Langston Hughes' retelling of the classic nativity story in song. Shows Friday and Saturday, Dec. 15 and Dec. 16 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 17 at 3 p.m. at The Greater St. Stephen Missionary Baptist Church, 3605 N.E. Mallory Ave.



For tickets, visit [passinart.org](http://passinart.org) or JP's Custom Picture Framing & Gallery or Dean's Beauty Salon and Barber Shop, or call 503-235-8079.

**Celebrate with Whole Foods** -- The holiday season is definitely not the time for added stress and complications. At Whole Foods Market, 1210 N.W. Couch St, you will find a holiday table with staff who are ready to assist and make your holiday life easier. This table is your "Holiday Central" where you can order everything from a turkey to dinner rolls to a full holiday meal.

**Zoo Lights for the Holidays** -- Amazement from more than 1.6 million brightly colored lights is an experience you don't want to miss as ZooLights, the Oregon Zoo popular walk-through winter wonderland, is now showing through the holidays. To purchase online tickets, go to [oregonzoo.org/zoolights](http://oregonzoo.org/zoolights).



**Norman Sylvester** -- 'Boogie Cat' Norman Sylvester plays Friday, Dec. 15 at the Vinyl Tap; Saturday, Dec. 16 at the Half Penney in Salem; Friday, Dec. 22 at the Rogue Pub in North Plains; Saturday, Dec. 23 at Clyde's and Sunday, Dec. 31 at CatFish Lou's.



**Holiday Breakfast Theater** -- The Peppermint Bear and the Giant Elf star in an all-new version of Lakewood Theater's Holiday Magic Breakfast theatre program. Performances at 11:30 a.m. in the Lakewood Center for the Arts in Lake Oswego on Dec. 16, 17, 22 and 23. There will also be 9:30 a.m. shows on Dec. 16, 22 and 23. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$12 for students. Advance reservations are required by calling the box office at 503 635-3901 or order online at [lakewood-center.org](http://lakewood-center.org).

**Christmas Tree Permits** -- You can skip the lot and explore the forest while finding this year's holiday tree. The Gifford Pinchot National Forest east of Vancouver is selling \$5 personal-use Christmas tree cutting permits, which include a map of cutting areas and instructions for cutting trees. For more information, call 360-891-5001.

**Christmas Ships Parade** -- View the annual parades of Christmas Ships by visiting the M. James Gleason Memorial Boat Ramp on the Columbia River across from the Portland Airport. Parking is \$5. The holiday tradition featuring boats decorated with festive lights, parades will be visible from the boat ramp from 6 p.m. to 7:45 p.m., weather permitting, on Wednesday, Dec. 13; Thursday, Dec. 14; Friday, Dec. 15; Tuesday, Dec. 19; Wednesday, Dec. 20 and Thursday, Dec. 21.



**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?"

**Zoo for All** -- The Oregon Zoo has launched "Zoo for All," a new discount program that provides \$5 admission for low income individuals and families. Visitors may purchase up to six of the \$5 tickets by bringing a photo ID and documentation showing they participate in low income service, like the Oregon Trial Card, Medicaid, Section 8, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, and Head Start.

## ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

**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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TOM JOYNER

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

10 A.M. - 1 P.M.  
REV. AL SHARPTON  
(KEEPING IT REAL)

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

12 Midnight - 3 A.M.  
MIKE SHANNON

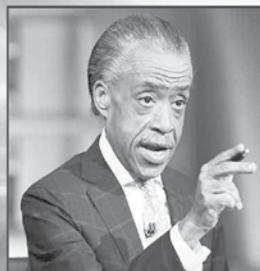
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TOYA BEASLEY

6 A.M. - 12 NOON  
SUNDAY MORNING GOSPEL  
W/ANGELA

12 NOON - 1 P.M.  
HIGHLAND C.C. LIVE  
BROADCAST

1 P.M. - 4 P.M.  
PAPA SMURF

4 P.M. - 12 Midnight  
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# OPINION

## Black Identity Extremists Who Don't Exist

### Resisting the FBI's new racial targeting

BY DR. MAULANA KARENGA

It is the wisdom of the ancestors that "if you know the beginning well, the end will not trouble you." Therefore, when we receive news that the FBI released a so-called "intelligence assessment" pretending a threat from a group of "black identity extremists" that doesn't exist, we need not be shocked, shaken or even surprised.

For throughout history, it has been the devious way of oppressors to deny and divert attention from their own brutal oppression by constantly indicting and dehumanizing the oppressed. It is also their way to justify practices of repression already in place and to signal and drum up support for policies to be intensified and expanded to deal with black dissent, defiance and resistance.

The FBI report, issued Aug. 3, is titled "Black Identity Extremists Likely Motivated to Target Police Officers." It claims to be a report alerting the country to an emerging threat from "black identity extremists" who are ideologically motivated to retaliate for "perceived police brutality" against black people.

Rep. Karen Bass, D-Calif.,



however, did a masterful job in questioning U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions about it at a House Judiciary Committee hearing and read it into the record.

She gave him no quarter as he hemmed, hawed and hedged, dissembled, pretended and demonstrated ignorance, and sought sanctuary in feigned confusion and mercy requests to be allowed to review and submit answers in writing later. She forced him to admit there

are unjustly labeled as extremists and subjected to surveillance and harassment. And she requested that he "essentially roll back what is listed in this report. Because it's not accurate."

The "sad chapter of our history" reference is from the Counter-intelligence program (Cointelpro) of the 1960s and 70s. Initiated in the 50s, it became especially focused on us as a people in the 1960's when J. Edgar Hoover, director of the FBI, established it as a program to crush black resistance.

Hoover listed as his essential

tration and disruption; invasive surveillance; legal and extra-legal harassment and violence; media myth-making, attacks and disinformation.

As a result of this classification, targeting and attacks, we suffered police suppression, political imprisonment on trumped up charges, and were forced underground and in exile in other countries as other groups.

Surely, this new FBI report is a beginning variation on the Cointelpro, revived with greater technological capacity for dis-

ruption and disinformation; attack on black identity and black people, making us all suspects and offenders and subject to the harshest measures, especially activists.

It is also, then, to criminalize and discourage black resistance, an attempt to intimidate and terrorize activists and potential activists, sowing fear, doubt and heightening concern for safety, security and stigmatization for work, career and life. It is also an attempt to redefine the emerging overarching black movement for racial and social justice as extremist rather than righteous struggle against injustice and oppression. And finally, it is an attempt to shift attention from state-sanctioned white supremacist and police violence against black people and to justify increased police presence and repression in the black community.

History and hard lessons of life and struggle have taught us there is no substitute for freedom and justice with dignity. Safety and security come not from resignation, but resistance; not from conceding in silence, but confronting in audacious and effective ways; and not from surrender to evil, injustice and oppression, but from united righteous and relentless struggle on every level and every battlefield and battleline.

*Dr. Maulana Karenga is professor and chair of Africana Studies at California State University-Long Beach; executive director of the African American Cultural Center; creator of Kwanzaa; and an author.*

*Surely, this new FBI report is a beginning variation on the Cointelpro, revived with greater technological capacity for disruption and disinformation, and in a climate of seeded and cultivated racialized fear and hatred, conducted by a man at the top of the heap addicted to name calling, dog whistles to racists and early morning twiddling and tweeting.*

is no evidence of any black identity extremist group which has targeted police; that there are white groups who do this and that the government has written no similar report on "white identity extremists"; and that "activists around the country are very concerned that we are getting ready to repeat a very sad chapter in our history where people, who are rightfully protesting" injustice,

aims "to expose, disrupt, misdirect, discredit or otherwise neutralize black nationalist organizations." And to "neutralize" still carries with it an open-ended range of means to achieve its end. Above all, he wanted to prevent our unity, he said, because "in unity there is strength."

Black nationalist groups were identified, targeted and subjected to various forms of assault; infil-

tration and disinformation, and in a climate of seeded and cultivated racialized fear and hatred, conducted by a man at the top of the heap addicted to name calling, dog whistles to racists and early morning twiddling and tweeting.

It might seem to be about one group, but it is actually about the black community. It is a continuation of racializing crime and criminalizing the race, and thus an

## Empowering Young Adults to End Social Injustice

### Tomorrow's leaders form alliance group

BY BASMA ISMAIL

Now that hate crimes are on the rise, minorities suffer the most. Although they have affected all minorities, the spike has been obvious against Muslims, Jews and LGBTQ communities in 13 major US cities including New York, Los Angeles, and Phoenix.

A national survey by the U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics found that between 2004 and 2015, there were likely a staggering 250,000 hate crimes each year in the country, the majority of which go unreported to police. If no change takes place, then our nation will

continue to suffer the loss of its young men and women.

Within 10 days of elections earlier this year, the Southern Poverty Law Center tracked 900 bias-related incidents against minorities. In 2016, the year of the presidential campaign, in what some analysts call the visible tip of the iceberg of hate, the FBI reported more than 6,000 such incidents. Only a few of them resulted in conviction and reporting was agency-voluntary with at least 2,000 police bureau's submitting no information.

One of the scariest days in modern US history was the white supremacist event on Aug. 12h with protestors chanting "white lives matter" and "blood and soil". A speeding car rammed into anti-racist protestors the second

day of the event killing 32-year-old Heather Heyer and injuring 19 others. Two state troopers were killed upon a helicopter crash and the city of Charlottesville declared a state of emergency.

What is needed is empowering young adults with education, resources and the tools necessary to make the change which is overdue. By empowering them and providing them with knowledge, we are eliminating bigotry and hatred as we teach and take leadership in our communities and use these incidents as teachable moments.

We can teach our neighbors, our classmates and our families what it means to be different and eliminate fear. We can replace violence with peace and bring justice too many if directed in the

right direction.

Momentum Alliance is an organization that empowers as well as prepares youth of all races and ethnicities to realize their strengths and mentors youth to become the future's social justice leaders. Some of the practices taught at the organization are: "Diversify decision-making in the public, private and non-profit sectors; alter relations of power; and make systems more equitable, demonstrate effective, ethical leadership and ally ship, take collective action and impact individual, cultural, political and systems change."

It's time for all young men and women in this country to learn how to make a difference in someone's life. Together we can prevent 250,000 incidents from

being repeated or a loved one from becoming another statistic.

Let's replace hate with action and knowledge instead. Knowledge is power and the more knowledge we have the better we can help as well as protect ourselves and everyone around us from bigotry.

You can make a difference. You can change laws. Contact [MomentumAlliance.org](http://MomentumAlliance.org) for more information about their free summer camps along with other resources available to help you become tomorrow's leader.

The time for change is now. Every day that goes by without a change is another day of hate crimes being committed.

*Basma Ismail is a Conflict Resolution student at Portland State University.*

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# Race Disparities Analyst Fired

A Multnomah County employee tasked with researching racial disparities has lost her job.

Amanda Lamb, a criminal justice analyst, was fired last week for publicly presenting data the county said she wasn't authorized to release, county human resources officials confirmed.

According to the Portland Tribune, Lamb created an interactive "dashboard" that allowed users to examine in-depth how criminal charges result in different outcomes for defendants of different ethnicities and presented her findings publicly at a national conference in Las Vegas in October.

Word of the presentations triggered backlash from District Attorney Rod Underhill, judges, and her county employer and she was placed on administrative leave last week before ultimately getting terminated on Friday, the Tribune reported.

Last year, Lamb was laid off from the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office by then-Sheriff Dan Staton immediately following a report she completed that found disparities in how corrections deputies in the county's jail applied use of force. Staton said the report was faulty and promised a redo of it by an outside organization, but it was never done, and Staton resigned shortly after.

## SUB BIDS REQUESTED

### Portland International Airport (PDX) Parking Additions and Consolidated Rental Car Facility (PACR) Electrical Trade Partner

JE Dunn Construction invites written and sealed proposals for qualified Trade Partners to provide preconstruction and design-assist services for Electrical Work on the PACR project. Upon successful preconstruction participation, the intent is to award the Trade Partner a contract to furnish and install the Electrical scope of work

**Proposals due 2:00pm PST January 5, 2018**

A pre-proposal meeting will be held at the Port of Portland HQ, Anchor Conference Room, 7200, NE Airport Way, Portland, OR 97218 on December 13, 2017 at 10:30am PST. Any Proposal received after the specified date and time will not be considered.

A complete copy of the RFP can be obtained by emailing Robert Means at [Robert.Means@jedunn.com](mailto:Robert.Means@jedunn.com).

Proposals must be delivered to JE Dunn Construction, Attn: Robert Means, 424 NW 14th Ave, Portland, OR 97209.



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## December 2017

MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY SUNDAY

### CALENDAR

<p>1 Eat a Red Apple Day <b>Rosa Parks Day</b> <b>World AIDS Day</b></p>	<p>2 <i>David Macaulay</i> born, 1946 National Fritters Day <i>Artist Georges Seurat</i> born, 1859</p>	<p>3 ○ International Day of Persons with Disabilities National Roof-Over- Your-Head Day</p>	<p>4 National Cookie Day Wear Brown Shoes Day Phonograph Invented (1877)</p>	<p>5 <i>Walter Elias (Walt)</i> <i>Disney's Birthday</i> born, 1901 <i>Montgomery Bus</i> <i>Boycott</i> (1955)</p>	<p>6 Mitten Tree Day St. Nicholas Day 13th Amendment abolishing slavery, ratified (1865)</p>	<p>7 Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day (1941)</p>	<p>8 National Brownie Day <i>Inventor Eli Whitney</i> born, 1765</p>	<p>9 <i>Ball-Bearing Roller</i> <i>Skates Patented in</i> 1884 First Christmas Seals Issued in 1907</p>	<p>10 ◐ Human Rights Day <i>Emily Dickinson</i> born, 1830</p>	<p>11 National Noodle Ring Day UNICEF Anniversary Pilgrims landed on Plymouth Rock (1620)</p>	<p>12 <b>Hanukkah Begins at Sundown</b> Poinsettia Day</p>	<p>13 National Cocoa Day <i>Susan B. Anthony</i> dollar coined in 1970</p>	<p>14 <i>First Miniature Golf</i> <i>Course Opened, 1929</i> <i>South Pole</i> Discovered in 1911</p>	<p>15 Bill of Rights Day Underdog Day <i>David McCord</i> born, 1897</p>	<p>16 <i>Beethoven's Birthday</i> (1770) Boston Tea Party Anniversary (1773) Las Posadas</p>	<p>17 Ludwig van Beetho- ven baptised (1770) Wright Brother's First Flight (1903)</p>	<p>18 ● Wear a Plunger On Your Head Day <i>Baseball great Ty</i> <i>Cobb</i> born, 1886</p>	<p>19 <i>Eve Bunting</i> born, 1928 Oatmeal Muffin Day <i>Dickens' A Christmas</i> <i>Carol</i> published, 1843</p>	<p>20 Games Day <i>Electric Light demon-</i> <i>strated in 1879</i></p>	<p>21 <b>First Day of Winter</b> Humbug Day Look at the Bright Side Day National Flashlight Day</p>	<p>22 First Christmas Lights sold in 1882 <i>Mercury Thermome-</i> <i>ter</i> Invented in 1714</p>	<p>23 Roots Day <i>Federal Reserve</i> <i>System</i> established (1913)</p>	<p>24 <b>Christmas Eve</b> National Egg Nog Day <i>Apollo 8</i> reached the moon (1968)</p>	<p>25 <b>Christmas</b> National Pumpkin Pie Day</p>	<p>26 ◑ Boxing Day <b>Kwanzaa Begins</b> National Whiners Day</p>	<p>27 Visit the Zoo Day <i>World Bank</i> created (1945)</p>	<p>28 Card Playing Day National Chocolate Day</p>	<p>29 <i>Texas</i> became the 28th state (1845)</p>	<p>30 <i>Tiger Woods</i> born, 1975 <i>Author Rudyard</i> <i>Kipling</i> born, 1865</p>	<p>31 <b>New Year's Eve</b> <i>Artist Henri Matisse</i> born, 1869</p>
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Happy Holidays from the staff at  
The Portland Observer

# FOOD

## Farro Stuffing with Butternut Squash

### Ingredients:

- 4 cups unsalted chicken stock (such as Swanson)
- 2 cups uncooked farro
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 cups diced peeled butternut squash
- 1 cup chopped red onion
- 1 cup thinly sliced carrot
- 3/4 cup thinly sliced celery
- 3/4 cup almonds, toasted and coarsely chopped
- 3/4 cup chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley
- 1 tablespoon fresh thyme leaves
- 1 tablespoon minced fresh sage
- 1 1/4 teaspoons kosher salt
- 1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper



*Earthy flavors and starchy comfort come from whole-grain farro, not bread, in this nontraditional stuffing. You can assemble up to 2 days ahead. Take out of the fridge, let stand at room temperature 45 minutes, then bake at 350° for 25 minutes or until thoroughly heated. 15 minutes prep time, 40 minutes total time.*

### Directions:

1. Bring stock and farro to a boil in a large saucepan; cover, reduce heat, and simmer 25 minutes or until farro is al dente. Drain in a colander over a bowl, reserving cooking liquid.
2. Heat a large nonstick skillet over medium heat. Add oil; swirl to coat. Add squash, onion, carrot, and celery; sauté 5 minutes. Stir in 1/4 cup reserved cooking liquid. Reduce heat to low; cover and cook 7 minutes or until vegetables are tender. Stir squash mixture into farro mixture. Stir in almonds, parsley, thyme, sage, salt, and pepper. Spoon into an 11 x 7-inch glass or ceramic baking dish. Cover and keep warm until ready to serve. Stir in additional reserved cooking liquid as needed just before serving.

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