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# Portland Observer

Volume XLVII • Number 5



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PHOTO BY DANNY PETERSON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Deep community ties and a personal connection to the neighborhood helps Natasha Butler understand the needs as she plans for the reopening of Harriet Tubman Middle School. Butler is the planning principal for the north Portland school which is scheduled to open this fall.

## Tubman's Revival

### Educator with deep community ties plans school's future

BY DANNY PETERSON  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Natasha Butler's extensive resume and experience in education and school administration might make her more than qualified as the planning principal for the re-opening of Harriet Tubman Middle School this fall. But the personal connection she has to the area and the

north Portland school in particular can't be replicated in just anybody's repertoire.

Butler sees the opportunity to strengthen community ties and support for a robust program at Tubman. The plans are part of a larger effort by Portland public Schools to bring equal access and quality academic programs to schools across the district.

"I have two younger brothers that were in education that actually attended Harriet Tubman. And my dad owned a business right on Williams Avenue. And so as a result of that, I used to come to Harriet Tubman quite

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# Measure 11 Impacts on Youth Severe

## Civil rights panel calls for changes

Oregon incarcerates young people and transfers them to adult court at a higher rate than almost any other state, according to a report released Tuesday by the Oregon Council on Civil Rights. In fact, Oregon youth face incarceration rates significantly higher than in Texas and Louisiana.

The report "Youth and Measure 11: Impacts of Mandatory Minimums," includes specific reform recommendations for a more effective, fair and science-informed approach to youth involvement in the justice system.

A key finding from the study shows that Oregon's harsh sentences haven't kept pace with modern brain science. Although research suggests that the brain

doesn't fully develop until a person's 20's, Oregon's rigid mandatory minimum sentences leave little room for a young person's capacity to change.

Young people of color are disproportionately harmed by Oregon's criminal justice system: In 2012, black youth were 26 times more likely to be indicted of a Measure 11 crime than their white counterparts.

In addition, the costs of Oregon's system are high. The state can spend as much as nearly \$100,000 a year per child to incarcerate Measure 11 offenders. The impact on young people can sometimes feel like a de facto life sentence, with lack of access to stable housing, higher education and employment due to barriers that impact their lives long after they have served their term.

"Youth charged under Measure 11 — even those who do not receive an adult sentence — face lifetime



Dr. Alisha Moreland-Capuia

barriers to education and employment," said Labor Commissioner Brad Avakian. "Oregon's juvenile justice system brings high costs and poor outcomes. We should modernize our approach to better prepare young people to have a meaningful life after release."

Dr. Alisha Moreland-Capuia, a

physician, scholar and executive director of the OHSU Avel Gordly Center for Healing, stressed that while our understanding of brain science has changed, Oregon policies have not.

"Brain science tells us that for youth, the brain is still 'under construction,'" said Dr. Alisha Moreland-Capuia. "Young people lack the skills to effectively navigate an adult criminal justice system that disrupts the development process at a critical stage. Oregon should join the many other states in recognizing the role of brain development in criminal justice reform."

The Oregon Council on Civil Rights' policy recommendations include making prosecution data, such as demographic data of youth referred to prosecutors' offices, publicly available to support evidence-based policymaking.

Youth charged under Measure 11 should not be automatically

moved to adult court, but instead a judge should weigh the unique facts of the case before removing a young person from the juvenile system, the panel concluded.

Other suggestions include granting youth a chance for a second-look hearing after serving 50 percent of a sentence and boosting investment in anti-poverty safety net programs that promote family stability and decrease future involvement with the criminal justice system.

"Oregon can do more to improve public safety outcomes while giving young people a chance to thrive," said Roberta Phillip-Robbins, chair of the Oregon Council on Civil Rights. "We hope to be a force to adjust our misguided approach to youth and Measure 11. It's clear that we can make better use of taxpayer resources while improving public safety and reducing recidivism in communities around the state."

## The Week in Review



to get out and fight the flames from the outside.

### Amtrak Engineer Missed Post

Federal investigators say the engineer at the controls of the Amtrak passenger train that derailed south of Seattle needed to slow down before taking a curve over I-5, but missed posted warning signs. The National Transportation Safety Board released the investigation update Thursday, more than a month after the Dec. 18 derailment that left three people dead and dozens injured.

### Skippping State of the Union

Earl Blumenauer opted to skip President Trump's first State of the Union address Tuesday night, but sent Portland "Dreamer" Aldo Solano instead, a local resident who stands to lose his legal status if Congress doesn't negotiate an extension or permanent fix to the Obama administration's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, which expires March 8.

### Apology to Black Journalist

Housing and Urban Development official with strong ties to the President has apologized for calling a member of the press "Miss Piggy" on Twitter last week. The now-deleted tweet from Lynne Patton, a HUD administrator, was aimed at April Ryan, the black Washington bureau chief of American Urban Radio Networks who also is a CNN political analyst.



### Cleveland Drops Logo

The Cleveland Indians are finally parting ways with their Chief Wahoo logo. In an announcement from the league office on Monday, beginning in 2019, the team's jerseys will no longer feature the Native American caricature, which has been widely characterized as offensive and racist.

### Jeff Name Change Debate

A neighborhood generated discussion on changing the name of Jefferson High School drew some passionate arguments during a meeting Monday night at the North Portland Library. Jefferson graduate Clifford Walker, a local black historian and activist, objected to a public high named after a former slave owner. Others warned about a gentrified community erasing Jefferson's current history and said they would prefer if neighbors would focus on supporting and improving the school.

### Oil Terminal Permit Rejected

Amid the concerns of more oil trains and the potential for spills, Washington Gov. Jay Inslee rejected a permit for a massive oil-by-rail terminal proposed at the port of Vancouver Monday. Inslee said he agreed with the recommendation of a state energy panel, which voted in November to deny the application.

### Business Center Up in Flames

A fire destroyed several business housed inside the Macadam Center in southwest Portland Sunday night. People working in a call center noticed smoke coming from an elevator shaft and called 9-1-1. By the time fire fighters got there, the fire had already weakened the building so much that fire fighters had

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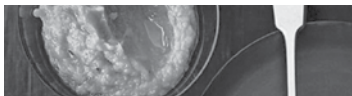
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This page  
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# Fred Meyer

What's on your list today?



Portland Community College students and staff cut the ribbon to mark the official opening of the Dream Center on the Rock Creek campus. The new resource is geared to help immigrants and refugees focus on empowerment, support and staying enrolled in school.

# Dream Center Opens

## New resource for students facing barriers

A long-held dream to help immigrant and refugee students facing unique barriers by providing them with resources that focus on empowerment, support and staying enrolled in school, has come to fruition with the opening of the Dream Center at Portland Community College's Rock Creek campus in northwest Portland. Aimed at helping undocumented and Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) students and their families, the first-of-its-kind center at any

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

# Graduation Rates Rise and Fall

## Gaps persistent despite recent gains

BY DANNY PETERSON  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

New data shows the graduation rate is improving in Portland Public Schools except for black and African-American students, which as a group saw a three percent decline in how many students finished high school last year.

The figures released from the Oregon Department of Education, also show that statewide, the black and African-American graduation rate increased by 1.5 percent during the same period. For Portland, the overall graduate rate increased for the eighth year in a row, by 2.5 percent, jumping from 76.7 to 77.9 percent. Superintendent Guadalupe Guerrero said that was "encouraging."

But Guerrero acknowledged persisting achievement gaps between historically under-

served populations, a trend that's also reflected state wide.

"Clearly, we have more work to do to accelerate student outcomes and narrow achievement gaps," he said.

In the Portland district, the economically disadvantaged students' graduation rate only improved by 0.3 percent, while statewide the rate improved by 2 percent compared to last year.

A 2015 report by economists at ECONorthwest estimated that Oregon is losing out on nearly \$2 billion of revenue per year because of its lack of programs and progress in closing an achievement gap affecting Latinos, African Americans, and Native Americans in public schools.

Other reports have shown high quality preschools, mitigating summer learning loss with year-long education programs and hiring top performing teachers can help close the achievement gap for disadvantaged groups.

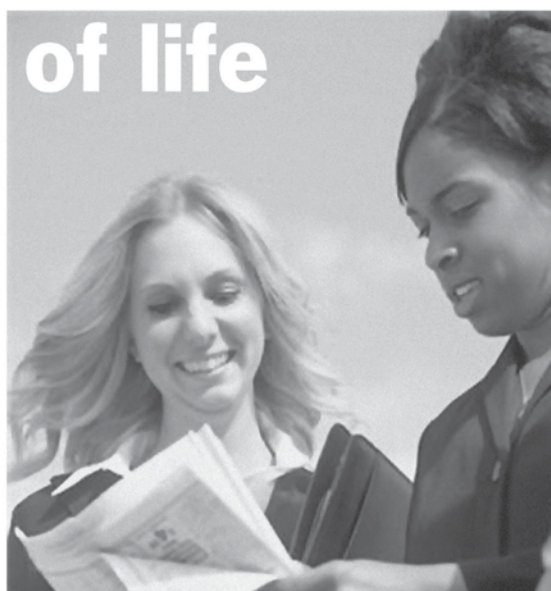


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## Dream Center Opens

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Oregon community college or university officially opened Jan. 22, made possible through a \$50,000 grant from the Meyer Memorial Trust.

Liliana Luna, Rock Creek Multicultural Center coordinator and a DACA recipient, said PCC has long recognized that undocumented and DACA students face unique barriers that require additional mental, emotional and financial support.

The idea for the new resource came from the students. They wanted to ease pressures on DACA recipients by taking down barriers to financial assistance and the navigation of college resources. Under the supervision of the campus' Multicultural Center, the students came up with a plan, did exhaustive research, and presented their final concept to college leadership.

"They met with me in my office two years ago and told me,

"This will happen," recalled Rock Creek President Sandra Fowler-Hill of the students' determination. "I'm so proud of their work."

The opening of the center fits into PCC's mission. Last year, the college's Board of Directors declared the institution a "sanctuary college" to aid and protect undocumented students.

President Mark Mitsui emphasized concerns about the impact of potential changes in federal immigration policy on PCC's undocumented students as the reason for the decision. The students and their new resource center coordinator -- Jhoana Monroy -- appreciated the symbolism of the center's opening.

"It's something big and unique we are going through," said Monroy. "This is an honor for me to be serving these students, who strive for success, education, advocacy and, above all else, to further their dreams."

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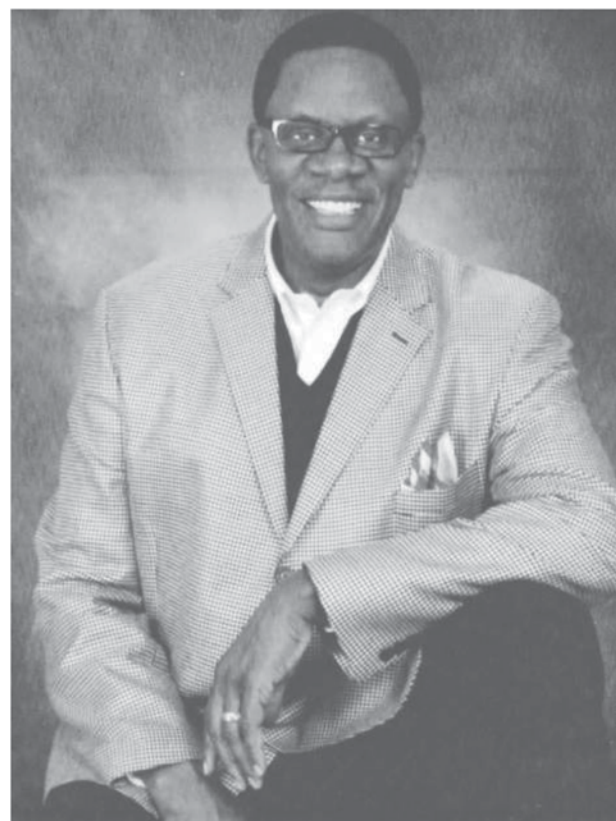
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# Tubman's Revival

## CONTINUED FROM FRONT

a bit," Butler told the Portland Observer.

Her father was Harold Williams Sr., an influential community leader who owned a consulting business, participated in public life as an education advocate, and was elected as a member of Portland Community College Board of Directors. He passed away in 2012.

It was back in the early 90s when her brothers attended Tubman. It since transformed into a young women's academy but that too closed down. The building has remained dormant for over five years.

"There's a lot of history here. And there are many families here that have been, as we know, displaced," Butler said. "So this is an opportunity to say there's still a place for you here. And Portland Public Schools is still committed to academic excellence and that we're going to do whatever's necessary to provide equitable opportunities for all students."

Butler has participated in dozens of community meetings and has coordinated with 26 school district departments in anticipation of the school's reopening. District officials report that she has received tremendous support from the four north and northeast Portland elementary school communities which will feed into Tubman, identified as Boise-Eliot-Humboldt, Irvington, Martin Luther King Jr. and Sabin.

"The support has been humbling," Butler said.

Tubman's re-opening was wrought with uncertainty last fall when the school board considered pursuing a backup location for its students in light of air quality concerns due to its proximity to a major freeway. But the district has since redoubled their commitment to its reopening after a community outcry questioned the legitimacy of yet another delay in a long line of

postponements by the district, though they'll still perform air quality and environmental testing. They've also set aside funding to perform repairs and install a new ventilation system.

Harriet Tubman Middle School and Roseway Heights are both two new middle schools slated to open this fall. Butler will helm Tubman and Kathleen Ellwood will be the principal at Roseway Heights.

Butler is drawing on the support of so many community members who are invested in seeing Tubman's reopening. She plans to integrate as many supports for the school as possible, from academics to tutoring to providing a high rigorous curriculum.

"My hope is that school can be everything that a kid needs," she said.

Another aim is to make the school a community resource, a place where parents might go to find help with their job search, for example, or as a resource for information about home ownership or how to do your taxes.

Butler is a former principal at Open Meadow (now Open School) in Portland. She was an assistant principal at both Martin Luther King Jr. School and Margaret Scott Elementary. She also was a former teacher at Whitaker and Beaumont Middle Schools.

Though she's had an illustrious career in education, she said she originally wanted to be a news anchor and pursued a speech communication degree as an undergraduate student.

"I was at a cross roads where I didn't know exactly what I wanted to do. And I was introduced to the Portland Teacher's Program. And a good friend said 'I think you should be a teacher.' And then the rest is history [...] thank God for second chances," she said.

Since then, Butler has earned two master degrees — one in education and one in administration from Portland State University and the University of Portland, respectively. She's since

put those skills to work in high ranking roles at SEI Academy, St. Andrew Nativity School, and De La Salle North Catholic High School, establishing academic programs, developing curricula, and creating training workshops for teachers.

She also was a department chair at Portland Community College, following in her father's footsteps. Harold Williams was the longest standing board member at PCC. He was so influential that PCC's basketball court is named after him. His picture is also on a place of honor on the side of the Urban League of Portland building, near Tubman, and a bench is named after him at nearby Dawson Park.

"He was definitely one who was a trend setter. Wasn't afraid to kind of push the envelope a little bit and get people to think outside the box," Butler reminisced. "My dad was very, very, aggressive about really maintaining a presence. Because he could forecast that this area was changing and that, you know, many families would be priced out of the market."

Butler said she tries to instill the values her father pushed, like making sure all his kids were educated and had passion for the community.

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Janita “JJ” Jones is a fitness professional and sports journalist for the Portland Observer. You can find her cheering on her alma maters, the University of Nevada and Benson High School, chasing after her baby dragons, coaching amazing athletes and teaching exercise classes. Reach her via email at [jj@portlandobserver.com](mailto:jj@portlandobserver.com) or Instagram @[runjanitarun](https://www.instagram.com/runjanitarun).

TriMet will launch a new low-income fare program on July 1.



Prior to that, TriMet spent several years researching a sustainable approach for such a program and, in coordination with Metro,

Over the next few months, TriMet's low-income fare project team will work to build out the new program's database, registration process, outreach and marketing plan and community and rider training materials.



## SPORTS



The Philadelphia Eagles and the New England Patriots will square off for the NFL Championship in Minnesota Sunday when Super Bowl LII kicks off at 3:30 p.m. in a game to air on NBC, Channel 8.

## Lined Up for Super Bowl

The Philadelphia Eagles take on the defending Super Bowl champion New England Patriots in Super Bowl LII on Sunday, Feb. 4 in Minnesota. Patriots Quarterback Tom Brady will lead a team in search of their sixth title while Nick Foles, the Eagles QB, will be looking to guide Philadelphia to their first Lombardi Trophy.

The game will be carried live on NBC (KGW Channel

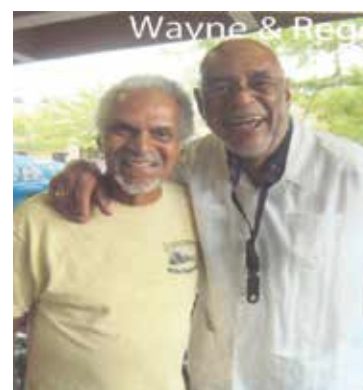
8) with kickoff scheduled at 3:30 p.m. Pink will sing the National Anthem and Leslie Odom Jr. will sing America the Beautiful. Justin Timberlake will star in the special half time show.



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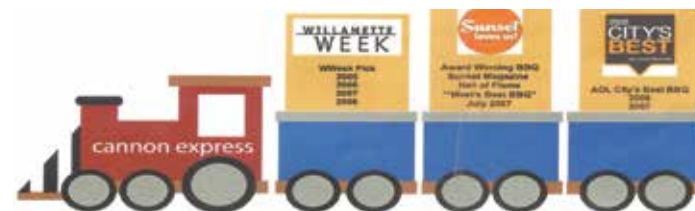


PHOTO BY BETH CONYERS/COURTESY PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Marshall Haskins received a lifetime achievement award during the recent Martin Luther King Jr. holiday celebration sponsored by Portland's World Arts Foundation.

## Athletic Director's Lifetime Honor

Marshall Haskins, the athletic director for the Portland Interscholastic League since 2013, received a lifetime achievement award from the World Arts Foundation during its annual Martin Luther King Jr. tribute event.

Haskins was the boys basketball coach at Jefferson High School – his alma mater – for 10 years, leading the Democrats to state titles in 2000 and 2008.

He has also served as a teacher; a vice principal at

Franklin and Wilson high schools; and vice president of Self Enhancement Inc., a PPS-related nonprofit that creates programs for at-risk urban youth and develops curriculum to help provide a positive future for children.

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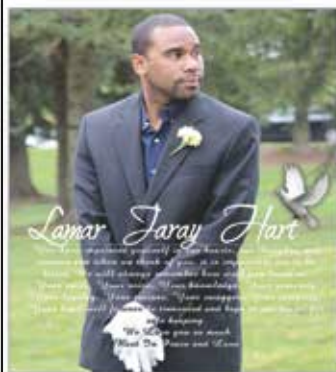
# Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



## Finding Her Path in a Man's World

Lakewood Theatre Company presents 'Parnassus on Wheels,' the story of a strong, smart woman trying to find her path and create a worthy destiny for herself in a man's world – a world where women don't yet have the right to vote. It is also the story of first love arriving surprisingly in middle age, and a celebration of books and how they can enrich your life. Performances run through Feb. 11.

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## Black History and Mental Health

A Black History lecture series will be held during February sponsored by an organization dedicated to improving mental health outcomes in the African American population with culturally specific counseling and therapy.

Heru-Ka Anu, a cultural therapist, community leader, educator and activist, will present topics celebrating black awareness, power and strength with a focus on building unity and power with African Americans and transforming conditions from one of oppression and dependency to that of power

and capacity.

The events will be held at the offices of Shellmire Unlimited at 3311 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., suite 104, starting at 1:30 p.m. on four consecutive Saturdays, beginning Feb. 3. A Black Classic Press Book Sale and Review will be held on Sunday, Feb. 11, also at 1:30 p.m. Admission to the book sale is \$5 in advance and \$10 at the door. The other events are \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door. For contact info, visit [shellmireunlimited.com](http://shellmireunlimited.com)

## Every Twist<sup>and</sup> Turn

A modern take on a classic will keep you guessing in 'Eurydice,' a new production from the Oregon Children's Theatre's Young Professionals Company. Building suspense from every twist and turn, the play tells the story of Eurydice and her journey to the underworld in a unique take on the classic myth, Orpheus. Shows open Friday and run through Feb. 11 at the theater's performance venue, located at 1939 N.E. Sandy Blvd, Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door. Recommended for ages 12 and up. For more information, visit [octc.org](http://octc.org).



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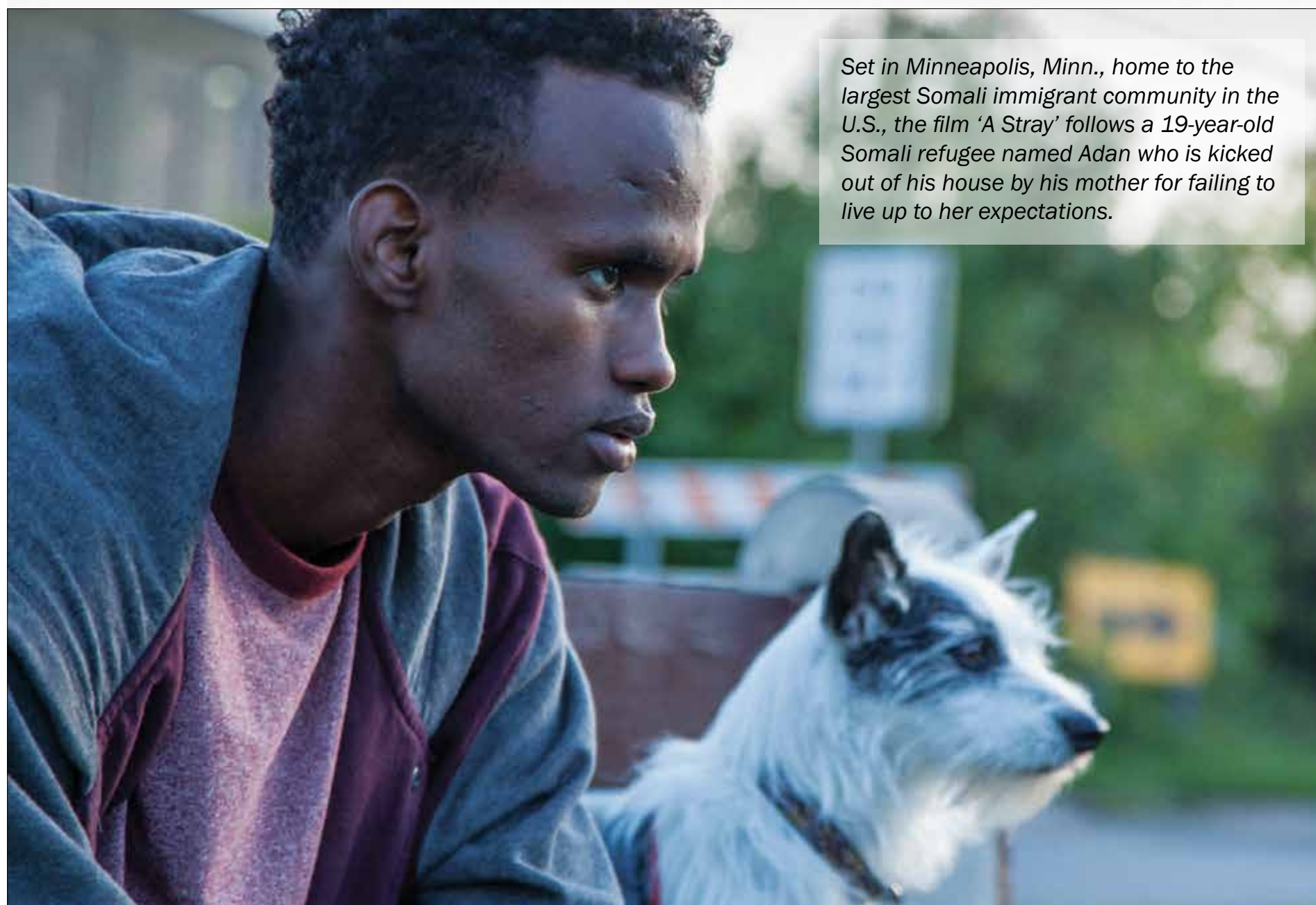
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Set in Minneapolis, Minn., home to the largest Somali immigrant community in the U.S., the film 'A Stray' follows a 19-year-old Somali refugee named Adan who is kicked out of his house by his mother for failing to live up to her expectations.

The worldview of many Americans is shaped in large part by what they see on the evening news – but the news can be an imperfect lens that provides an incomplete picture of peoples, events, and cultures. And too often, where the nations of Africa are concerned, the picture is even less complete.

In Portland, though, there is a remedy – the Cascade Festival of African Films. Now in its 28th year, the festival sponsored by Portland Community College offers audiences the rare and edifying opportunity to see Africa through the lenses of its own people. As always, the festival is free and open to the public.

A slate of 25 new films are scheduled for screening from across the African continent. The longest-running African film festival in the United States draws in excess of 4,000 attendees each year, and has become a fixture of Portland's cultural calendar.

## African Films

### Festival celebrates Black History Month



*Kalushi: The Story of Solomon Kalushi Mahlangu is an important anti-apartheid film told wholly from the black perspective based on a 19-year-old street hawker whose life is upended when the Soweto Student Uprising erupted in 1976.*

This year's festival opens with back-to-back screenings of "76" (Nigeria, 2016), with visiting Nigerian director Izu Ojukwu in attendance.

"76" is a political thriller and love story – inspired by true events – set against the backdrop of an attempted 1976 military coup. Each screening will be followed by a Q&A with the director, and to cap off the opening night in style, a '70s-style Afrobeat dance party will follow the second screening of "76," starting at 11:30 p.m.

Most screenings take place during the month of February at PCC Cascade's Moriarty Auditorium, 735 N. Killingsworth St. Each Saturday, a popular "Saturday Social Hour," starts at 5 p.m., and features live music, food and an African marketplace.

Seventeen nations from across the African continent are represented.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16



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# Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

## Rough Cut Release Party

Award-winning soul, blues and R&B vocalist Curtis Salgado and renowned guitarist Alan Hager celebrate the release of their first collaborative CD, "Rough Cut" with two performances on Friday, Feb. 2 at 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. at Mississippi Studios in north Portland.

Joining the duo will be Portland musicians LaRhonda Steele, Keith Brush, Dave Fleschner and Brian Foxworth.

Salgado's earth-shaking vocals and forceful harmonica playing have been devastating audiences around the world for over 30 years. Hager has been wowing fellow musicians from his hometown of Portland and beyond for decades.

Rough Cut is a stripped-down album featuring a potent mix of newly written, timeless originals and carefully chosen blues covers.

"We did it for the love of the music," says Salgado. "This is where our hearts are. These are deep songs that we love to play."

Tickets \$25 in advance and \$30 day of show.



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## Bringing Down Apartheid

For the first time on screen, 'Winnie' explores the rise and seemingly fall from grace of Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, the wife of Nelson Mandela. Her contribution to the struggle to bring down apartheid is explored from the inside, with intimate insight from Winnie herself, those who were closest to her and the enemies who sought to extinguish her radical capacity to shake up the order of things. Winnie premieres on PBS, Monday, Feb. 5 at 10 p.m.



## SEI Opens Doors for Black History

Black history events are open to the public during February at Self Enhancement, Inc., the program serving youth and families from the African American community.

Juanita Hill, co-host of ESPN's flagship SportsCenter, will highlight the activities when she appears as keynote speaker for SEI's Unity Gala and Marketplace hosted by World Stage Theater on Saturday, Feb. 24 at 7 p.m.

Hill sparked controversy last year by posting a tweet that referred to President Trump as a "white supremacist." She subsequently tweeted a suggestion that her followers boycott the Dallas Cowboys because of owner Jerry Jones' stance relating to his players and protests during the playing of the national anthem.

The other events are listed below:

Black Business Pop Up -- A



Jemele Hill

marketplace to buy, sell and identify black-owned businesses will be held Friday, Feb. 2 at 5 p.m.

Follow My Lead: Community Day of Service -- The SEI Male Leadership Program hosts an opportunity for African-American

males to serve their community through a series of service projects on Saturday, Feb. 10, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

'Price Out' Documentary -- A film viewing and panel discussion of "Priced Out," the documentary about displacement and gentrification in Portland with director Cornelius Swart, actress Michelle Lewis and SEI President Tony Hopson Sr. in attendance. Friday, Feb. 16 at 6 p.m.

"I Am Not Your Negro" -- A viewing of the award winning film "I Am Not Your Negro" and panel discussion with James Baldwin's niece, Aisha Karefa-Smart, and Portland State University professor, Dr. Darra Carter. Saturday, Feb. 17 at 3 p.m.

Some of the best vendors and organizations in the community are expected to attend the Feb. 24 Unity Gala and Marketplace.



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# Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

## ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

### Black History Retrospective

-- You're invited to journey through the African-American experience on Monday, Feb. 5 from 7 to 8 p.m. as World Stage Theatre presents "Who I Am - Celebrating Me: A Black History Retrospective" at the Beaverton City Library. Under the direction of playwright Shalanda Sims, the production is a montage of African-American figures and movements, past and present. The program is free and open to the public.

**Norman Sylvester** -- 'Boogie Cat' Norman Sylvester plays Saturday, Feb. 3 at Catfish Lou's; Saturday, Feb. 10 at Prime Time; Friday, Feb. 16 at the Vinyl Tap; Friday, Feb. 23 at Clyde's; Saturday, Feb. 24 as a guest of Ants in the Kitchen at Al's Den; and Saturday, Feb. 28 at the Half Penny in Salem.



### Nehalem Winterfest

-- Portland jazz legend Mel Brown and his talented quartet will join Oregon's own Quarterflash, fiddle virtuoso Kevin Burke and other musicians for the first annual Nehalem Winterfest music festival on the Oregon Coast. The event is held Friday, Feb. 2 through Sunday, Feb. 4 at the new Nehalem Performing Arts Center. Brown performs Sunday. For tickets and more information, visit [ncrd.org](http://ncrd.org).



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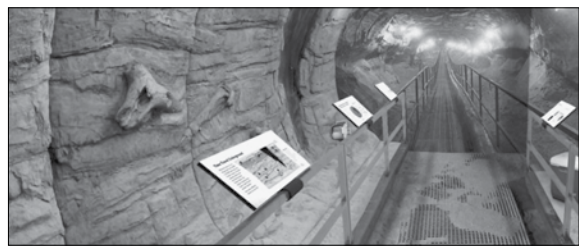


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**Priced Out Documentary** -- Portland filmmaker Cornelius Swart's investigative and personal look at how skyrocketing housing prices are displacing Portland's black community and reshaping the entire city. 'Priced Out,' gets a free open-to-the-public screening, Thursday, Feb. 1 at 6:30 p.m. at Portsmouth Union Church, 4775 N. Lombard St.



**OMSI Exhibit on Arctic Thaw** -- "Digging into Permafrost" is a new exhibit at OMSI addressing the subject of climate change as viewed through the lens of a thawing Arctic using exciting interactive features such as an Alaskan permafrost tunnel replica, fossil research stations and interactive games.

**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.

**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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# OPINION



## Influenced by a Narrow- Minded World View

### Trump's slander misrepresents America

BY MARC H. MORIAL

President Donald Trump's timing could not have been more ironic-or revealing. On the eve of the eighth anniversary of the Jan. 12 earthquake that devastated the island nation of Haiti and the start of the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday weekend, President Trump sat in a bipartisan meeting on immigration reform and publicly questioned why the United States -- a nation founded and built by immigrants -- should continue to accept immigrants from Haiti, El Salvador and Africa. With a slur heard round the world, President Trump is quoted to have uttered an obscenity to describe those countries-and Haiti, in particular.

This would not be the first time Haiti has been on the receiving end of President Trump's ridicule and contempt. Only weeks before, it was reported that during an earlier cabinet meeting on immigration, the president allegedly

complained that immigrants from Nigeria would "never go back to their huts," and that people coming from Haiti "all have AIDS."

And despite then-candidate Trump's pledge at a Miami rally to be the "greatest champion" of Haitian people, the Trump administration has given 60,000 Haitians living in this country under temporary protected status-granted after Haiti's catastrophic 2010 earthquake-until July 2019 to leave or be deported.

The slur is reprehensible and deeply disappointing, but it is not surprising. It lives in a universe of targeted travel bans with discriminatory religious preferences, a candidacy kicked off slandered Mexicans, sympathizing with white supremacists, attacks on protesting Black athletes, and so on. The reported obscenity is, quite frankly, in keeping with past and current sentiments the president has expressed publicly and via proxy through his administration's policies.

The true obscenity is that our nation's president is shaping immigration policy, not based on purported American ideals of inclusiveness, but based on the demonization of

countries that are primarily Black or Brown; not based on facts, but by stoking fear; and not based on knowledge, but influenced by a narrow-minded worldview.

Haiti is not a slur. It is the first Black republic in the world. It is the second oldest independent nation in the Western hemisphere after the United States. Haiti achieved its independence by launching the only successful slave revolt in history. But Haiti's fight did not end on the battlefield. It moved to the global arena where external forces would punish and destabilize the young island nation for claiming its freedom, resulting in lasting economic and political turmoil.

France forced Haiti to pay more than \$20 billion in today's dollars as reparations for losing a profitable slave colony-drowning Haiti in debt. The United States, which provided aid to the French to help stop the rebellion, subjected Haiti to a crippling economic embargo until it recognized its independence in 1862. Over the years the United States would go on to invade and occupy Haiti, as well as play an oversized role in its politics and elections.

Nonetheless, Haiti is deeply

woven into the fabric of America's history and founding. Haitians fought in the Revolutionary War. The city of Chicago was founded by a Haitian immigrant from St. Marc. Haitian music, art and food transformed and shaped the city of New Orleans. And the Haitian slave rebellion was directly responsible for the Louisiana Purchase, which doubled the size of the United States.

As a citizen who believes Trump's slander is inconsistent with who we should aspire to be, I abhor the president's misrepresentation of America. As a former mayor of New Orleans, a city richly cultivated by the presence of Haitians, I am distressed by the president's miseducation of the valuable contributions of Haitian immigrants. As the proud descendant of a family who emigrated from Haiti in 1805, I will always challenge the president's wrong-headed assumption that immigrants are the living embodiment of the flaws and failures or upheavals of their countries of origin and cannot contribute positively in their adopted homes.

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





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](mailto:news@portlandobserver.com).

# OPINION

## Disgraceful, Costly and Preventable Poverty

### Children are the poorest Americans

BY MARIAN WRIGHT EDELMAN

It is a national disgrace that children are the poorest Americans. The Children's Defense Fund's new report *The State of America's Children 2017* details the immoral, costly and preventable poverty, homelessness, hunger, health problems, poor education and violence plaguing children who are America's responsibility and future.



The U.S. has 73.6 million children. Nearly 1 in 5 are poor—more than 13.2 million. Children of color, who will be a majority of our children by 2020, are disproportionately poor. About 1 in 3 black, 1 in 3 American Indian/Alaskan Native and 1 in 4 Hispanic children are poor compared to 1 in 9 white children. Nearly 70 percent of poor children are non-white. Imagine a young girl—let's call her Janie—who is one of those millions of poor children. Maybe she lives in California or Texas, the states with the biggest numbers of poor children, or in New Mexico, Mississippi, Louisiana, or Kentucky, the states with the highest child poverty rates. What else do we know about what Janie's life may be like?

Janie may be one of the 3.9 million children who still lack health coverage or one of the nearly 9 million children who were at risk of losing coverage before Congress finally extended the Children's Health In-

surance Program (CHIP). She might be one of the nearly 1 in 5 children—14.8 million—who live in food-insecure households and don't have enough to eat.

As a poor child she probably didn't get the best chance to start school ready to learn because less than half of poor children are ready for school at age 5 compared with 75 percent of their wealthier peers. Only 5 percent of eligible infants and toddlers are in Early Head Start and 54 percent of eligible 3- and 4-year-olds are in Head Start. As she grows up, Janie may never catch up: The majority of all public school fourth and eighth graders cannot read at grade level and more than 75 percent of lower-income fourth and eighth grade public school students could not read or compute at grade level compared with less than 55 percent of higher-income students.

Growing up poor means Janie is more likely to be involved in the child welfare system—every 47 seconds a child is abused or neglected, the majority of them victims of neglect, and the number of children in foster care is increasing rapidly as the opioid crisis spins out of control. She may even be one of the more than 1.2 million public school children who are homeless. She also would be more likely to be involved in the juvenile justice system, one of the 2,805 children arrested every day. Finally, growing up in America puts her at risk of the very American scourge of gun violence.

Although the U.S. accounts for less than 5 percent of the global population, our

civilians own 35-50 percent of civilian-owned guns in the world, most recently estimated as high as 310 million guns. In contrast, U.S. military and law enforcement combined owned only 4 million guns. Eight children and teens are killed with guns every day and gun violence is the leading cause of death for black children and teens.

How are the leaders of our wealthy nation addressing the grim child survival needs of children like Janie across the country? Making them worse. It is a disgrace. What kind of leaders and people cut essential food and health care from babies and children to give massive tax cuts to billionaires and corporations?

This is one of the scariest times America's children have faced in the struggle to level the playing field as the last 50 years of progress in child health coverage, nutrition, education, and other child and family programs are ravaged. We should be building on what we know works and moving forward, not backwards, to improve the odds for children who need our protection. We urge the American public to stand up and stop this savage war on children. The White House and Republican members now celebrating the massive and morally obscene tax cuts are expected to add to the outrageous injustice by slashing Medicaid, SNAP, education, housing and other crucial child investments to pay for welfare for non-needy millionaires, billionaires and corporations.

We can and must do better – and need to follow up on proven solutions that work

to improve the odds for America's children at the same time that we fight all efforts to take away the gains we've already made after laborious work over a half century.

The State of America's Children report is a critical tool for everyone who cares about whether children are treated fairly and our nation's future. It provides a comprehensive overview of children's status nationally and in each state. The report also addresses the especially dire needs facing children in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands even before last year's hurricanes, which worsened them; offers a portrait of immigrant children; and describes how poorly we rank among rich countries for investing in children.

Despite our great wealth, the U.S. lags behind other industrialized nations in investing in our children and consistently ranks among the worst on key child outcomes. We should be ashamed. Addressing our moral poverty and preparation of our young for fruitful lives should be our priority.

We must persist but we need your help. We ask you to use the data in the State of America's Children report along with stories of children you know or work with and share them with your Members of Congress and with us. Please rev up your engines of outrage and courage in 2018 and make sure we keep moving forward with persistence to protect our children's futures and the future of our nation and world.

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

## Prosecutions for Sanctuary Cities is Unconstitutional

### Threats are lawless and baseless

BY CODY WOFSY

In recent testimony before Congress, Secretary of Homeland Security Kirstjen Nielsen confirmed that her agency is seeking the prosecution of state and local officials in jurisdictions that limit their entanglement with federal immigration enforcement.

Even in the context of the Trump administration's frequent disregard for the Constitution, Nielsen's threat to prosecute mayors, legislators, and police chiefs over policy disagreements is shocking. There is no basis in federal law to prosecute government officials who decide, with and on behalf of their constituents, that their communities are better served by opting out of participation in the federal deportation system. And that kind of prosecution would be an assault on the principles at the core of our constitutional system.

Nielsen's threat may or may not be empty. Either way, it is unacceptable.

We are now nearly one year into the Trump administration's seemingly endless attempts to threaten, cajole, and coerce local governments into abandoning what is com-

monly referred to as "sanctuary" policies. There are hundreds of such jurisdictions (including Portland and the state of Oregon) that, in a variety of ways, have decided not to entangle themselves in the federal government's deportation program. Those communities have decided it's not worth the financial burden or legal risk or harm to public safety and community trust — or all of the above.

Unhappy with those decisions, the administration has tried a laundry list of tactics over the last year to intimidate localities into giving up. Its attempts to take away federal funding, for example, have been met with defeat after defeat after defeat in the courts. And its attempt to publicly embarrass localities into changing their policies with a weekly report had to be suspended when Immigration and Customs Enforcement's rampant errors came to light and law enforcement rightly balked at this form of bullying.

The most recent broadside in this campaign is the administration's decision to float the possibility of criminal prosecutions. In an interview earlier this month, Acting ICE Director Thomas Homan said he had asked the Justice Department to look into charging local officials with violating a federal stat-

ute for "harboring" noncitizens. Secretary Nielsen doubled down, confirming that her agency had sought such prosecutions. And, like Homan, she made clear that the threat of prosecution was being used as a political cudgel.

These threats are lawless and baseless. Local officials commit no crime when they and their communities decide not to participate in deportations. They do not, as Homan wrongly claimed, harbor anyone from deportation by simply opting out. ICE can arrest people on its own — and in fact Congress gives the agency billions of taxpayer dollars each year to do just that.

But local police are under no obligation to use their time and resources to help with arrest, detention, and deportation. Local jails need not allow ICE agents to roam their facilities, conduct interrogations, and make arrests without a judicial warrant. And government officials need not share home addresses of local residents to make it easier for ICE to carry out its mass deportation campaign. The point of sanctuary policies is non-participation, meaning that if ICE wants to arrest and deport people it must do the work itself. There is nothing at all criminal about that, and it is irresponsible to suggest otherwise.

In fact, state and local governments' ability to opt out of the federal deportation system is constitutionally guaranteed. The framers of the Constitution recognized that distributing authority — including between the federal government and the states — protects against the accumulation and abuse of power by a tyrant or group of tyrants. As the Supreme Court has explained, this principle prevents the federal government from requiring state and local officers to become de facto federal agents. Therefore, even if the administration's imaginary crime of declining to help ICE deport people actually existed, it would be struck down as unconstitutional.

Of course, these threats may be empty, like the now-disavowed threats to strip "sanctuary" cities of all their federal funding. But, regardless, the idea of these prosecutions is insidious. At bottom, the administration's complaint is that localities are adopting policies with which it disagrees. This idea of locking up elected officials for their political speech, beliefs, and votes is contrary to the First Amendment and the democratic principles on which our country was founded. Even the suggestion is dangerous and reprehensible.

*Cody Wofsy is an attorney with the ACLU Immigrants' Rights Project.*



# CLASSIFIED/BIDS

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**Bids will be accepted until 3:00 p.m., local time, Tuesday, February 27, 2018.**

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# January 2018

## CALENDAR

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
<div>○1</div> <div><b>New Year's Day</b> <i>Betsy Ross born, 1752</i> <i>Paul Revere born, 1735</i></div>	<div>2</div> <div><i>Isaac Asimov born 1920 (Astronomer, author, scientist)</i></div>	<div>3</div> <div><i>Festival Of Sleep Day</i> <i>J.R.R. Tolkien born, 1892 (author)</i></div>	<div>4</div> <div><i>Trivia Day</i> <i>Isaac Newton born, 1643</i></div>	<div>5</div> <div><i>First Woman Governor Inaugurated 1925 (Nellie Ross)</i> <i>George Washington Carver Recognition Day</i> <i>National Bird Day</i></div>	<div>6</div> <div><i>Bean Day</i> <i>Epiphany (Christian Holiday)</i> <i>Sherlock Holmes born, 1854</i></div>	<div>7</div> <div><i>First U.S. Presidential Election held, 1789</i> <i>Old Rock Day</i></div>
<div>☾8</div> <div><i>Elvis Presley born, 1935</i></div>	<div>9</div> <div><i>First iPhone introduced in 2007</i> <i>National Apricot Day</i> <i>National Static Electricity Day</i></div>	<div>10</div> <div><i>Make Your Dreams Come True Day</i> <i>First Meeting of United Nations General Assembly in London, 1946</i></div>	<div>11</div> <div><i>Milk Day</i> <i>Amelia Earhart flew solo across the Pacific Ocean, 1935</i></div>	<div>12</div> <div><i>Work Harder Day</i> <i>Author Jack London born, 1876</i></div>	<div>13</div> <div><i>Poetry Break Day</i> <i>Michael Bond born, 1926</i></div>	<div>14</div> <div><i>Secret Pal Day</i> <i>National Dress Up Your Pet Day</i> <i>The Revolutionary War ended (1784)</i></div>
<div>15</div> <div><b>Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day;</b> Born in 1929 (Observed Third Monday) <i>Hat Day</i></div>	<div>●16</div> <div><i>Prohibition began in 1920</i> <i>National Nothing Day</i></div>	<div>17</div> <div><i>Muhammad Ali (Cassius Clay) born, 1942</i> <i>Benjamin Franklin born, 1706</i></div>	<div>18</div> <div><i>Raymond Briggs born, 1934</i> <i>Marks the beginning of the Lewis &amp; Clark Bicentennial</i></div>	<div>19</div> <div><i>Artist Paul Cezanne born, 1839</i> <i>Popcorn Day</i></div>	<div>20</div> <div><i>Inauguration Day (Every 4 years)</i> <i>Cheese Day</i> <i>First traffic rules published (1900)</i></div>	<div>21</div> <div><i>National Hugging Day</i> <i>First flight of the Supersonic Concorde (1976)</i></div>
<div>22</div> <div><i>Brian Wildsmith born, 1930</i> <i>National Blonde Brownie Day</i></div>	<div>23</div> <div><i>Measure Your Feet Day</i> <i>National Handwriting Day</i> <i>National Pie Day</i></div>	<div>☾24</div> <div><i>Eskimo Pie Patented, 1922, Christian Nelson</i> <i>Gold Discovered in California At Sutter's Mill, 1848</i></div>	<div>25</div> <div><i>Opposite Day</i> <i>First Winter Olympics held, 1924</i></div>	<div>26</div> <div><i>Australia Day (first settled, 1788)</i></div>	<div>27</div> <div><i>Lewis Carroll</i> <i>National Geographic Society Founded (1888)</i></div>	<div>28</div> <div><i>Jackson Pollock born, 1912 (Artist)</i> <i>National Kazoo Day</i></div>
<div>29</div> <div><i>Baseball Hall of Fame established (1936)</i> <i>National Puzzle Day</i></div>	<div>30</div> <div><b>Franklin D. Roosevelt born, 1882 (23rd President)</b></div>	<div>○31</div> <div><i>Backwards Day</i> <i>Jackie Robinson born, 1919 (Baseball Great)</i></div>				



# African Films

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ed in this year's lineup. This year's centerpiece film is "A Season in France," a 2017 French-Chadian co-production about a high school

teacher who flees the war-torn Central African Republic for France.

Other films with an immigrant or refugee lens include the family friendly film "A Stray" about the struggles of



The film *Queen of Katwe* follows the constant struggle of 10-year-old Phiona and her family, set in the slums of Kampala, Uganda. Her world changes when she meets Robert Katende, a missionary who teaches children how to play chess. Phiona soon becomes a top player.



Inspired by true events, the film '76 is a political thriller and a love story set against the backdrop of the attempted 1976 military coup against the government of General Murtala Mohammed. It will show twice for the Cascade Festival of African Film Festival's opening-night gala at 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 2 at the Hollywood Theatre.

a young Somali boy in the U.S. who befriends a stray dog, or "Zainab Hates the Snow" which follows a Tunisian family's journey for five years as they immigrate to Canada.

New to the festival will be

the participation of PCC students who were either born in Africa or who have immigrated to the United States. The students will be paired with films from their country of origin, and will take part

in post-screening discussions about the films and about the culture of and conditions in their native countries.

For complete schedule and director appearances, visit [africanfilmfestival.org](http://africanfilmfestival.org).

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## FOOD

### Kabocha Squash Puree

#### Ingredients:

- 1 (3-pound) kabocha squash
- 1/2 cup water
- 1/2 cup packed brown sugar
- 3 tablespoons butter, melted
- 3/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper

#### Directions:

Preheat oven to 450°. Cut squash in half, and discard seeds. Place cut sides down, in 13 x 9-inch baking dish. Add 1/2 cup water to dish. Cover and bake at 450° for 40 minutes. Remove squash from pan, and let stand for 10 minutes. Remove pulp and discard skin. Combine squash pulp, and remaining ingredients in a food processor; process until smooth.



**Joyce Washington**

Born: 1937 – 1996

*Joyce Washington Believed in this Community  
and all those that made this Community Great.*

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