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Portland Observer

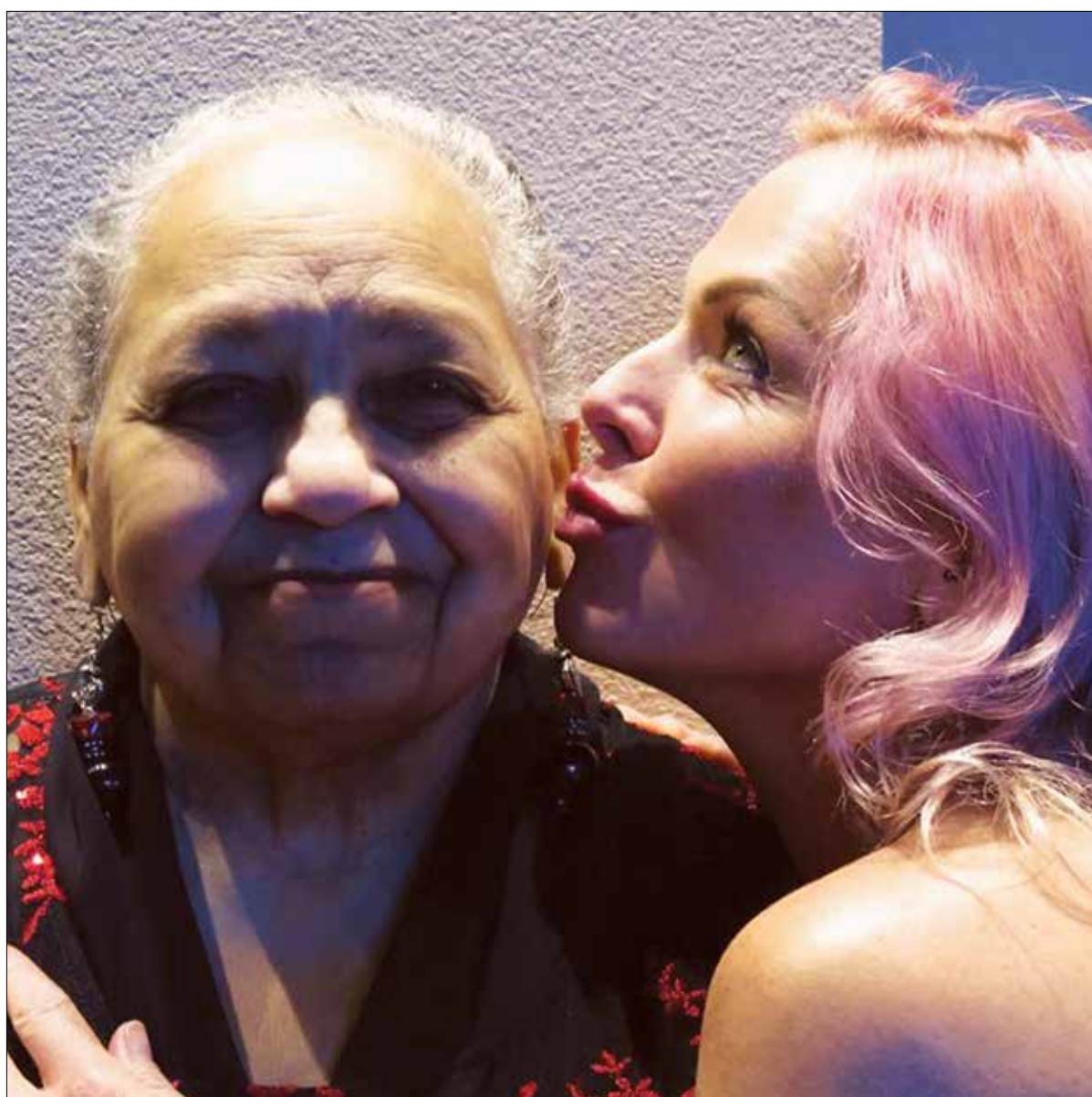
Volume XLVII • Number 8



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Wednesday • February 21, 2018



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The soulful voice of Kathleen Saadat is captured in 'Love for Sale' a new debut album of jazz classics with Thomas Lauderdale and Pink Martini.

Longtime Portland civil rights leader Kathleen Saadat (left) gets some love from Portland singer Storm Large and the band Pink Martini. Saadat collaborated with Pink Martini founder Thomas Lauderdale and members of the renowned Portland jazz band to produce 'Love for Sale,' a debut album of jazz standards. The cd is celebrated on March 1 when an album release party takes place at the Aladdin Theater in southeast Portland.

Music and Activism Intersect

Civil rights leader fronts new CD with Pink Martini

BY DANNY PETERSON
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Longtime Portland civil rights leader Kathleen Saadat has a hidden musical talent that the rest of the city is about to experience. A respected and admired advocate for African American, women, and gay and lesbian rights since the 1970s, Saadat has a debut album of jazz classics "Love for Sale" coming out on March 1. The recordings were made with long time friend, Thomas Lauderdale, founder of the internationally renowned Portland jazz band Pink Martini.

The two serendipitously met back in the summer of 1991 when Lauderdale got a job working at City Hall between his junior and senior years in college and was



PHOTO BY K. KENDALL

Kathleen Saadat attacks social and economic inequality during an Occupy movement rally, downtown.

supervised by Saadat who was an assistant to the office of former City Commissioner Gretchen Kafoury.

Before forming his multi-million record selling group, Lauderdale, who was born in Oakland Calif., was on track to a budding political career as a Grant High School student in Portland and later as a Harvard student in his early 20s.

"I guess the thing I remember first about Thomas was his enthusiasm and his sense of humor and great spirit. And I liked him immediately," Saadat remembered.

The city office was in the midst of drafting a civil rights ordinance to prohibit housing discrimination against gay and lesbian people and to protect families and individuals denied housing based on legal sources of income like housing assistance, a first of its kind for the city.

Lauderdale was learning to build coalitions in support

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

Gun Law Passes Oregon House

A proposed law to prevent people from owning guns because of domestic violence or stalking convictions was passed by the Oregon House Thursday. The measure is intended to save the lives of mostly women and children who are killed by domestic abusers each year, most of whom were victims' husbands or boyfriends, according to Oregon Health Authority data.

Kitzhaber Broke Ethics Laws

Former Gov. John Kitzhaber misused his official position for personal gain in 10 instances of violating state laws, Oregon ethics officials voted unanimously Friday. He is accused of allowing his fiancée Sylvia Hayes to sidestep separation of her privately paid advocacy and public green energy

and economic policy shaping.

Teachers Endorse Hardesty

The Portland Association of Teachers has endorsed Jo Ann Hardesty in her May Primary election race to replace retiring city commissioner Dan Saltzman. Hardesty is the current Portland NAACP president and a former state lawmaker.

Gorge Fire Starter Sentenced

A 15 year old boy from Vancouver who admitted to causing the devastating Columbia Gorge fire last summer because of his carelessness



The Week in Review

with fireworks was sentenced to 1,920 hours of community service and five years of probation Friday. "I apologize with all my heart," he said in court after pleading guilty to 12 misdemeanors.

Superintendent on Priorities

Portland Public Schools Superintendent Guadalupe Guerrero touched on topics such as more funding for student clubs and activities, more help for students at risk of dropping out, and improving student safety from gun violence during an address before the Portland City Club Friday. The

session was moderated by former PPS student and Rhodes Scholar J.T. Flowers.

Fired from Black Parent Initiative

Former Black Parent Initiative chief executive officer and co-founder Chares McGee was terminated from his position with the non-profit after a second sexual harassment complaint surfaced last week. The former Multnomah County Commissioner candidate was previously placed on administrative leave pending an investigation.

Trail Blazers Repay Barkley

Trail Blazers All-Star Damian Lillard presented NBA Hall of Famer and current TNT analyst Charles Barkley a check for \$1,197 Sunday in response to a story Barkley told days before of a self-funded

flight to Portland to try to convince the Trail Blazers to acquire him decades ago. Barkley said he thought the Trail Blazers should have paid him back.

Prosecutor Resigns from Board

Federal prosecutor and Oregon native Ryan Bounds resigned from the Multnomah Bar Association's Diversity and Inclusion Committee, at the organization's request last week, following resurfaced opinion pieces he wrote in college that expressed racist, sexist, and homophobic views on multiculturalism. Bounds is President Trump's nominee to the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.



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1970 Benson graduate and Portland General Electric Chief Executive Officer Jim Piro (right) with Benson High School Principal Curtis Wilson.

Grad Honored with Benson Support

To honor its retiring chief executive officer Jim Piro, Portland General Electric recently donated \$100,000 to the engineering program at his alma mater, Benson High School.

But when the Portland School Board recognized Piro with a proclamation, he had a surprise of his own.

"I just wanted to let you know that my wife and I decid-

ed to match the grant, so now it's \$200,000," Piro said, drawing a loud ovation in the Benson auditorium where the board meeting was held.

Piro was student body president at Benson before graduating in 1970. After graduating from Oregon State, he started a 37-year career at PGE, first as an engineer, then as President and CEO from 2009 to 2017.

The Portland Observer

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The INSIDE

The Week in Review page 2

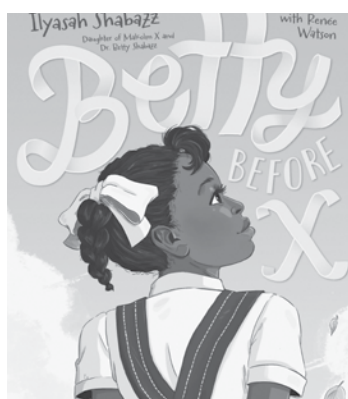
Black History Month inside



Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

pages 8-13

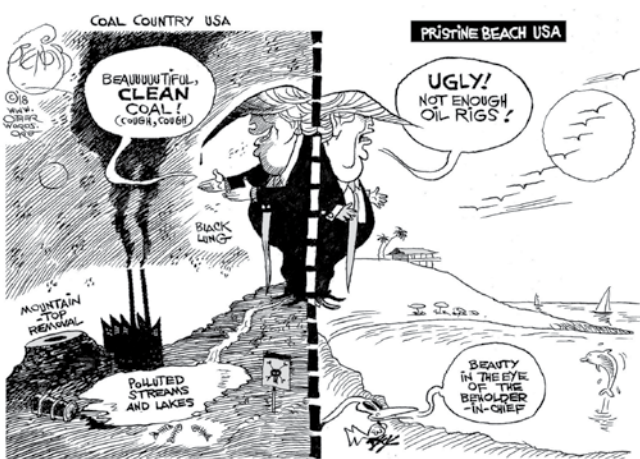
METRO



page 11

CALENDAR

page 15



OPINION

pages 16-17

CLASSIFIEDS

pages 18

This page
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What's on your list today?



Local health care providers have expanded the capacity to treat behavioral health patients at the Unity Center, a northeast Portland medical facility operated by Adventist Health, Kaiser Permanente, Legacy Health and Oregon Health and Sciences University.

Unity Center Fills Need

Capacity to treat mental health grows

Adventist Health, Kaiser Permanente, Legacy Health and Oregon Health & Science University are marking the one year anniversary of the opening of Unity Center for Behavioral Health in northeast Portland by bracing for more demand for its services.

Starting in April, the jointly run medical center will add five new adult inpatient beds, giving it a total capacity of 85 adult inpatient beds and 22 inpatient beds for adolescents, ages 9 through 17. The need comes as the number of individuals seeking care in psychiatric emergency service increases.

The Unity Center is a 109,270-square foot, 24-hour behavioral health services center that features the first emergency

room in Oregon and southwest Washington explicitly designed to deliver immediate psychiatric care and a path to recovery for people experiencing a mental health crisis.

The center was created with the goal of reducing the boarding time of behavioral health patients in hospital emergency departments and connecting patients with the right services upon discharge.

The wait time for a bed in a hospital for behavioral health patients in crisis used to average between 40-60 hours for some of the busiest hospitals. The average wait time for a bed at the Unity Center is now eight hours.

In addition, with the help of partners in law enforcement and emergency medical services, the Unity Center has made significant headway in reframing the conversation around how to compassionately treat and care for those experiencing a mental health

emergency.

For example, Unity has encouraged a model of ambulance transport for individuals in a behavioral health crisis. Today, when police respond to a 911 call about a person in mental health crisis, there is a community-wide agreement in Portland that patients experiencing a behavioral health crisis will be transported to the hospital via ambulance, not in the back of a police car. In the last year, over 1,197 patients have arrived at Unity Center by ambulance.

"For many patients, seeking help at Unity Center is the first step in their journey toward improved mental health," said Dr. Chris Farentinos, Unity Center vice president. "Partnering with dozens of community-based organizations helps us connect our patients with social services and follow-up care so they continue to receive the support they need after leaving Unity Center."

Cold Snap Brings Snow

Freezing weather with snow was forecast to keep its grip on the Portland area at least through Thursday as a cold snap brought the first measureable snowfall since Christmas Eve to the metro area and the plummeting temperatures triggered the reopening of emergency shelters in Multnomah County.

The National Weather Service Tuesday was forecasting lows in

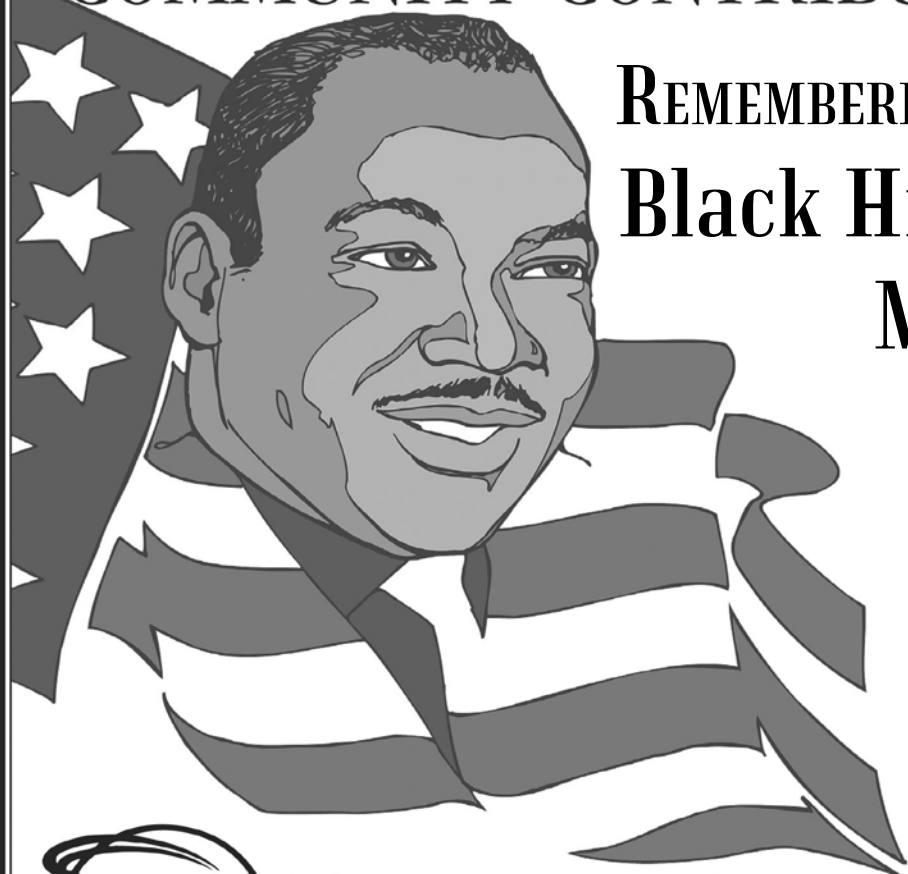
the mid 20s and highs in the low 40s throughout the week.

The inclement conditions caused traffic delays and school closures. Portland Public Schools released students two hours early as snow fell through the morning Tuesday and was forecast to continue into the evening. Portland Community College and several private colleges also shut down or closed early Tuesday.

Those in need of warming shelter services were urged to sign up for alerts at 211info.org. If you see someone incapable of getting help themselves or who are at risk of exposure or injury, call 9-1-1 or the county's mental health crisis line at 503-988-4888 for help. Information on how to donate needed cold weather supplies can be found at 211info.org/donations.

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REMEMBERING Black History Month



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The Historic Vancouver Avenue First Baptist Church in north Portland is once again gathering children who loved to sing, from the ages of 4 years to 14, for a junior gospel chorale which will perform this Easter.

Junior Chorale Forms for Easter

The Historic Vancouver Avenue First Baptist Church is once again gathering children who loved to sing, from the ages of 4 years to 14, for a 60-member junior gospel chorale which will perform this Easter.

The choir is under the musical direction of Raymond Burell and Diane Jackson, with a host of talented musical gospel band musicians that include Bobby Garnett, Kirk Green, Donald Bailey, Megale Roberts, Donald Cobbs and Bruce Carter.

Four scheduled choir rehearsals are planned on four consecutive Saturdays, at 3 p.m., beginning March 10 at the church located at 3138 N. Vancouver Ave.

Following each rehearsal session, lunch will be provided. Free Transportation services are also available upon request.

For more information and or to sign your child up, call Raymond Burell at 503-593- 5285 or email him at raymondburell@hotmail.com, or contact the church office directly at 503-282-9496.

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There is still a full week to go in the Portland International Film Festival -- and some of the films that have already finished their screenings will appear in theaters soon. Here are some of what I've seen so far.



Love and good teaching connect in 'Miss Kiet's Children,' one of the showcase films bringing fresh perspectives on world cultures at the Portland International Film Festival, continuing through March 1.

"Miss Kiet's Children" has garnered a lot of comparisons to another wonderful film about a classroom where love and good teaching happen, the French film "To Be and To Have." Like that film, this one, set in a classroom in a small town in Holland, simply observes the transformation of the children in that setting. But this particular classroom, for reasons never explained, contains mostly children of asylum seekers from Syria and other parts of the Middle East. The patient and clear-eyed teacher, Kiet Engels, may or may not always understand why a student is crying or asking her to call her mother or has his head down on his desk. But she does provide loving attention and good pedagogy, about math and the Dutch language and also about kindness and good boundaries and self-respect, and she builds enough trust that sometimes we learn the little bits of truth that children can share that provide concrete hints of the trauma they all carry. The filmmakers wisely and simply just invite us to observe the transformations, big and small, that are possible in such a space—most movingly in brief, patient interactions with Engels, in little shifts toward kindness and self-control with their peers, and, especially, in physical movement exercises that are such telling evidence of what is happening in a child's heart. A final scene in which the movement happens on stage left me in a puddle, and restored my hope. It screens again

on Saturday, Feb. 24.

"On the Beach At Night Alone" is recognizable as the work of Korean director Hong Sang-Soo. It veers toward angst, is low on plot, and doesn't necessarily present a chronological narrative; it also features Hong's frequent muse, actress Kim Min-Hee, with whom Korean tabloids had been reporting he was having an affair at the time this film was made. Upon its release, the director, whose marriage was ending, confirmed that he and the actress are indeed in love--and the film is gutsy on both their parts in that light. What story it contains focuses on a young actress in the aftermath of an affair with a married film director. Kim is, as always, compelling in her quirky directness and, as usual, has choice words for those around her after a few drinks. There is also a scene with the character of the film director -- and the pain of each is evident, though not necessarily sympathetic. An interesting window into Korean culture with a compelling lead performance, it plays again on Wednesday, Feb. 21.

"Ice Mother" offers a rare opportunity to see a film centering on a woman in her 60s who is interesting and is undergoing a significant change in perspective. Hana lives alone in the Prague home she shared with her deceased husband, and appears to be devoting all her energy to maintaining his standard of living and indulging their two ungrateful grown sons. There really isn't any room for her to have opinions and interests -- and yet, after a chance meeting with Brona, an unpretentious and genial ice swimmer, she finds a drive for independence and a group of friends. Her sons don't find either her new friends or her activities up to their standards, yet the shift in Hana eventually requires a shift in them too. In many ways this is a slight film; the sons and their wives are a bit crudely drawn as characters, and the conflicts are consequently a tad underdeveloped. But Hana is the focal point here and, as played by Zuzana Krónarová, she feels refreshingly real.

There is a particularly strong crop of films directed by women. My favorite was "Tempestad" (meaning "storm"), a mournful exploration of the emotional journeys of two Mexican women who have suffered profound injustices at the hands of those in power. Each of them narrates her inner journey with surprising clarity, particularly Miriam, who was wrongly imprisoned for human trafficking in a jail controlled by

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

Black History Month

February 2018

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Liliana Luna is being recognized as a Woman of Achievement by the Oregon Commission for Women for her outstanding leadership in promoting equity and diversity opportunities at Portland Community College.

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Multicultural center advocate honored

The coordinator of Portland Community College's Multicultural Center on the Rock Creek campus, a young immigrant woman who has battled to stay in the United States, is being recognized for her outstanding leadership in promoting equity and diversity opportunities for students at the school.

Liliana Luna will receive a Woman of Achievement award from the Oregon Commission for Women during a ceremony on March 1 that will be part of the Women's History Month proclamation signing by Gov. Kate Brown.

Luna, 26, serves as an educator, advocate and role model.

A DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) recipient, Luna possesses an associate degree from PCC, a bachelor's in criminal justice from Portland State University, and is working toward a master's in counseling education, also at PSU.

She is responsible for providing an inclusive environment at the Multicultural Center and does this by supporting, retaining and empowering diverse students to help them achieve academic excellence and become leaders within the college and their communities.

"Liliana has truly made a difference at the Rock Creek Campus," said Rock Creek President Sandra Fowler-Hill. "She has made a marked and sustained impact on equity and inclusion. Because of her, this is a better place. She exemplifies leadership and accomplishment in Oregon, in education and civic engagement. She has had a demonstrable impact on the community she serves."

Additionally, Luna leads the Diversity Council at the campus, developed a partnership with the Mexican consulate to provide scholarships to undocumented and DACA students from Mexico, and founded the annual DREAMers Gala to raise money and awareness for undocumented students.

Her latest accomplishment is helping to open the first Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Center at PCC. The center is the first of its kind in Oregon at a community college or university, providing resources and support for undocumented and DACA students and their families. According to Luna, there are roughly 400 DACA students at PCC, with an estimated 200 based at Rock Creek.

"This is a huge accomplishment for me, too," she added. "When I was a student I couldn't say I was undocumented because it was taboo. Now, I can hold my head up high."

Music and Activism Intersect

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

for the ordinance, under Saadat's tutelage, when he heard her melodic singing fill the office; she had a habit of singing while she worked.

"I loved her voice. I loved the way that she phrases every single word," Lauderdale said. "It's as telling and meaningful as any of her speeches that she gives at a rally."

Originally from St. Louis, Mo., Saadat graduated from Reed College in Portland in 1974 with a degree in psychology and made history as one of the organizers of Portland's first gay rights march in 1976.

Over the years she has supported organizations such as the Freedom Socialist Party, Radical Women, Lesbian Community Project, the African American Alliance, and African Americans Voting No on Nine—a 1992 ballot measure that would have permanently made members of the LGBTQ community in Oregon second class citizens.

"It's always been, for me, a matter of helping people to learn that they have a voice and how to use it," she said. "Helping people to understand that if we are not united in our efforts, we will fail."

Saadat has worked at all levels of government, including supervising compliance with federal employment and training laws, directing Affirmative Action programs in the state and city; as diversity director for the Cascade AIDS Project; and as chair of Portland's Community Oversight Advisory Board, the panel charged to help monitor reforms in Portland police practices.

She has received lifetime achievement awards from the



Portland civil rights leader Kathleen Saadat is pictured with U.S. Rep. Earl Blumenauer of Portland (left) and Thomas Lauderdale, the founder of Pink Martini.

Portland Human Rights Commission, Portland PFLAG Black Chapter, Portland's Equity Foundation, and from the World Arts Foundation, among many other accolades. Last year, she was a commencement speaker at her alma mater, Reed College.

Lauderdale had been trained in music since he was a child. The formation of what became the multi-award winning, genre-blending musical group Pink Martini, led to the group's support for political causes like the environment, affordable housing, civil rights, libraries and public broadcasting.

"At a certain point I realized that it was probably more fabulous to play music, tour around the world, make people happy, raise funds for various funds that I believed in, than working under fluorescent

lighting, having to face angry constituents everyday and not getting any applause at the end of the day (laughs)," Lauderdale said.

Since its inception in 1994, Pink Martini has remained committed to its progressive roots, performing multi-lingual songs across international stages, and continuing to perform at rallies in support of various causes, including a 2011 rally in downtown Portland by supporters of the Occupy Movement against social and economic inequality, in which Saadat was a speaker.

Saadat calls Lauderdale, "A warrior of diversity, for inclusion, for people knowing that they can get along and that music is a healer for all of us."

Saadat began dropping by Pink Martini's headquarters for casual sessions around Lauderdale's pi-

ano in the mid 2000s. They even performed together sporadically, beginning 10 years ago for a Bill and Ann Shepherd Legal Scholarship fundraiser at the Old Church, downtown.

For the past six years, Saadat and Lauderdale have been recording album tracks in between Pink Martini's other records, originally meant as a small project for Saadat to give to her friends and family. It's since ballooned into an ambitious project in its own right that the two hope will reach well beyond Saadat's personal circle.

Since they started recording the album, their performances have grown to more than just casual drop-ins or charity events, with Saadat and Lauderdale performing for nationally syndicated Live Wire Radio in 2012 and with Pink Martini for New Years Eve at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall this past year. They've been playing back to back shows in Palm Springs this month, in anticipation of the album.

"I was amazed at how intimidating a microphone can be. That's not my experience when I do public speaking," Saadat said. "It's a much more emotional expe-

rience and you're putting out your emotions. It's like you're taking your clothes off in public."

Saadat said she came from a family where everybody sang as a form of camaraderie at church, at home, and on road trips. She picked up many songs from her grandma, who sang pre-World War II songs, folk songs, and hymns. The habit stuck ever since, but she said performing in front of a packed house at a concert venue is still something she's getting used to.

"I was nervous the first time and I'm nervous this time...every time. But I'm looking forward to it. I expect people to have fun," she said.

Saadat will be joined by Lauderdale, Pink Martini members vocalist China Forbes, jazz guitarist Dan Fahnle, Jazz Society of Oregon Hall of Famer upright bassist Phil Baker, as well as Motown alum drummer Mel Brown, and Grammy nominated pianist Randy Porter for the upcoming 'Love for Sale' album release show on Thursday, March 1 at the Aladdin Theater at 8 p.m. Doors open at 7 p.m. and tickets are \$22.



AFFORDABLE

JJ

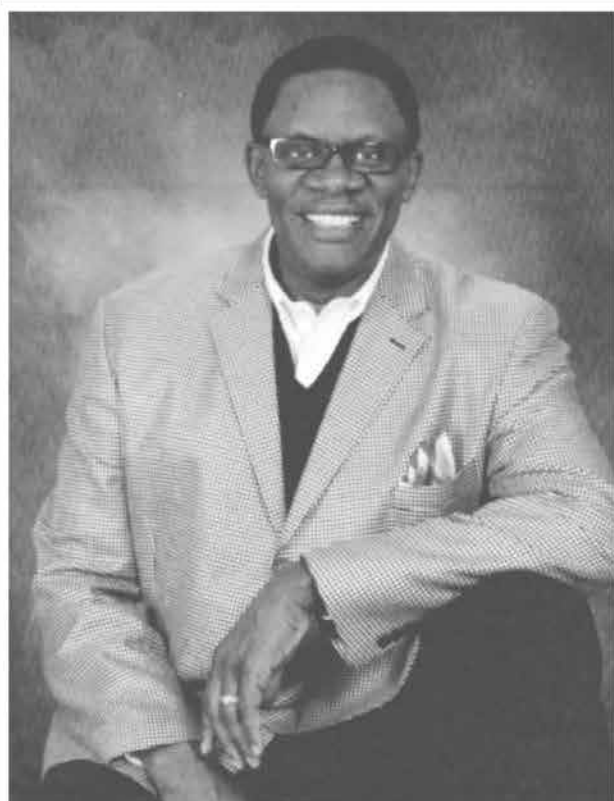
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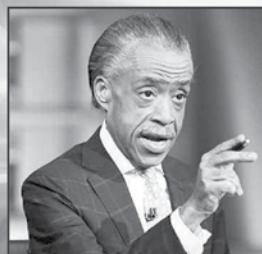


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MONDAY - FRIDAY

12 Midnight - 3 A.M.
MIKE SHANNON

3 A.M. - 7 A.M.
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

SUNDAY

12 Midnight - 3 A.M.
MIKE SHANNON

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

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

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

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PAPA SMURF

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Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

Portland's First Lady of the Blues LaRhonda Steele will be the featured performer at Saturday's 'Sweet Taste of the Arts' fundraiser supporting PassinArts, Portland's African-American producing theater company.



Support Diversity in the Arts

PassinArts, Portland's African-American producing theater company, invites the community to celebrate the group's 30 year commitment to diversity in local arts and culture with a special night of musical entertainment, fine dining, and dancing at their "Sweet Taste of the Arts," benefit, Saturday, Feb. 24 from 6:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. at DoubleTree by Hilton, 1000 N.E. Multnomah St.

Attendees will enjoy perfor-

mances from accomplished local African American and multicultural artists from various disciplines. The featured performer will be vocalist La Rhonda Steele, a 2017 and 2016 Muddy Award winner for best female vocalist presented by the Cascade Blues Association.

The attire is semi-formal to formal with tickets \$90 to \$100. For reservations and more information, call 503-235-8079 or visit passinart.org.



Paying Homage to Miles Davis

The Biamp PDX Jazz festival presents The Miles Electric Band, an 11-member all-star live group featuring Miles Davis alumni revisiting repertoire from Davis' electric period, will perform Saturday, Feb. 24 at 7:30 p.m. at Revolution Hall in the former Washington High School, 1300 S.E. Stark St. Tickets available at ticketfly.com.



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Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



'American Me,' unique, diverse and powerful art works by local African American artists Cole Reed, Marquis Johnson-Bey and Brenna King are exhibited this month in the rotunda of Antoinette Hatfield Hall at the Portland's 5 Centers for the Arts, downtown.

Reclamation of Black Artists

You're invited to see the works of Portland artists Cole Reed, Marquis Johnson-Bey and Brenna King in "American Me: The Reclamation of Three Black Artists," a special exhibit now showing during February in the Antoinette Hatfield Hall rotunda of the Portland's 5 Centers for the Arts, 1111 S.W. Broadway.

The artwork is as unique, di-

verse, and powerful as the individuals themselves. They will inspire you through their ability to use their artistry to transform and connect individuals with their pieces. This is not your ordinary show. The use of photography, metals, wood, and yes, even texture for touching, will inspire anyone to want more.

Many pieces of the exhibit are available for purchase.

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Betty Before X

Local author co-writes novel with daughter of Malcolm X

Jefferson High School alumna Renée Watson has co-authored a book with the daughter of the late civil rights icon Malcolm X, Ilyasah Shabazz, and will spend a week doing author visits and writing workshops at local schools, sharing her fifth book with young readers.

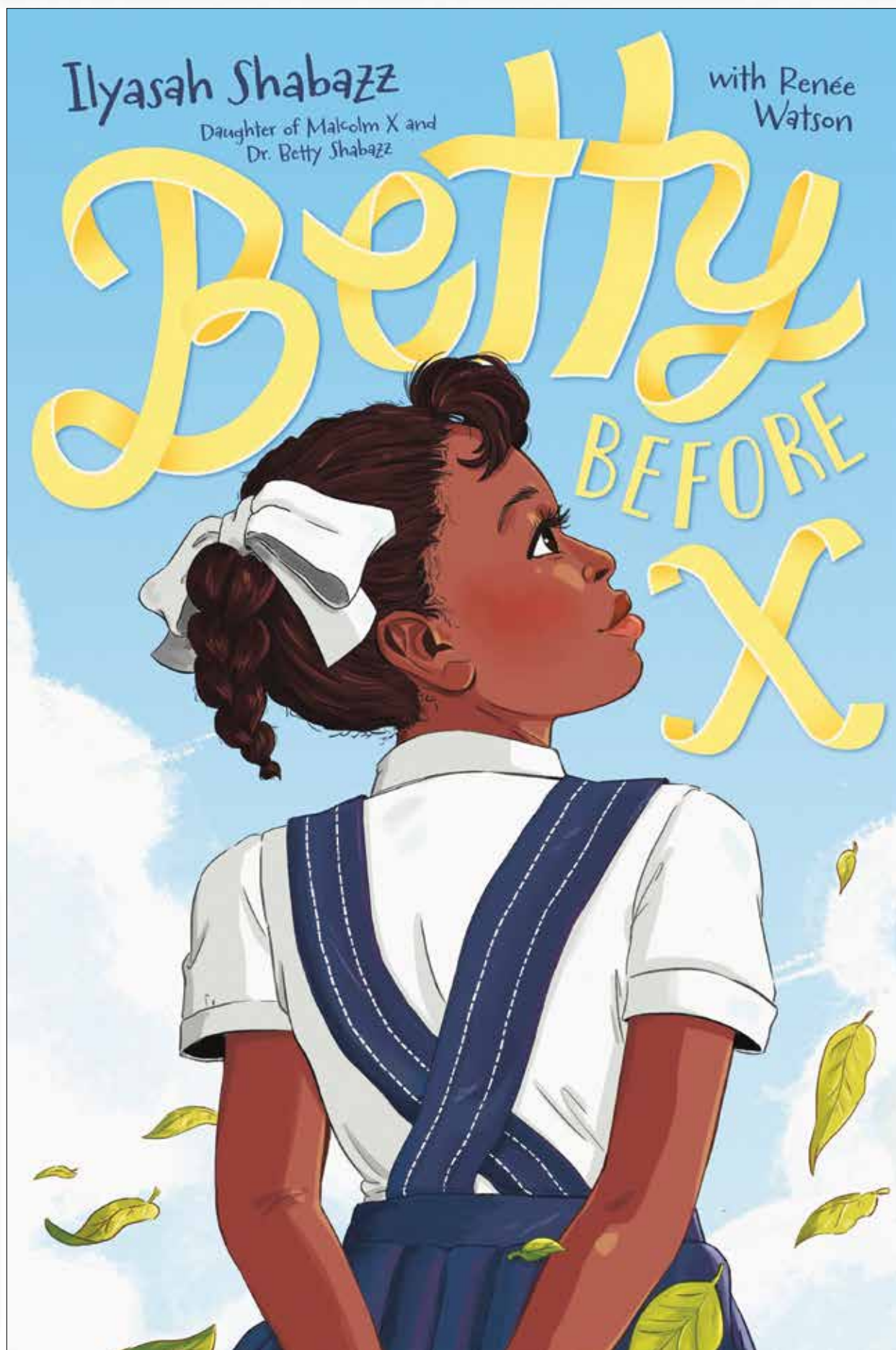
On Saturday, Feb. 24, Watson will be the honored guest of the North Portland Library for a reading and conversation. The event begins at 1 pm. Watson will read from the new book and participate in a Q&A with the audience. The first 50 guests 18 years old and under will receive a free, signed book. The event is free and open to the public.



Renée Watson

“Betty Before X” is a middle grade, historical fiction novel inspired by the real life of Betty Shabazz, Malcolm X’s wife. The book illuminates four poignant years in Betty’s childhood and paints an inspiring portrait of a girl overcoming the challenges of self-acceptance and belonging that will resonate with young readers today.

The book has received high acclaim, including



praise from Congresswoman Maxine Waters, who said, “Today is a time when fearless and uncompromising leadership is needed, and this story answers the call. It should be an inspiration and playbook to all women today, both young and old, who, like Betty, are paving their own path of strength.”

Ilyasah Shabazz, third daughter of Malcolm X and Dr. Betty Shabazz, is an educator, activ-

ist, motivational speaker, and author of multiple award-winning publications. She is an adjunct professor at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York City.

Renée Watson is the author of acclaimed teen novels *Piecing Me Together* and *This Side of Home*. She splits her time between Oregon and New York. To learn more about Watson, visit reneewatson.net.

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



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Saxophonist Javon Jackson and a powerhouse lineup of other jazz artists will perform 'Jazz by 5,' Sunday at Revolution Hall in the former Washington High School.

'Jazz by 5' at Revolution Hall

A powerhouse lineup of jazz artists will perform 'Jazz by 5,' celebrating the eras of swing, bebop, avant-garde jazz and beyond, in a Sunday, Feb. 25 concert sponsored by the PDX Jazz festival at 7 p.m. at Revolution Hall at the

former Washington High School in southeast Portland

Saxophonist Javon Jackson initially comprised 'Jazz by 5' in an effort to perform, tour and collaborate with his close friends, all of whom have made an indelible mark on the jazz genre.

Local drummer Domo Branch and his Quintet will open the concert in a program entitled Domo's Delight with Domo Branch, tenor saxophone Devin Phillips, trumpet Noah Simpson, acoustic piano Charlie Brown, acoustic bass Eric Gruber.



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Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

Black Film Fest -- The nonprofit Hollywood Theater hosts a month long cinematic showcase



of African-American stars and filmmakers for Black History Month. Actor Joe Morton will join the festival for special screening of his 1984 film 'The Brother from Another Planet,' on Saturday, Feb. 24 at 7 p.m., with Q&A to follow. A complete festival lineup is available at hollywoodtheatre.org.

International Bake Sale -- Come enjoy a wide variety of international delicacies at the Muslim Educational Trust's annual bake sale, Saturday, Feb. 25, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the MET Community Center, 10330 S.W. Schools Ferry Rd. Proceeds to help support youth scholarships.

Black History Unity Gala and Marketplace -- Self Enhancement, Inc. and World Stage Theater hosts the first annual Black History Unity Gala and Community Marketplace with some of the best vendors and organizations from the community, on Saturday, Feb. 24 at 7 p.m. at SEI, 3920 N. Kerby Ave. Event will feature keynote speaker, ESPN co-host Jemele Hill.

Everybody Reads -- Multnomah County Library's 16th annual community reading program is underway with 5,750 copies of Moshin Hamid's 'Exit West' now being distributed across the district so readers and students can engage with the book's themes of safety, migration, displacement and conflict. Hamid will speak on Thursday, April 5 at 7:30 p.m. at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall in a public talk presented by Literary Arts.



Norman Sylvester -- 'Boogie Cat' Norman Sylvester plays 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.

Love in Unlikely Places -- Tina Chip stars as the waitress and Ryan Vincent Anderson as the policeman in "Kodachrome," a world premiere play

about characters trying to connect. Now playing through March 18 at the Armory, downtown. Tickets

start at \$25.

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.

Priced-Out Documentary -- The new feature-length film by local journalist Cornelius Swart 'Priced Out: 15 Years of Gentrification in Portland, Oregon' will screen free to the public on Thursday, Feb. 22 at 7 p.m. at the Cerimon House, 5131 N.E. 23rd Ave. The documentary explores the complexities and contradictions of gentrification and what neighborhood life means after the era of 'the ghetto.'

Voyage to Vietnam -- Portland Children's Museum promotes the understanding of Vietnam culture and showcases the traditions, customs and values exemplified by the country's annual celebration of Tet with Voyage to Vietnam: Celebrating the Tet Festival. The new exhibit runs through May 6.

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.

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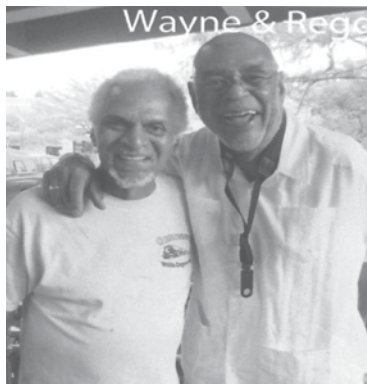
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World Cultures Resonate at PIFF

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

a cartel. As she describes her ordeal in aching detail, director Tatiana Huezo presents images of other faces and scenes meant to suggest Miriam's inner life—fear, loneliness, recognition that she, too, could turn into someone like her brutalizers. She intersperses Miriam's story with that of Adela, a circus performer who bit by bit finds words to express the unthinkable reality that she is still looking for her daughter ten years after she was kidnapped, apparently by members of the federal police. Adela's story is told with images of her and her family members, and Huezo unfolds both stories with great patience. Each is almost unthinkably painful -- certainly for the women themselves -- and, given the corruption that underlies each, the imagery and the words themselves convey a sense of the women's vulnerability and also that their stories could randomly happen to anyone in Mexico. The film plays on Sunday, Feb. 25 and Thursday, March 1.

Four Acts, the work of Indonesian director Mouly Surya, puts the American western genre to satisfying feminist use. Though critics refer to this as a female revenge movie, it isn't really that; the murders in question occur when the protagonist, a widow living alone on the sparsely populated island of Sumba, is beset by seven men who steal all of her livestock and demand that she cook for them while they banter about past rapes in anticipation of their planned post-dinner entertainment. Marlina's response doesn't actually seem out of proportion to the circumstances -- and even less so as the film unfolds the intensity with which patriarchy functions in her world to render it every bit as lawless as the American west. In the tradition of many of Western heroes, Marlina's actions are revealed to be about what is available to refuse to submit to violence that would otherwise be treated as her due. Even the women and girls in the film don't seem very surprised or even curious about Mar-

provement efforts that western Europeans undertake in eastern Europe. This observant film plays again on Wednesday, Feb. 28.

"Vazante" tells a story set in the 1820s, shortly before Brazil gained its independence from Portugal, and six decades before slavery was abolished there. Its director, Daniela Thomas, set out to depict the time in a way that avoided the sensationalism and extreme violence of the few American films to depict slavery themes, but instead to portray the banality of evil, in Hannah Arendt's terms—the way that slavery and oppression of women actually felt normal, particularly to the oppressors, but even, to varying degrees to the oppressed. I read about her intentions after seeing the film—but actually acquired a sense of them while watching the film, which is less plot-driven and more sight, sound, and sense-driven. It doesn't sugar-coat the oppression it depicts, but makes it feel concrete and lived in, helping us to imagine how it could feel normal to a white man and slave owner to treat virtually everyone around him as though they all exist for his benefit. It's an art film, requiring some patience, but it left me with a lot to think about. It plays on Feb. 25 and 28.

"Zama" is based by a rather famous Argentine novel that most people in the U.S. likely haven't heard of, exploring the excesses, racism, and absurdity of colonial life through a functionary named Diego de Zama. Director Lucrecia Martel captures a sense in which power of this kind is all smoke and mirrors: Zama's power in a remote location seems pointless; he spends most of his time angling for a different post while being outmaneuvered by others; and even the black and indigenous people below him in the social hierarchy seem more to be stifling an eye roll rather than fear. The film isn't driven by plot so much as a languorous mood that suits the material; I wouldn't call this film entertaining but it is, in its way, enlightening. It plays a final time on Feb. 21.

Four additional films that have completed their PIFF runs will find their way to theaters soon. *"The Death of Stalin,"* which played on opening night, is a brilliant satire of the kind that fans of writer-director Armando Iannucci ("In the Loop" and "Veep") have come to expect. Here, inspired by the depiction of these events in a graphic novel, Iannucci and his collaborators set out to capture the chaos that ensued as Stalin's various henchmen jockeyed for power after his sudden death. The stellar cast are all British and American

CONTINUED ON PAGE 19



A poignant and truthful film about children and loving adults processing trauma is captured in the film 'Summer 1993,' which plays again Saturday, Feb. 24 and Thursday, March 1 at the Portland International Film Festival.

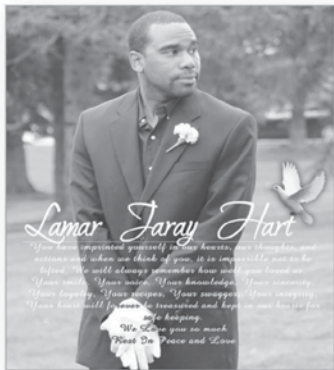
"Summer 1993," inspired by director Carla Simón's own childhood experience, meditates on a pivotal time in the life of a six-year-old girl, Frida, who goes to live with her uncle and aunt in the Catalan countryside after her mother's death from AIDS-related complications. It's a very promising first feature; Simón avoids the sentimentality common to films about children and instead captures a very natural sense of how a child and loving adults process trauma, mostly without words. The relationship between Frida and her younger cousin (and now sister) feels especially authentic, as do the portrayal of extended family members still in shock themselves but doing the best they can, and the wobbly adjustment Frida and her new family unit make to each other. This poignant and truthful film has inspired awards notice (though not from the Academy, which passed on it for flashier films) and makes Simon a director to watch. It plays on Feb. 24 and March 1.

"Marlina the Murderer in

lina's actions; one senses it is not hard for them to imagine an occasion where violence would be necessary to survive. This smart (and violent) film plays again on Feb. 25.

"Western" follows a group of German construction workers on a job to build infrastructure in a remote part of Bulgaria. It's a slow burn of a film, and another in the tradition of American westerns, with a loner protagonist named Meinhard who stands apart from the other men, and ventures alone into the local village to make friends with some of the distrustful locals. Particular distrust builds between him and the crew boss, Vincent, who harasses one of the local women and functions like a colonizer. The film is not big on plot; rather, its female director, Valeska Griesbach, is interested in the winding power struggles of the men, and the ambiguities around what signifies goodness and what is really just a convoluted way of grasping influence and resources. There are also some interesting observations here about the im-

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February 2018 CALENDAR

MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY SUNDAY

February is **Black History Month**. Famous and influential black individual's birthdays throughout the month are included below. Also see listings throughout the year at <http://www.blackintime.info/black-birthday-monthly.html>

1

Nat. Freedom Day
Robinson Crusoe Day
Langston Hughes,
1902-1967 (writer)

2

Groundhog Day
William Artis, 1914-
1977 (ceramacist
and sculptor)

3

Elizabeth Blackwell
born 1821 (1st
female doctor)
Dennis Edwards,
1943-2018, R&B
Singer

4

Create a Vacuum
Day
**Rosa Parks born,
1913 (civil rights
leader)**

5

Weatherman's Day
Disaster Day
Henry "Hank"
Aaron, 1934- (Co-
median, actor)

6

Monopoly Board
Game Goes on
Sale in Stores,
1935



7

Charles Dickens
born, 1812
Laura Ingalls Wild-
er born, 1867

8

Gary Coleman,
1968-2010 (Actor,
1970s and 1980s
television child
star)

9

Alice Walker, 1944-
(Pulitzer Prize-win-
ning author)
Toothache Day

10

Umbrella Day
Leontyne Price,
1927- (Award-win-
ning operatic
soprano)

11

National Inventors'
Day (In honor of
Thomas Edison's
birthday)
White T-Shirt Day

12

Arsenio Hall, 1956-
(Actor, Comedian)
Abraham Lincoln
born, 1809 (16th
President)

13

Mardi Gras
Emmett J. Scott,
1873-1957 (Chief
aide to Booker T.
Washington)

14

Frederick Douglass,
1818-1895 (Ex-
slave, abolitionist,
statesman)
Valentine's Day

15

Brian Holland, 1941-
(Songwriter &
Record Producer)
Susan B. Anthony
born, 1820

16

**Chinese New Year
- Year of the Dog**
Levar Burton, 1957-
(Actor and Televi-
sion peronality)

17

Random Acts of
Kindness Day
Michael Jordan,
1963- (Basketball
Superstar)

18

Pluto, Discovered,
1930
Toni Morrison, 1931-
(Nobel & Pulitzer
Prize author)

19

President's Day
William "Smokey"
Robinson, 1940-
(Grammy-winning
Music Legend)

20

John Glenn Orbits
Earth. 1962
Sidney Poitier, 1927-
(Acadamy award
winning Actor)

21

Malcom X Assassi-
nated (1965)
Nina Simone, 1933-
2003 (musician,
civil-rights activist)

22

George Washing-
ton born, 1732
Julius Erving, 1950-
(boxing champion
in 6 catagories)

23

International Dog
Biscuit Apprecia-
tion Day
U.S. Flag raised at
Iwo Jima (1945)

24

Steve Jobs born,
1955

25

Quiet Day
Donald Quarrie,
1951- (Olympic
gold medalist
sprinter)

26

"Fats" Domi-
no, 1928-2017
(best-selling R&B
artist)

27

Marian Anderson,
1897-1993 in Port-
land OR (opera
singer)
Polar Bear Day

28

Public Sleeping
Day
Charles A. "Bubba"
Smith, 1945- (NFL
player, actor)





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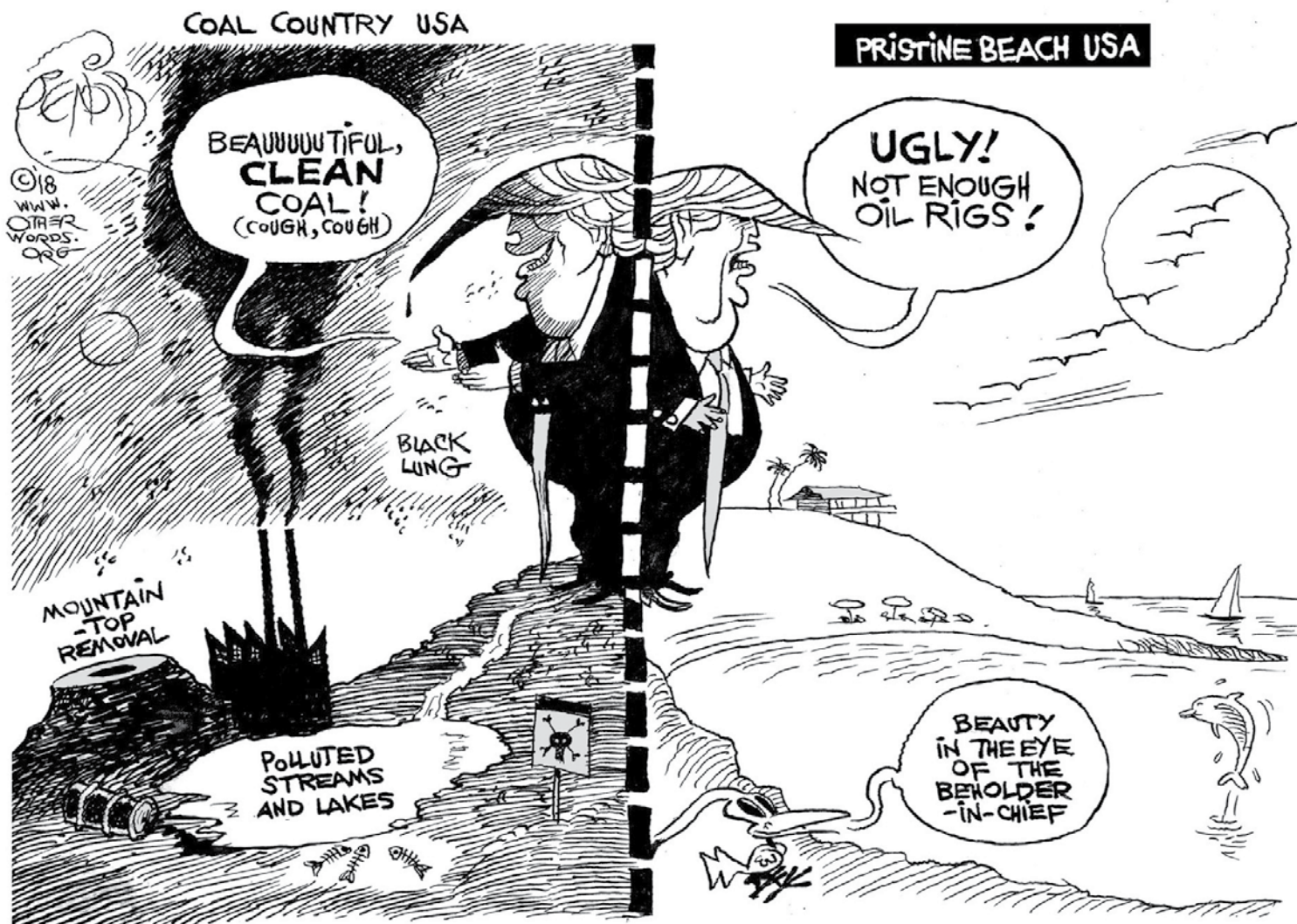
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OPINION



The Racist and Disastrous War on Pot

Federal laws are broken and need fixing

BY JESSELYN MCCURDY

If polling is correct, pot no longer gives Americans fits. Recent Gallup polls indicate that 64 percent of Americans approve of legalizing marijuana — the highest level of public support in almost 50 years. Nevertheless, we have an administration that is tone deaf to the will of the people and insists on reinstituting failed policies of decades past.

But there are members of Congress who are listening. Reps. Barbara Lee, D-Calif. and Ro Khanna, D-Calif. Recently introduced the Marijuana Justice Act in the House of Representatives. Both agree that legalizing marijuana under federal law is an important step to confronting and eroding the harms that the failed war on drugs has had on people across the country, disproportionately on black and brown communities.

In addition to legalization, the bill would cut federal funding for state law enforcement and prison construction if a state disproportionately arrests and incarcerate people of color for marijuana offenses. It also would retroactively apply to those currently serving sentences and allow people in federal prison

for marijuana offenses to go to court and ask a judge to reduce their sentence.

When Sen. Cory Booker, D-N.J., introduced the bill in the Senate last summer, he acknowledged “our country’s drug laws are badly broken and need to be fixed. ... [T]hey don’t make our communities any safer.”

Booker, like Lee and Khanna, understands that laws that do not make communities safer must be questioned, and in this case, stricken.

Currently more than one in five Americans live in the eight states and the District of Columbia that have legalized small amounts of marijuana for recreational use, not to mention the 29 states that approve medical use. The federal government should follow the states, and the people, and legalize pot.

In a groundbreaking 2013 report, the ACLU documented that black people are almost four times more likely to be arrested for marijuana possession than white people, despite comparable usage rates. Even more disturbing, in the District of Columbia in 2013, where black people make up 49 percent of the population and whites and people of other backgrounds make up 51 percent, nearly 91 percent of the people arrested for marijuana offenses were black. These stunning statistics led D.C. residents to support marijuana legalization in 2016. They should likewise spur people to support the Marijuana Justice Act.

As John Ehrlichman, former domestic policy chief for Richard Nixon, has confirmed, the

war on drugs was never about the stated purpose of protecting the health and safety of the American people. Instead, it was really about undermining the black and anti-war communities.

“The Nixon campaign in 1968, and the Nixon White House after that, had two enemies: the antiwar left and black people,” Ehrlichman told journalist Dan Baum in 1994, “We knew we couldn’t make it illegal to be either against the war or black, but by getting the public to associate the hippies with marijuana and blacks with heroin, and then criminalizing both heavily, we could disrupt those communities.”

He continued, “Did we know we were lying about the drugs? Of course we did.”

Unfortunately in 2018, we have an attorney general who is stuck in the past and has embraced these divisive Nixonian policies and tactics. Last month, Attorney General Jeff Sessions rescinded several Obama-era policies that recognized states’ rights to legalize marijuana for recreational and medicinal purposes.

Although this administration does not recognize or seem to care about the harm that antiquated drug policies have caused to communities of color, it is refreshing to see that some members of Congress — like Cory Booker, Barbara Lee, and Ro Khanna — do. They are fighting back with the Marijuana Justice Act, which lives up to its name and would be important to criminal justice reform for our nation.

Jesselyn McCurdy is a deputy director of the American Civil Liberties Union in Washington, D.C.



Opinion articles do not necessarily represent the views of the Portland Observer. We welcome reader essays, photos and story ideas. Submit to news@portlandobserver.com.

OPINION

'Toughing It Out' Doesn't Work for Severe Pain

We need access to the drugs that help

BY JILL RICHARDSON

Recently Attorney General Jeff Sessions gave Americans suffering severe pain some advice: "People need to take some aspirin sometimes and tough it out a little."



As someone who has suffered chronic pain for over 20 years, his remarks make me very angry.

Sessions was responding to the opioid epidemic. I agree that something must be done. I lost my brother to an opioid overdose nine years ago. I miss him every day.

But I also use prescription opioids responsibly myself, and I rely on them to help control my pain.

Imagine severe, throbbing head pain — combined with nausea, vomiting, and visual disturbances. Light and sound hurt your

head, so you are in a dark room. If you can fall asleep, great. Sleeping can make migraines go away sometimes.

But sometimes you aren't tired, or it hurts too much, and you just lay there hurting.

Now imagine doing this several times a week, every week, for over 20 years. That's my life.

"Tough it out" is what you do when the pain is temporary and when there's an end to it. It's what you do when the pain isn't too severe.

But what if the pain is severe, and nothing makes it better, and there is no end in sight? When it hurts that much, every single day, there's no more joy in life. There's only pain.

Fortunately, I've found two drugs that work. Just two: oxycodone and marijuana. And apparently Jeff Sessions thinks I shouldn't take either of them.

Medical marijuana is obviously the better of the two. It's less addictive and it won't kill you. Gaining access to legal medical marijuana has changed my life.

It's also helped me drastically cut down on opioid use.

I've taken Oxycodone regularly and responsibly for the last decade. I make sure to take it seldom enough that I don't develop a tolerance for it, and I never increase my dose. I try to take it once every two months, and I will not under any circumstances take it more than once a week.

I reserve Oxycodone for the most severe pain. It's such a relief to have an option that will treat my worst migraines. I "tough out" the less severe ones, including the one I have right now.

Why do I use these two controversial drugs instead of something else? Because literally nothing else works. I've tried about 20 different over the counter and prescription medications, herbs, meditation, acupuncture, and even Botox injections.

Nothing. Else. Works.

Not everyone can take opioids safely. My brother couldn't. He was my best friend and my only sibling. We need to do something about opioid addiction in this country.

More broadly, we desperately need universal health care — including mental health care.

In the end, it was mental health care that my brother and I both needed — him for his addiction, me for my migraines, and both of us for trauma and anxiety.

I've finally found a wonderful mental health therapist and I'm making progress in healing my trauma. My migraines seem slightly less severe. But the therapy costs thousands of dollars a year, and so many people don't have thousands of dollars a year. Especially people whose ability to work is limited by illness.

While we work toward a better mental health care system, those of us who suffer chronic pain need to be able to access the drugs that help us stop hurting. For those who can use them responsibly, opioids and medical marijuana are truly lifelines.

OtherWords columnist Jill Richardson is the author of Recipe for America: Why Our Food System Is Broken and What We Can Do to Fix It. Distributed by OtherWords.org.

Re-circulating Your Dollars into the Black Community

Rewarding those who help and support us

BY PHILLIP JACKSON

Once and for all, let's get this straight. America has gotten out of the black people business! No help is coming from Washington, D.C.



No help is coming from state government. No significant help is coming from city and county municipal governments. No useful help is coming from foundations and corporations. We, black people, are on our own. And, really, for centuries, we were always on our own.

Most jobs that blacks once had in America are now done by computers, machines and robots. Many of the other jobs that we used to have are now taken by immi-

grants or have grown beyond our collective skillsets. Black leadership is still using protest tactics and methodologies from the 1950s to address 2018 economic problems. Those tactics won't work. There is no more cotton for black people to pick, and but our leadership teaches us to have a have a cotton picking and sharecropper mentality.

Even if black people continue acquiring wealth at our present rate and white people stop acquiring any additional wealth, it would take 228 years to close the racial wealth gap. As of 2013, white households had \$116,000 in median household net worth and black families had \$1,700 of median household net worth. Regardless, it is projected that by 2053 black median household net worth will be at zero dollars. Black people's net worth will be at the same level as when we came out of slavery in 1865.

The good news: Black people in America have a gross national income of about \$1.3 trillion. The bad news: Only 2 percent or about \$26 billion of those \$1.3 trillion

are re-circulated in the black community.

If black dollars were more re-circulated in black American communities, black dollars would produce black companies, help hire black employees, support black families and rebuild black communities. Instead, our \$1.3 trillion income makes other people rich including whites, Arabs, Koreans, Pakistanis, Indians, Latinos, Chinese, Polish, even blacks from the Caribbean and the continent of Africa.

Black people need a simple plan to alter our trajectory. Here's a plan: Join with The Black Star Project in the "Circulate Black Dollars in Black Communities" campaign and receive a "Black dollar stamp." You can stamp all of your paper money with this stamp (legal according to Title 18, Section 333 of United States Code and Title 18, Section 475 of United States Code) and make a conscious effort to spend your dollars with black people every time you use cash.

If 43 million black people consciously move their spending efforts from 2 percent with black people to 4 percent with black

people, \$26 billion more will be infused into the black economy. If black people can move their spending habits from 2 percent to 10 percent with black people, an additional \$104 billion will be generated. Theoretically, \$104 billion would produce between 400,000 and 750,000 new jobs and geometrically accelerate black financial and social well-being.

As black spending becomes more intentional, our social and economic issues will disappear. We won't have to wait for others to give us financial permission or support so that we might fix our own problems. We will declare a new freedom and help take control over the lives of everyone in our communities.

Your dollar is your most potent weapon in a capitalistic society. We must learn to use our dollars to reward those who help and support us, and to punish those who don't. Circulate black dollars in black communities!

Phillip Jackson is founder and chairman of the Black Star Project in Chicago.



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World Cultures Resonate at PIFF

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

(including Jeffrey Tambor, Michael Palin, and Steve Buscemi as a very persuasive Nikita Khrushchev) and, though I worried a bit about portraying these Russian events from an English perspective, I lost that worry quickly; this film would never be made in Russia and depends on a kind of very-perceptive humor in which language is everything. Iannucci has managed to capture a quite credible sense of how this specific example of despotic power and violence must have played out, and also some real insights about the senselessness (in every sense) of this sort of power in general—how malleable the truth is in the hands of those with structural power, and how quickly one can change from being the person with the most ruthless power and the scapegoat. As Buscemi's Krushchev aptly explains, "This is how people get killed, when your story doesn't fit."

"*Won't You Be My Neighbor*" is an appreciation of Fred Rogers, whose gentle television presence in "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood" comforted children—including myself—for more than 30 years, offering many of us a much-needed image of a kind father who loved us just as we were. While filming "The Music of Strangers" with Yo-Yo Ma, director Morgan Neville ("Twenty Feet from Stardom") asked the cellist who he credited with teaching him how to handle fame, and his surprising response

was Fred Rogers, with whom he shared a long friendship. That conversation inspired Neville's curiosity, and what his further investigation revealed was a person whose work in television was fueled by a sense of mission that was more radical than people have realized. His show launched in the late 1960s when television was still new, and Rogers worried his whole life about the values that children's programming communicate to children. I actually remember noticing as a child that most cartoons seemed to be about either slapstick violence or plots to end the world—but Rogers broke all the rules of good television with a clear vision of what children need to hear and a conviction about the importance of love. Its theatrical release will happen in June.

"*Bodied*" would not have been made without the independent vision of its director, Joseph Kahn; it's impossible to imagine a studio giving a green light to a film helmed by a director of color and deliberating poking at the issues of race, misogyny, homophobia, and political correctness implicated in the world of battle rap. The story here focuses on a white Berkeley graduate student who rooting around for an idea separate from his English professor father; he thinks he admires the creative innovation of people of color in the world of rap, but as he finds himself pulled into the world as a performer the question of what he really admires becomes more complicated. Does

he just want to say the N word? Is he an improvement on his PC white friends (who don't appear to associate with any people of color (except an occasional Asian who they dub not really a POC)? Or is he just the worst kind of cultural appropriator? As is self-conscious racial humor equivalent coming out of anyone's mouth? These and other questions are served up and not answered here with skill and humor—and some self-indulgence. It appears to be headed for a theatrical release.

"*Thoroughbreds*" is a well-executed film noir about two upper-class teenage girls who goad each other into an increasingly high-stakes revenge plot. Its two lead performances are strong and its writer-director, Cory Finley, directing his first feature, displays a sure hand with plotting (aside from a clumsy ending) and smart dialogue. The question for me is why we needed to see a film about two murderous upper-class teenage girls in the first place; it felt to me sumptuous and clever for the sake of being sumptuous and clever.

For the films still getting a PIFF run, you can buy tickets ahead at nwfilm.org or at the art museum.

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

Obituary/Remembrance

In Loving Memory

Jerry Murray

Jerry Murray of Portland died Jan. 17, 2018. He was born June 4, 1946 in North Carolina to Hazel and Inetta Murray.

He graduated from Benson High School in 1964, then attended Portland State University for two years. He joined the US Marine Corps, becoming a corporal and earning two silver stars, the military's third highest personal decoration for valor in combat and gallantry in action. He was honored in a book about a gunnery sergeant in the Marines written by P.E. Brandon titled "Gunny."

Jerry earned the title of Mr. Oregon for two years, body building at the Matt Dishman Community Center. He worked for the ESCO Company for 35 years; and he also worked security for Safeway and Fred Meyer stores.

He was preceded in death by his wife Betty in 2013; his parents; and brother Nicholas. He leaves to mourn his death a sister Barbara Barber (Ernest), a brother Steve (Rhonda), and a host of nieces, nephews and friends.

Services will take place on Monday Feb. 26 at 10:30 a.m. at Maranatha Church, 4222 N.E. 12th Ave. Viewing will take place on Friday, Feb. 23 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Terry Family Funeral Home, 2337 N. Williams.



In Loving Memory

Willie 'George' Rutherford

Willie "George or G.W." Rutherford was born Feb. 22, 1941 and died Aug. 5, 2016.

Happy birthday love! Your wife and family, sisters and brothers, all wish you were here to celebrate! It's not the same without you! We all miss you so much!

I love you, Your wife, Ann Rutherford



In Loving Memory

Nathaniel 'Butch' Baker Jr.

Nathaniel Johnnie "Butch" Baker Jr. of Portland was born Sept. 18 1955 and was called home on Feb. 8, 2018.

He graduated from Adams High School in 1974 and was a remarkable drummer who entertained with several bands.

Family and friends will hold a memorial service on Sunday Feb. 25 at 3 p.m. at the Colwood Golf Center, 7313 N.E. Columbia Blvd.



Portland NAACP Updates Issues

NAACP Portland NAACP President Jo Ann Hardesty and executive leadership from the local civil rights organization will provide updates about current and future initiatives during an upcoming meeting of the group that is open to prospective and current members.

The session is an opportunity to connect with the organization's work in advancing racial justice in the community. The session will be held Saturday, Feb. 24 from noon to 2 p.m. at Lloyd Center in the

former Deb's retail store space just north of the ice skating rink.

The mission of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate racial hatred and racial discrimination. The vision of the NAACP is to ensure a society in which all individuals have equal rights and there is no racial hatred or racial discrimination.

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