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# Portland Observer

Volume XLVII • Number 11



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Wednesday • March 14, 2018



Established in 1970  
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Grant High School players and coaches celebrate after winning their first state championship in basketball in 10 years Saturday with a 63-62 thriller final against cross town rival and defending state champions Jefferson High School.

# Generals Take State!

## Grant bests Jefferson in exciting 6A final

Congratulations to Grant High School on their first state championship in basketball in 10 years after scoring a 63-62 victory on Saturday against cross-town rival and defending champion Jefferson in the final of the 6A Boys' tournament at the University of Portland's Chiles Center.

Ty Rankin cinched the tying and winning

baskets for the Generals when they were down one with only seven seconds left by sinking two back-to-back free throws.

Though the Democrats were without their Portland Interscholastic League player-of-the-year Marcus Tsohonis, due to an injured finger, the teams were neck and neck throughout the game thanks in part to a demanding performance from Jefferson senior Khall Chatman, who singularly scored 30 points and 12 rebounds. Jefferson even seemingly had the Generals cornered

in the last moments of the game, leading 62-61, while Grant went minutes without scoring.

The Generals' win represented a rebound against the Democrats who had won a previous seven straight games against Grant over the past two years.

In the Girls State 6A championship bracket, Benson High School finished a dream season by making it into the final contest at the Chiles Center Saturday, but fell to defending champion Southridge, 46-27.

## 'Let's Get Moving' Health Event

The Vancouver branch of the NAACP and other organizations are inviting their friends and neighbors to get involved in a 'Let's Get Moving' campaign to build awareness on the importance of adopting a healthy lifestyle.

African Americans face many health disparities, impacted by issues like low incomes, dependency on Medicaid services; gym memberships that lack cultural inclusion; chronic health conditions like diabetes, obesity, heart disease, stroke and other daily stressors to name a few.

Community health worker and founder of the "Let's Get Moving" program, Kelli Keyes says, "We need to create more opportunities to build awareness of the importance of becoming more active as a community."

On Saturday, March 17 at 1 p.m., area residents are invited to learn more during an open house at the Vancouver Housing Authority, 2500 Main St. For two hours each Saturday at the facility, the group meets for dancing to music, an outdoor walk-rhythm activity, healthy conversations and a variety of healthy snacks. The group's age range is college young adult through an amazing 80 years young!

For more information, call Kelli Keyes at 360-993-9558.

# Jeff Alumni Oppose Name Change

## Will host public discussion next week

A group representing past and present students of Jefferson High School has taken a stand against changing the name of the school and has started a petition not to change the name and leave it the same.

The call to change Jefferson's name took on weight last January when the Humboldt Neighborhood Association sponsored a public forum at the North Portland Library. It followed an appeal by resident Clifford Walker, a local black neighbor and activist who objects to public high school named after a former slave owner. Others want to focus on supporting and improving the school and warn about a gentrified community erasing Jefferson's current history. The Portland School Board is considering revising its policies to allow for school name changes when it takes into account the district's desire to eliminate systemic discrimination.

Monday, The Jefferson High School Alumni association issued a statement saying it found little support for changing Jefferson's name. The group said when it asked its members to comment on its Facebook account, only 20 people stated they were in favor of a name change and



A monument of President Thomas Jefferson fronts Jefferson High School.

112 people were against it.

The Jefferson Alumni Association and the nonprofit immigrant and civil rights group Unite Oregon are calling on current Jefferson students, alumni and the wider

Jefferson community to attend their own public discussion on the issue. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 21 at 7 p.m. at the Unite Oregon offices at 700 N. Killingsworth St.

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## The Week in Review

### Serial Package Bombs Deadly

Three explosions that occurred when people picked up packages outside their homes around Austin, Texas appear to be connected, according to police. Two of the blasts happened Monday, killing a 17-year-old African-American boy and injuring two others. A March 2 blast killed a 39-year-old African-American man.

### More White House Shakeup

President Donald Trump unceremoniously dumped Secretary of State Rex Tillerson on Tuesday — by tweet — and picked CIA Director Mike Pompeo to take his place, abruptly ending Tillerson's turbulent tenure as America's top diplomat and escalating the administration's chaotic second-year shake-up with five top officials resigning or being fired in the last two weeks.

### Lillard Player of Week

The NBA named Damian Lillard the Western Conference Player of the Week Monday after he led the league in points per game and led the Blazers to three-straight wins, including a 17-point victory over the defending champion Golden State Warriors.



### Students to see "Hamilton"

Portland Public Schools announced Monday that is sending 750 high school students to see the award-winning musical "Hamilton" at a special matinee performance on Wednesday in Seattle, ahead of the play's arrival in Portland next week. The Hamilton Education Program made the tickets available at a deep discount to the 10th and 11th grade students from historically underserved schools.

### Crows Killed by Neurotoxin

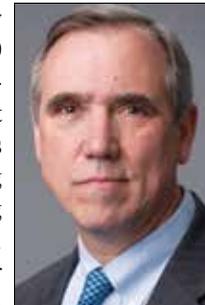
In late January, witnesses in the vicinity of Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Jessup Street reported seeing nearly a dozen crows "falling from the sky," seizing on the ground and dying. Last week, a criminal investigation determined the birds were intentionally poisoned with a neurotoxin called Avitrol, a restricted use pesticide. Whoever put out the poison likely violated federal law, according to the Audubon Society.

### Food Bank Recalls Chia Seeds

The Oregon Food Bank initiated a recall of 22,201 pounds of chia seeds Monday, which were donated to the food bank and distributed between November and March 9. The product may be contaminated with rodent droppings. While no known illnesses have been reported with this product, use or consumption may present a health hazard to consumers.

### Merkley on Presidential Run

Rumors of Sen. Jeff Merkley running for president in 2020 may be fueled by his upcoming trip to New Hampshire, but last week he told KOIN 6 News he's focused on campaigning for fellow Democrats fighting for a majority in the Senate. "My main focus is the fight for 51, to get a Democratic majority in the Senate that can stop some of the worst of Trump's policies and also the packing of the courts," Merkley said.



### House Ends Election Probe

In a viewpoint met with sharp disagreement with Democrats and with the U.S. intelligence community, Republicans on the House Intelligence Committee announced Monday that they have ended their probe into the 2016 election, finding no evidence Russian President Vladimir Putin was trying to help Donald Trump win or that Trump campaign colluded with Russia.

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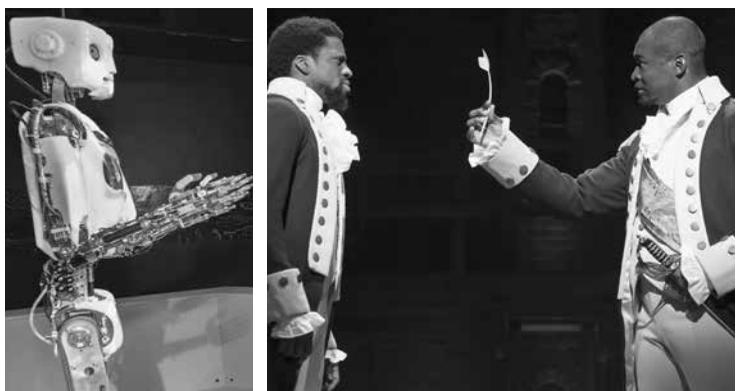
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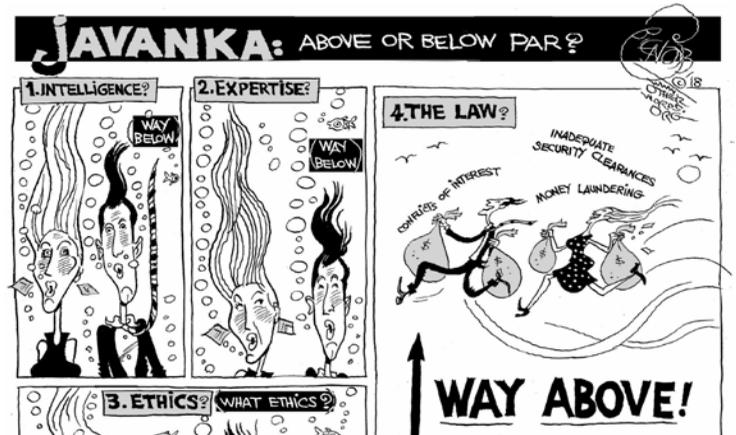
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# Fred Meyer

What's on your list today?



Firefighters douse water on a huge fire that erupted at a scrap yard near Northeast 76th and Killingsworth Street Monday, sending toxic smoke throughout the city, destroying a nearby apartment and duplex, killing several pets and causing the evacuations of hundreds of residents. (KGW photo)

# Disaster in Cully

## Scrap yard fire destroys homes; brings evacuations

BY DANNY PETERSON  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A 5-alarm fire that started Monday morning at an auto salvage yard in the Cully Neighborhood spread to nearby houses, destroying a six unit apartment, a duplex, killing more than a dozen cats, and displacing an estimated 2,000 to 4,000 residents.

An evacuation order that initially encompassed a mile radius in the vicinity of the fire at Northeast 75th Avenue and just south of Killingsworth Street was expanded Monday night to thousands more as noxious chemicals from the burning of tires, auto parts, and plastic filled the air.

The evacuation prompted Multnomah County and Red Cross to open an emergency shelter on 1415 S.E. 122nd Ave. where 141 people and several of their pets sought shelter Monday night.

Emergency officials announced Tuesday morning that it was safe for most residents to return to their homes, air quality tests confirmed.

A Cully neighborhood resident who chose to remain anonymous said he first noticed a heavy orange and yellow smoke from the fire around 9 a.m. Monday. The smoke soon settled down to street level and he said it gave him a sore throat and he had trouble breathing.

Another eyewitness, Ajit

Stingh, 65, saw firefighters rush to the scene while people were scattering holding their faces and wearing masks. He was tending to his store, Portland Market and Deli, on Northeast Killingsworth and Cully Boulevard.

Colleen Ek Ishiyamna, an administrative assistant at Trinity Lutheran Christian School on Killingsworth, said the plume of smoke darkened the sky above the school before it descended down on them.

"It was such a beautiful day and then all the sudden, can't even play [in it]," he said.

The school canceled recess and other activities for the rest of the day while keeping students indoors. They canceled school Tuesday.

Ek Ishiyama said many of the school's parents are from the Latino community that lives at a nearby apartment complex, Villa de Clara Vista. Many of them had to

spend the night with other friends and family members.

Public health officials from Multnomah County said smoke from the fire, which was still smoldering on Tuesday, can irritate people's eyes and respiratory system and can particularly impact young children, the elderly, and people with heart and lung problems.

A fire in an auto salvage yard, with its many tires and fuels, can be especially toxic, carrying things like asbestos, aldehydes, acid gases, and sulfur dioxide.

If anyone experiences trouble breathing, chest tightness, lightheadedness or unusual tiredness they should contact a healthcare provider right away, county officials said.

The public can sign up for public safety alerts at PublicAlerts.org for the latest information, call 211 for shelter assistance, and call 503-823-2323 for transportation assistance.



Several streets in the Cully Neighborhood of northeast Portland remained closed Tuesday, the day after a huge scrap yard fire nearby erupted into flames and smoke. The cause of the fire was under investigation.



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*“Making Life Challenges the Keys To Your Accomplishments”*



PHOTO BY DANNY PETERSON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Hundreds of Portland residents added their voices to an international Women's Strike last Thursday by holding a rally downtown and marching in the streets to protest economic inequality and oppression.

# Empowering Women

BY DANNY PETERSON  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Protesting the economic inequality and oppression women face at home and internationally, over 200 women from all walks of life rallied in Pioneer Courthouse Square and then took to the streets downtown for International Women's Day. The demonstrations last Thursday were among many marches and rallies calling for social change held across the world. A common target was President

Trump.

“Women in the developing world are making a special call on women on the U.S. to make the spirit of International Women's Day against our president, who embodies the capitalist patriarchy in many ways,” local organizer Alyssa Pariah told the Portland Observer.

Pariah is a leader of Don't Shoot Oregon, the civil rights group that organized the rally and a local organization that was born in 2014 in response to police

shootings of unarmed black men across the country.

Local students, stay-at-home mothers, sexual assault victims, and small business owners spoke to the large crowd at Pioneer Courthouse Square for about an hour addressing issues such as unequal pay, sexual assault, and violence against women. The crowd then marched in the streets holding signs and blocking traffic until they concluded at the waterfront about an hour later.



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# Gun Control for Domestic Abusers

Focus of two new laws in Oregon outlined

BY DANNY PETERSON  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The focus on preventing gun violence took a big step in Oregon last week thanks to a bill signed by Gov. Kate Brown that makes it harder for people convicted of domestic abuse to get guns, as well as a lesser known law implemented in January that allows courts to temporarily ban individuals shown to be at high risk of harming themselves or others from obtaining guns.

Brown signed the so-called ‘boyfriend loophole’ law to eliminate a situation where abusive intimate partners who do not reside under the same roof as their victims could still obtain guns. It also restricts gun access to people with restraining orders.

The Extreme Risk Protection Order law that started with the New Year allows courts to prohibit someone from having guns or other deadly weapons if there is probable cause that they pose significant danger to themselves or others.

Such a measure could very well have altered the outcome of a multiple homicide in 1995 that robbed Oregon psychologist Doreen Dodgen-Magee of her sister-in-law and three young nieces. They were shot and killed by an abusive ex-partner and father.

Dodge-Magee’s sister-in-law, Laura Whitson, was married for eight years to David Whitson before her partner’s emotional abuse forced her to move with their kids to her mother’s home in Scott



PHOTO COURTESY MULTNOMAH COUNTY  
Oregon psychologist Doreen Dodgen-Magee holds photos of her nieces killed by their own father to make a point during a discussion of a new law that allows courts to temporarily prohibit individuals who pose significant danger to themselves or others from having guns. She’s also an advocate for the Moms Demand Action/Everytown for Gun Safety survivor network.

Mills. He later broke into his ex wife’s house and raped her, which resulted in a pregnancy. She then got a restraining order against her husband, but he still retained a right of supervised visits with the children. Later, enraged that he wasn’t part of their child’s first day of kindergarten, he showed up to their house with a gun.

“Dave shot his way into the house with a rifle. My mother-in-law, Sarah, Rachel and baby April (6 months) were hiding in a bathroom—they ran outside.” Dodge-Magee said. “He ran out and shot them all. My mother-in-

law was shot in the arm but survived.”

The incident traumatized the small town of 400 and David Whitson, who was sentenced to life in prison, later died by suicide while behind bars.

Under the new abusive intimate partner law, any kind of existing restraining order can be grounds to removing guns from an individual’s possession, even if they do not live under the same roof.

The order can be issued if clear and convincing evidence that someone is at risk of suicide or harming others with a deadly weapon in the near future is pre-

sent to a judge.

“We believe it can save people’s lives,” Multnomah County Chair Deborah Kafoury told the Portland Observer. “If anyone sees imminent risk of someone doing harm to others or themselves, they should call the court to get more information.”

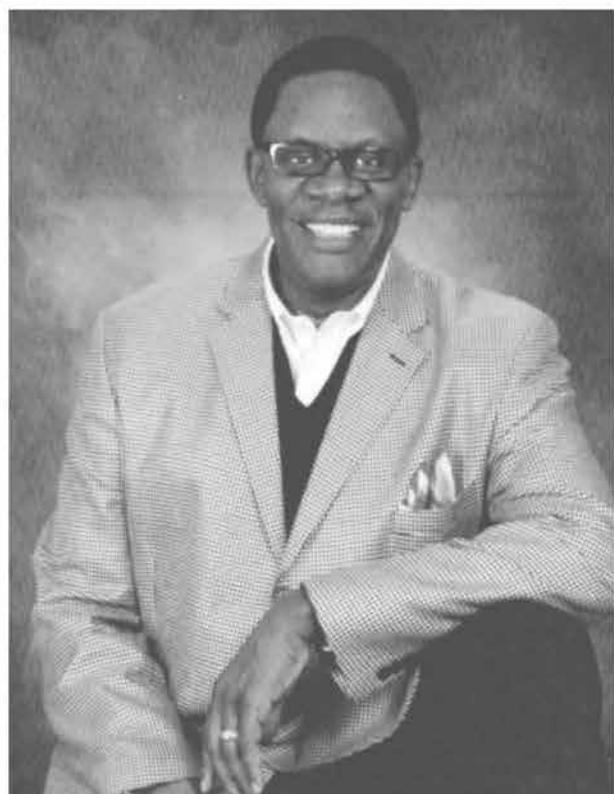
Unlike the boyfriend loophole bill, which is geared specifically at intimate partners, an Extreme Risk Protection Order can have a much wider-reaching net, Kafoury explained.

“It can be a friend, it can be a spouse, it can be your child. This really could have had an effect

to stop the gunman at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School [in Parkland, Florida],” Kafoury said.

The gun safety advocacy group Everytown for Gun Safety analyzed every mass shooting—where four or more victims were killed—in the U.S. from 2009-2016 and found that 54 percent of them were committed by intimate partners or family. In 42 percent of the cases, the perpetrator showed warning signs before the shooting that they were a danger to themselves or others. Red flags includ-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5



Dr. Billy R. Flowers

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# Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



## Hit Musical Lands in Portland

Michael Luwoye and Isaiah Johnson star in the hit Broadway musical 'Hamilton.' 'Hamilton,' the hip-hop smash hit Broadway musical that retells the story of the founding of America, begins its Portland premiere March 20, but getting a ticket over its three weeks of performances will not be easy. All shows sold out almost immediately after they went on sale last November. But the production has 40 lottery tickets available for each show. A lottery will open two days before each performance and you can enter each time by visiting [hamiltonmusical.com/lottery](http://hamiltonmusical.com/lottery).

## Obituary

### In Loving Memory



**Darryl Thomas** of Portland was born June 28, 1958 in Bakersfield, Calif. He passed away on Feb. 28, 2018, surrounded by loved ones at Providence Hospital.

Services will be held on Saturday, March 17 at 11 a.m. at Emmanuel Temple Church, 1033 N. Sumner St.

The family has set up an online account to accept donations for funeral expenses at [youcaring.com/darrylthomas-1124152](http://youcaring.com/darrylthomas-1124152) or contact his daughter Sharon directly at [sharthom19@gmail.com](mailto:sharthom19@gmail.com).

The family would like to thank the Portland Observer for their support during this difficult time.

### In loving Memory

**Tina Isoms** was born May 7, 1963 and died March 9, 2018.

A home going service will be held Wednesday, March 21 at 11 a.m. at the Rose City Cemetery and Funeral Home, 5625 N.E. Fremont St.



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# Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



PHOTO BY J.B. SPECTOR/CHICAGO MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY

Interested in Shakespeare? So is Robothepian! Learn about the skills robots possess that mimic and often surpass human capabilities in the new OMSI exhibit 'Robot Revolution' opening Saturday, March 17 and running through Sept. 7.

## Robot Revolution OMSI exhibit brings coolest robots ever

A new exhibit at the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (OMSI) some of the most innovative robots from all over the world.

'Robot Revolution,' opening Saturday, March 17, explores how robots will ultimately be our companions and colleagues of the future, changing how we play, live and work together.

The exhibit comes to life with a collection of cutting-edge robots from global robotics companies and universities. Guests will have the opportunity to interact with robots that are rarely seen by the public, as they step into a

visionary world where robots are not just a curiosity, but a vital asset.

OMSI officials say guests will be awed by the breakthroughs and capabilities of these machines.

The exhibit features four areas that delve into various aspects of robotics and offer specific hands-on activities with amazing robots, as well as dynamic videos.

You can see a robot mimic your own facial expressions, for example, with its advanced facial-coding technology; or get charmed by a furry baby seal therapy robot, which has sensors that can

respond to your touch; or try your hand at a surgical training simulation to see what it's like to perform a robotic surgery.

There is also a chance to create a 'bot for yourself by assembling the basic components of a robot using Cubelets and then seeing what you can get it to do!

'Robot Revolution' runs through Sept. 3. Tickets, which include general museum admission, are \$19.75 for adults, \$13.50 for youth (ages 3-13), and \$15.75 for seniors (ages 63+).

For more information, visit [www.oms.edu](http://www.oms.edu).

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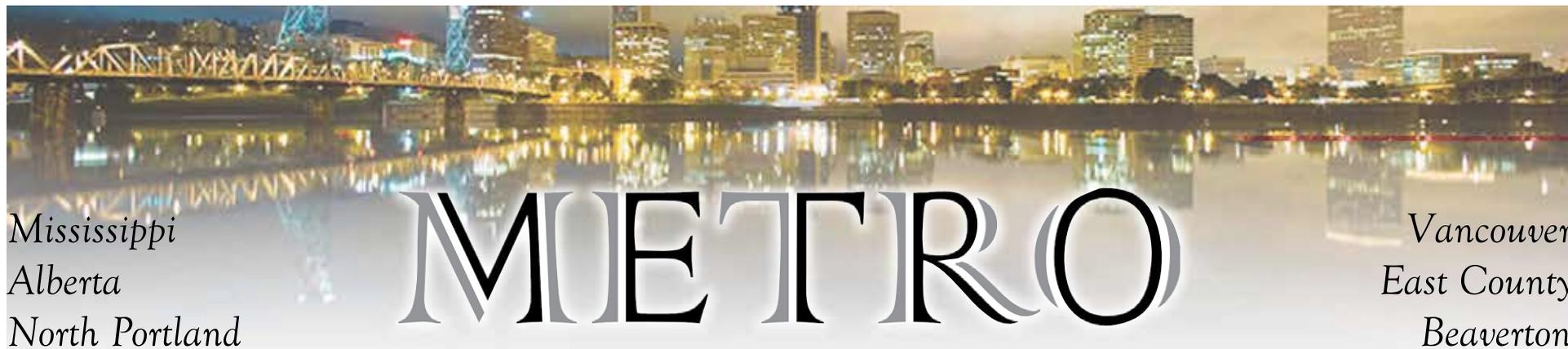
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## Entertaining Dance Crowds

*Kam Franklin fronts the Suffers, a popular 8-piece gulf coast band from Houston, Texas that brings elements of classic soul and rock and roll to crowds that love to dance. The group is making a return stop in Portland with a concert on Friday, March 16 at Mississippi Studios in north Portland.*



Mississippi  
 Alberta  
 North Portland

# METRO

Vancouver  
 East County  
 Beaverton



George Mayes poses in front of his bike and birdhouse cart, a device that allows him to haul his unique creations to street corners around town, much to the admiration of passersby.

## Portland man builds unique, sustainable birdhouses

BY DANNY PETERSON  
 THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

You won't see a more popular street vendor with humans and animals alike than the birdhouse toting George Mayes, who makes a striking impression on street corners with his bicycle and hand-crafted wooden trailer.

Packed full of what looks like rustic, miniature cabins -- some even complete with chimneys, staircases, awnings and roof shingles -- the cart is loaded with the future nesting homes for our feathered, fly-

# Inspired Creations

ing neighbors.

Hardly a moment can pass before a customer dogs him about his creations or just gets enraptured with conversation. With his towering frame, white beard, and a bellowing laugh like Santa Claus, the 62-year-old has a knack for putting smiles on stranger's faces.

A former carpenter, Mayes said he's always thrived on working with his hands.

"I enjoy, you know, craftsmanship and building. It seems like it just opens my mind up," Mayes said.

His birdhouses are also environmentally friendly. He uses recycled, organic materials, like cedar and found branches, to cre-

ate green birdhouses that can even thwart predation of smaller birds. The traditional birdhouse perch, which is usually done in the form of a dowel jutting out from the feeder, sometimes attracted larger, predatory birds, Mayes found. So he redesigned the birdhouses so that they used a diamond shape ledge half an inch wide so smaller birds could feed in peace.

He's even designed original bat-houses, upon a customer's request.

Mayes' is known for selling his artistic creations, which range from \$30-\$50, in front of the Multnomah County Courthouse, downtown; along Hawthorne at Powell's Books; at Good Samaritan Hospital in northwest Portland and in front of the New Seasons Market on the corner of North Interstate and Rosa Parks Way.

Always seeing the glass half full, Mayes has battled gout as a medical condition and homelessness, but never gave up being

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

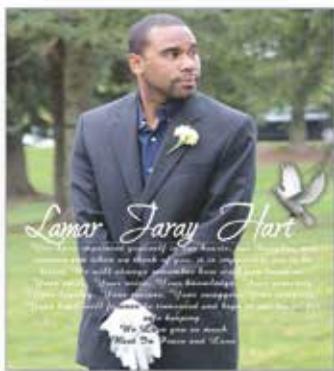


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# Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



Uplifting its mission to affirm the worth of all people, Portland's Gay Men's Chorus will feature special guest artists, the Beijing Queer Chorus, during two 'Pacific Voices' concerts, Saturday and Sunday, March 17-18 at Kaul Auditorium at Reed College in southeast Portland.

## Chinese LGBTQ Choir Visits Will perform with Portland's gay men's group

Twenty-three performers from the Beijing Queer Chorus, China's first LGBTQ chorus, will be special guests of the Portland Gay Men's Chorus for its "Pacific Voices" shows this weekend at Kaul Auditorium on the Reed College campus in southeast Portland.

the U.S. and is part of meaningful week of activities planned in Portland in association with Portland's gay men's singing group.

"It an honor we can't express enough," said PGMC marketing manager Erin Haley.

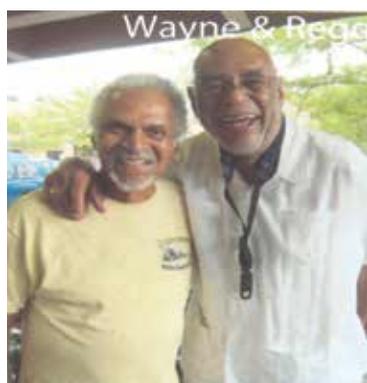
He said bringing the Beijing Queer Chorus to Portland is the most important thing his group

has done in the last 20 years to uplift its mission of affirming the worth of all people.

The Pacific Voices concerts will features songs from across the many unique cultures of the Pacific, including original works and new translations. The shows are Saturday, March 17 a5 8 p.m. and Sunday, March 18 at 3 p.m.



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## Welcome Immigrants

You're invited to join Portland Parks & Recreation for a Portlanders Stand with Refugees and Immigrants celebration on Friday, March 16 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the East Portland Community Center, 7040 S.E. 106th Ave.

The free, multicultural community gathering will celebrate people new to Portland -- and to the United States -- and to help them feel welcomed.

There will be dancing, live performances, music, food and fun.

"Portlanders strive to show compassion, generosity, and support in welcoming refugee and immigrant families to our city," said Portland Parks Commissioner Amanda Fritz. "Portland Parks & Recreation community centers, programs, and parks are places where all are welcome. Though we face much uncertainty, it is our unity that will allow us to persevere. This event gives us an opportunity to come together, demonstrate that unity, and give reassurance of our shared values."



PHOTO BY RICHARD MITCHELL/  
PORTLAND PARKS & RECREATION

A multicultural community event to celebrate people new to Portland and the United States will take place Friday, March 16 from 6 p.m. to 9 -p.m. at the East Portland Community Center, 740 S.E. 106th Ave.

# Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

## BUSINESS Guide

**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 Friday, March 16 at the Vinyl Tap; Friday, March 23 at Clyde's; Saturday, March 24 at the Rogue Pub in North Plains; and Saturday, March 31 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.



**Collision with Gentrification --** Portland's African-American producing theater company PassinArt presents 'Two Trains Running' by August Wilson, this month at the Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center, 5340 N. Interstate Ave. The play paints a vivid portrait of everyday lives in the shadow of economic development and gentrification in the 1960s. Shows Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 3 p.m. For tickets and more information, visit [passinart.org](http://passinart.org).



**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.

**Northeast Theater Reopens with 'Scarlet' --** Condemned by her community, Hester fights to build a life for her and her daughter in puritan Boston in

### ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

**'Scarlet,'** the first Portland Playhouse

production returning to their newly restored

performance venue, a former historic church at 602 N.E. Prescott St. Funny, sweet and heroic, shows to continue through March 25. For tickets, visit [portlandplayhouse.org](http://portlandplayhouse.org).



**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.



**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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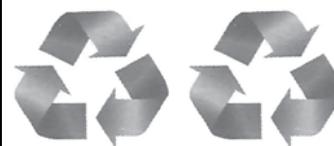
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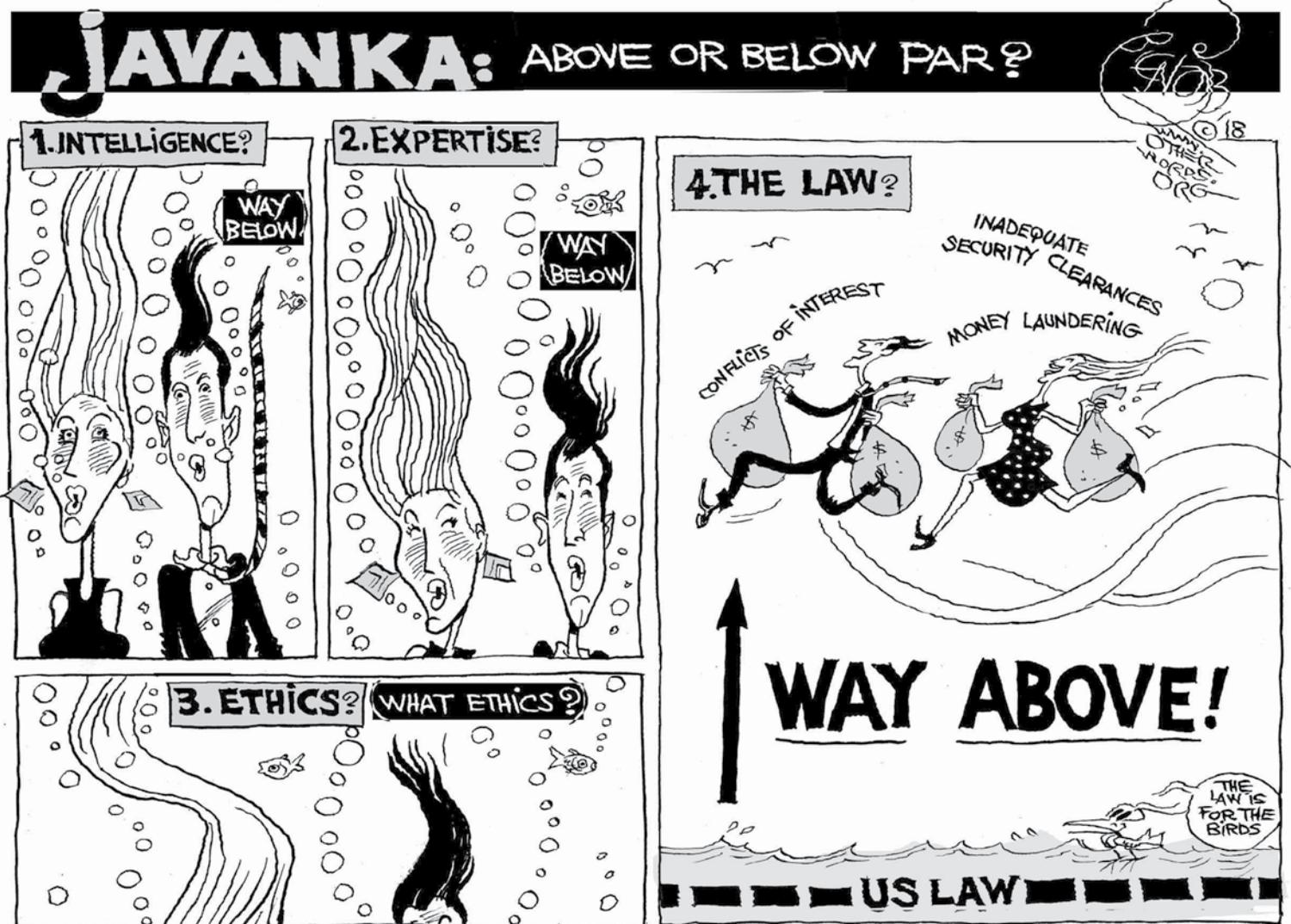
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# OPINION



## Black Immigrant Lives Matter Too

**We are stronger  
together**

BY MARC H. MORIAL

We are long overdue for a discussion about immigration as it relates to black immigrants, particularly at this moment as the current presidential administration clamors to end legal protections for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients, and congressional leaders lurch from one proposed bipartisan solution to another in search of a permanent legislative fix.

To be sure, to live in this country as an undocumented person is to live a life overshadowed by fear, but combine that fear with the harsh realities of race in our nation and you have a volatile mix.

The numbers are troubling—and telling. Black immigrants make up a small percentage of DACA recipients. They are an estimated 12,000 of 700,000 recipients, and comprise less than 10 percent of all our nation's entire immigrant population, but at 2 percent, they are predictably overrepresented in deportation proceedings as a result of criminal

convictions, and according to the deputy director of the Black Alliance for Just Immigration, the same yawning disparity holds true for detention rates.

The alliance's state of black immigrants report estimates that "one out of every five noncitizens facing deportation on criminal grounds before the Executive Office for Immigration Review is black."

While undocumented black immigrants share a universal story of migration, struggle, and survival, they must also contend with the heightened risk of social vulnerability commonly tied to race in our nation.

As we enter the proverbial ring to fight for the civil and human rights of those brought to this country as children, who recognize no other home, and as President Obama once noted, are "Americans in their heart, in their minds, in every single way but one: on paper," we must ensure that solutions that benefit one immigrant community do not derail the opportunities of another. Therefore, the stories and voices of black immigrants must remain top-of-mind and relevant throughout this debate.



The Trump administration recently left the fate of these 700,000 undocumented immigrants in the hands of the Supreme Court. A decision to allow the Trump administration to end the DACA program—which currently shields those young men and women from deportation—would have resulted in the near immediate loss of that protection.

The added travesty for black immigrants is that over-policing in their communities and increased engagement with the criminal justice system would have increased their risk of deportation. But in a widely expected setback, the Supreme Court rejected the administration's request to hear the case.

While the court's decision offers a timely lifeline to DACA recipients, who faced the imminent expiration of the program's legal protections, the reprieve is temporary.

The disturbing language said to come from the White House claiming that Nigerians live in huts, that all Haitians have AIDS, or that Africans should return to their slur-worthy countries, would evidence a disdain for immigrants who come from majority black countries.

Various proposed congressional

resolutions have highlighted the urgency of amplifying the experiences of black immigrants. There are bipartisan proposals on the table that offer a permanent fix for DACA recipients and DREAMers (undocumented immigrants who are eligible, but have not applied for DACA), in exchange for ending established channels to legal immigration such as Temporary Protected Status (TPS), protections for immigrants who come from countries experiencing environmental or social upheaval, the visa diversity lottery program, and family-based immigration programs—some of the very programs that created and create legal pathways for black immigration.

We are stronger together. The immigrants' rights movement needs to be inclusive and incorporate the realities of its diverse constituencies. Now is the time for rights groups, advocates, and allies to begin to specifically look at and address the complicated needs and reality of black undocumented immigrants whose stories and voices are rarely heard above prevailing media narratives. It is time to affirm that their lives matter, too.

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

## Fear and Terror as a Normal Part of School

### Sane gun laws needed to prevent shootings

BY DERRICK JOHNSON



Fear at school was something the Little Rock Nine knew all too well. Facing vitriol, racism, and merciless violence, the Little Rock Nine were escorted, for their own safety, by federal troops to their high school classes. For those brave students selected to make the promises of the 1954 Brown v. Board of Education Supreme Court decision a reality, fear and terror were a normal part of the school-day routine.

Decades later, fear and terror still exist in our children's classrooms. Due to the National Rifle Association (NRA) and the politicians that support them, meaningful discourse on the issue of gun control is nearly impossible, and in that silence, school shootings from Sandy Hook to Parkland keep the classroom a battleground, not a place of learning.

Some African American communities know all too well the potential danger associated with everyday activities, as gun violence spills into our communities from various angles. Yet, for the most part, schools have remained safe places for our young people.

Given the disproportionate damage gun violence is having on our communities, the NAACP has advocated for sane, sensible laws, to help eliminate or at least to decrease the damage and death caused by gun violence. Requiring universal background checks on all gun sales and transfers, banning military-style, semi-automatic assault guns, enacting tough, new criminal penalties for straw purchasers and gun traffickers, and allowing the Center for Disease Control to research gun violence as a major public health issue are just a few of the reasonable steps lawmakers could take to stem the tide of gun related deaths in neighborhoods across the nation.

Unfortunately, years of ridiculously easy access to guns and ammunition has yielded an epidemic with deadly consequences for all Americans, but has been particularly fatal for communities of color who are disproportionately impacted. Gun violence is the number one killer of African Americans ages 15 to 34. Though African Americans make up only 13 percent of the U.S. population, we represent nearly 50 percent of all gun homicide victims. Over 80 percent of gun deaths of African Americans are homicides. Roughly speaking, 1 out of every 3 African American males who die between the ages of 15 and 19 is killed by gun violence. African American children and

teens were less than 15 percent of the total child population in 2008 and 2009, but accounted for 45 percent of all child- and teen-related gun deaths. These numbers are tragic and intolerable, but most of all they are preventable.

Critics might call such policy interventions naively ambitious in our current political climate. However, comprehensive, sustainable gun control is achievable. We know this because someone has done it.

*...years of ridiculously easy access to guns and ammunition has yielded an epidemic with deadly consequences for all Americans...*

Just look to Australia.

In the past 20 years, Australia has proven that sensible reform can prevail over partisan divides and high rates of gun ownership. In the spring of 1996, Australia faced the deadliest mass shooting in its history when a 28-year-old man opened fire at a tourist resort in Tasmania, killing 35 and wounding 23 with a semi-automatic rifle. Following the massacre, the party in power—the center-right Liberal coalition—surprised the country and world by joining with groups across the political spectrum to implement a radical intervention on gun violence. Over the course of mere months, the Australian government bought and destroyed over half a

million firearms, banned automatic and semiautomatic weapons, created a national firearms registry, and enforced a 28-day waiting period for gun purchases.

The results were both clear and staggering—there has not been a single mass shooting in Australia since 1996. Additionally, data shows that in the ten years following the Tasmanian massacre, gun-related homicides and suicides dropped by 59 percent and

65 percent, respectively. While there is still room for improvement, the immediate and directly correlative impact of Australia's gun control reform demonstrates the potential of policy to promote peace.

Australia's gun control intervention was not achieved without encountering significant opposition. Like America, Australia holds a near fetish-like obsession for rugged individualism, which caused many to resent the government's action and to perceive it as an insult to gun owners and a breach of power. To be fair, a 28-day waiting period on gun purchases hardly fits the image of the reckless, rough-and-tumble

Outback presented by media and movies. But, as President Obama praised in 2015, the Australian people ultimately united in favor of national safety and progress.

Australia's success story is an example for us all. America will remain a deadly nation for our children, its schools caught in the crossfire, unless we insist politicians and the NRA curb their lobbyist efforts and allow the creation of policy that acts in the best interests of public safety. The solution is simple. America needs sane and sensible gun safety laws. The NAACP has spoken out, delivering a loud and clear message, on the most urgent and impactful policies pending, and we will continue to push and monitor federal action on these proposals.

The disproportionate impact on communities of color does make gun control a civil rights issue, but gun violence is a national issue and should be a matter of national concern. It is also a matter of freedom. Without sane gun laws, parents are faced with the daily and ever-present fear of another shooting at their child's school that could have been prevented. All Americans deserve this freedom regardless of skin color, political affiliation, or zip code. This is one freedom that the NAACP is committed to fighting for.

*Derrick Johnson is the president and chief executive officer of the NAACP.*

## Armed Adults Don't Make School Kids Safer: They put them at greater risk

BY KAREN DOLAN

Can we get real about school safety?

Since the tragic shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary



School in 2012, there have been at least 239 school shootings in the United States. 438 people were shot and injured in these shootings, and 138 people were killed.

On Valentine's Day of this year, 14 high school students and three faculty members at the Marjory Stoneman Douglas School in Parkland, Florida were gunned down in the hallways and classrooms.

The survivors are demanding that lawmakers take action to get guns out of schools so this carnage might stop.

The National Rifle Association, the Trump administration, and many conservative lawmakers are

answering these demands for fewer guns by calling for... even more guns in schools. Specifically, they want more armed guards, and even armed teachers.

Is that really the answer?

Let's see what the facts tell us: Americans already own about half of all guns in the world, and suffer by far the most gun homicides among developed countries. Breaking it down further, states with more guns have more gun deaths.

All told, we're home to 5 percent of the world's population but 31 percent of the world's mass shooters.

Clearly, guns aren't the answer. But even beyond the weapons, putting more cops in schools has its own risks.

Our public schools already have legions of armed law enforcement officers, euphemistically called

School Resource Officers (SROs), roaming the hallways. As of 2014, at least 30 percent of our public schools had at least one SRO.

Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School had one. And it had two other trained, armed law enforcement officers on the grounds as the massacre was occurring. They neither deterred nor stopped the shooter.

Nationally, we average about five school shootings per month. So while our schools are already teeming with SROs, there's no evidence that this has kept our students safer.

There's plenty of evidence, however, that the presence of SROs hurts our students — especially back, Latino, indigenous, LGBTQ, disabled, and low-income students.

The presence of cops in schools has markedly increased the number of these kids who end up in the juvenile justice system — includ-

ing for minor offenses like graffiti and subjective, childish behavior like "disorderly conduct" and "disobedience."

As of 2014, 43 states and the District of Columbia arrested black students at school at disproportionately high rates. And black students were far more likely than any other racial or ethnic group to attend schools that employ SROs.

This is no small matter. These types of arrests, detentions, and referrals increase the likelihood that children will have further encounters with the criminal legal system, drop out of school, and suffer unemployment later on.

In other words, the presence of armed officers in schools doesn't protect our kids. It puts them at risk.

A better way forward for school safety is to invest in training teachers in social, emotional, and academic development to spot and address trauma and stress —

to see and teach the whole child. And to invest in restorative justice practices that nurture kids while holding them accountable, to help kids move on from small infractions before things escalate.

Our gun-soaked society is a critical piece of the problem, and strong gun control laws can begin to address that. But another critical piece of the problem is a punitive society that targets vulnerable children for non-violent offenses.

Instead of arming schools — which benefits only the NRA and lawmakers who've been bought by them — what our education system needs is resources to support the healthy development of all students.

Then we're getting real about school safety.

*Karen Dolan directs the Criminalization of Race and Poverty Project at the Institute for Policy Studies. Distributed by OtherWords.org.*

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**Bids due 2:00pm PST March 23, 2018**

Any Bid received after the specified date and time will not be considered.

Non-mandatory, Pre-Bid Conference will be located at the PDX Conference Center, 7000 Airport Way, St. Helens B Conference Room, on March 16, 2018 at 2:00 PM for answering questions regarding the Scopes of Work on the Project.



JE Dunn Construction reserves the right to select the best value response, negotiate with multiple bidders, or reject all responses. This is an Equal Opportunity and encourages Minority, Woman, Veteran, and Emerging Small Business participation.



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

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### Progressive Design Build Services Bond Construction Project at the Oregon Manufacturing Innovation Center (OMIC) Scappoose, Oregon

**Proposals due April 16, 2018 at 2:00 pm**

Notice is hereby given that Portland Community College ("PCC" or "College") is requesting sealed Proposals from contractors with the knowledge and expertise to provide Progressive Design Build services. This Request for Proposal (RFP) will be used to evaluate and select qualified Progressive Design Builders for a Bond Construction Project at the Oregon Manufacturing Innovation Center (OMIC), in Scappoose, Oregon.

**Brief Project Summary:** The OMIC project is a world-class collaborative environment bringing together industry, higher education and government in partnership to develop new tools, techniques and technologies to address near-term manufacturing challenges through applied research and advanced technical training. OMIC is modeled after the University of Sheffield Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre (AMRC) with Boeing in Sheffield, England.

A complete description of the Project, requirements, and specific conditions for this RFP is available to download from the PCC Solicitation Opportunities link: <http://www.pcc.edu/purchasing>. Interested Proposers who are not equipped to download the document may request a copy of the RFP by contacting Sandy Wanner, Bond Procurement, 971-722-8411 or by sending an email request to [swanner@pcc.edu](mailto:swanner@pcc.edu).

**A mandatory pre-proposal meeting will be held March 23, 2018 from 3-4:00 pm.** This will be held at the Sylvania Campus, 12000 SW 49th Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97219, Technology Classroom Building (TCB), Room 215. The attendance sign-in sheet must contain, at least one representative's signature, from each firm, to participate in the process thereafter and to be considered for award. Prime Contractor and Architect must attend the pre-proposal meeting.

All questions must be received at the issuing office by 10:00 am, local time, on April 3, 2018.

Sealed Proposals will be received at the issuing office, Bond Procurement Office, Attn: Sandy Wanner, Bond Procurement, Capitol Park Suite 260, 9700 SW Capitol Highway, Portland, OR 97219. Deadline for submitting a proposal will be no later than April 16, 2018 at 2:00 pm. The office is open Monday to Friday from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm.

**This contract is for a public works subject to payment of prevailing wages under ORS 279C.800 to .870.**

The Portland Community College Board of Directors reserves the right to reject any and all Proposals and to waive irregularities. The College may also reject any proposal not in compliance with the prescribed public procedures and requirements, and may reject for good cause, any and all, Proposals upon finding of the College that it is in the public interest to do so.

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Dated this 14th day of March 2018.

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### Emergency Communications Dispatcher Trainee

**Salary** \$22.80 - \$26.41 Hourly

**Location** 9911 SE Bush St, OR

**Job Type** Regular

**Bureau** Bureau of Emergency Communications (BOEC)

**Closing** 3/26/2018 11:59 PM Pacific

The City of Portland, Bureau of Emergency Communications is seeking Emergency Communications Dispatcher Trainees to become Senior Emergency Communications Dispatchers for Portland / Multnomah County 9-1-1. Senior Emergency Communications Dispatchers answer/process emergency and non-emergency calls; and dispatch police, fire and medical responders on emergencies. The work is fast paced and rewarding, but often performed under stressful demands for speed and accuracy due to the nature of the work.

To view the full job announcement and apply, visit:  
<http://bit.ly/2FgTLWa>

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# Inspired Creations

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productive. It was around eight years ago that he began making birdhouses as a hobby when he was homeless and it's since blossomed into a fruitful enterprise, supplementing his retirement income.

"As I was out being homeless, I was working on helping other homeless people get housing. And as I was waiting on mine to come in, I was like, what could I do that's positive while I'm out here homeless, instead of just saying 'oh man this is not good?'" Mayes explained. "My thing was I could help other individuals, give them some type of guidance, a positive tip and encouragement."

Through that mutual support, and proactively looking for solutions, he has since pulled himself out of homelessness.

The gout that Mayes has been battling most of his life still brings

aching pain in his hands and feet that presents mobility challenges, especially in winter when his joints swell. It's also responsible for his resignation from the full-scale carpentry trade. He used to help build customized houses all across the West Coast for homes in the \$300,000 to multi-million dollar range.

Despite hospitalizations and some challenging cold snaps that recently prevented him from building and selling the birdhouses, Mayes said he's now gathering his strength to start production back up again.

"I'm looking forward to getting back out there again 'cause I have fun. You might see me just rolling down the street," he said.

Mayes was born and raised in Portland and said getting around by bike or on foot is one of the best ways to experience the city.

"I've seen a lot of skyline changes by walking," he said. "If



George Mayes uses recycled and found material as well as environmentally friendly, organic cedar to craft bird feeders that look like miniature mountain lodges.

you're driving a lot, you pass by a lot of stuff and you don't see it. And the walking is just a little more cautious that you can see your surroundings. You can see what's being built up around you."

Mayes said he leaves his bird-

houses unpainted to encourage buyers to engage their kids to paint them so that they can learn what it's like to work with their hands and provide them an alternative to a world dominated by high tech.

"They need to know some of the thinking back in the old days. Cause a lot of them don't;

they go straight to the computer. The thing that scares me is when the computer breaks down, they break down. That's scary (laughs)."

To inquire about George's birdhouses, email him at [theoeeasy@outlook.com](mailto:theoeeasy@outlook.com) or check the local street corner near you.



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# March

# 2018 CALENDAR

MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY SUNDAY

12 <i>Anniversary of the Death of Anne Frank (1945)</i>	13 <i>Good Samaritan Day Uranus Discovered (1781)</i>	14 <i>Pi Day (3.14) Scientist Albert Einstein born, 1879</i>	15 <i>Absolutely Incredible Kid Day Funk music legend Sly Stone born, 1943</i>	16 <i>James Madison born, 1751 (4th President)</i>	17 <b>St. Patrick's Day</b> <i>Nat King Cole born, 1919; Legendary jazz musician and singer</i>	18 <i>First Walk in Space (1965) Grover Cleveland born, 1837 (22nd &amp; 24th President)</i>
19 <i>Swallows Return to San Juan Capistrano</i>	20 <b>1st Day of Spring</b> <i>Spike Lee born, 1957; Emmy Award winning filmmaker</i>	21 <i>Children's Poetry Day National Teen-Agers Day Single Parents' Day</i>	22 <b>United Nations World Water Day</b>	23 <i>Toast Day Political Leader Patrick Henry declared, "Give me liberty..." 1775</i>	24 <i>Harry Houdini born, 1874 Exxon Valdez runs aground (1989)</i>	25 <i>Palm Sunday Aretha Franklin born, 1942; undisputed "Queen Of Soul"</i>
26 <i>Make up Your own Holiday Day Diana Ross born, 1944; singer &amp; Oscar-nom. actress</i>	27 <i>Alaska hit by 8.4 Earthquake (1964)</i>	28 <i>"Greatest Show on Earth" formed 1881</i>	29 <i>Armed Forces left Vietnam (1973) Pearl Bailey born, 1918; award-Winning singer &amp; actress</i>	30 <i>Passover Begins at Sundown Doctor's Day Artist Vincent van Gogh born, 1853</i>	31 <i>First Map of the US Published (1784)</i>	

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