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Diverse books let children see themselves

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Portland Observer

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Wednesday • March 28, 2018



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PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON JR./THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Five candidates running for a future open seat on the Portland City Council appear together at a candidates' forum sponsored by Black Voices United Saturday at Maranatha Church in northeast Portland. Pictured (from left) are Jo Ann Hardesty, Felicia Williams, Andrea Valderrama, Loretta Smith and Stuart Emmons.

Election Face Off

Black voices candidates' forum sparks debate

BY BEVERLY CORBELL
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A diverse group of candidates running for a future open seat on the Portland City Council voiced their concerns during a Black Voices candidates' forum at

Maranatha Church in northeast Portland Saturday, advocating for change on hot topic issues like homelessness, gentrification and racism.

The five candidates, Andrea Valderrama, Loretta Smith, Stuart Emmons, Felicia Williams and Jo Ann

Hardesty, answered questions posed by local moderator and civil rights activist C.J. Robbins, including their greatest concerns on and why they were run-

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Gang Enforcement Team Faulted

Audit finds lack of accountability reduces trust

A new city audit finds that the Portland Police Bureau's Gang Enforcement Team is hindered by a lack of accountability and transparency that reduces community trust.

In two reports issued Wednesday, March 28, City Auditor Mary Hull Caballero says gang enforcement officers carried out traffic stops that disproportionately affected black residents. The stops were too broad and not limited to criminal gang suspects, community members said.

The gang enforcement team also collected and shared information about people's gang associations, but these practices suffered from lack of accountability and concerned residents, the auditor found.



The Portland Police Bureau's Gang Enforcement Team carries out a traffic stop. A new city audit finds the team is hindered by a lack of accountability that reduces community trust.

"We found that the Police Bureau cannot demonstrate that these stops were effective. This was because the Bureau did not require officers to collect certain infor-

mation and also did not analyze available data," a summary from the reports said.

Without this data, the Gang Enforcement Team cannot analyze

or explain the overrepresentation of African Americans in its stops, Caballero found.

For one practice, designating some people as criminal gang af-

filates, the Police Bureau could not show that it complied with its own policy.

The Bureau acknowledged the community's mistrust of suspected gang lists last year and stop compiling them in October. But a second practice, making a list of most active gang members and associates, was still in use at the conclusion of the audit.

If police continue the most active list or other practices of collecting information on people's gang relationships, we recommend it should adopt a policy and put safeguards in place to protect people's rights and the accuracy of the information, the audit said.

In her formal response, Portland Police Chief Danielle Outlaw agreed with the recommendations outlined in the reports. She said the Bureau has already made changes to its policies and practices as a result of the audits, but said there's still room for enhancements.

King March, Rally to Commemorate 50 Years

Leaders of the black community and advocates for social justice will mark the 50th anniversary of the death of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with a march and rally.

All people who love democracy, freedom, justice, equality and peace and who desire to build King's "Beloved Community" are urged take a stand by attending the Wednesday, April 4 events, starting at 5 p.m. at the Japa-

nese-American Historical Plaza at Northwest Naito Parkway and Davis Street.

The group will then march across the Steel Bridge to the MLK statue outside the Oregon Convention Center for a 6:30 p.m. rally. Sponsors are the Albina Ministerial Alliance Coalition for Justice and Police Reform and Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon.

March for Our Lives

Tens of thousands of people led by high school students packed downtown Portland Saturday to take part in a national protest against gun violence. The resounding message from many was to adopt tougher laws against semi-automatic weapons and ammo. The musical group Portugal. The Man showed their support by participating in the "March for Our Lives" event and performing at pioneer Courthouse Square.

Former Church Leader Charged

An arrest warrant was issued this month for the former chief executive officer of Emmanuel Community General Services, a north Portland nonprofit associated with Emanuel Temple Church, for allegedly embezzling roughly \$70,000 from the organization. Clayborn Collins, 50, is facing one count of aggravated theft.

2nd Amendment Repeal Sought

Retired Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens is calling for

The Week in Review

the repeal of the Second Amendment to allow for significant gun control legislation. The 97-year-old Stevens said in an essay Tuesday on The New York Times website that repeal would weaken the National Rifle Association's ability to "block constructive gun control legislation."

Center of Landmark Case Dies

Linda Brown Thompson, who as a young girl was the student at the center of the landmark Supreme Court case Brown v. Board of Education that declared school segregation unconstitutional, has died in Topeka, Kansas. She was 76. Brown was in third grade in 1950 when she was denied admission to an all-white elementary school. Kansas schools at the time were segregated by state law.

No Charges in Police Shooting

Two Louisiana officers who fatally shot a black man selling CDs outside a convenience store in 2016 won't be prosecuted in the death, Louisiana Attorney General Jeff Landry announced Tuesday. The 37-year-old victim was pinned to the pavement by two white officers when the shooting occurred. Attorneys for the victim's family slammed what they called a biased decision.

Protest Impacts Kings Game

Hundreds of outraged demonstrators rallied Thursday in Sacramento, Calif. to protest the police shooting of an unarmed black man, 22-year-old Stephon Clark, who was killed in his grandmother's backyard. The crowd first went into Sacramento's City Hall, then moved to Interstate 5 and blocked an entrance to the arena hosting a Sacramento Kings game. The basketball game eventually was played, but with few spectators as the doors to the arena were locked.



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What's on your list today?



PHOTO BY DANNY PETERSON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Benson High School Principal Curtis Wilson inspires students by teaching a Zumba dance class during a freshmen physical education class as a way of connecting with the over 300 new students that come to Benson each year.

Connecting

Principal lets guard down to dance and inspire

BY DANNY PETERSON
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

It's not every day that you will find your school principal at the front of the class leading charges in a dance routine. But that's exactly what Benson High School Principal Curtis Wilson did Thursday for boys and girls enrolled in a Benson freshmen physical education class.

Wilson started teaching Zumba,

the fitness craze that uses the beats from hip-hop, samba, salsa, mambo, and other music to provide motivation and drive for aerobic exercise, when he began as principal of the northeast Portland school five years ago.

It's a tradition he has held one day each year at Benson, in the spring, ever since.

The school leader says it's a great way of connecting with the over 300 new freshman that come to his school each year.

"To me, it's negative energy out of my body. And so I really enjoy it," Wilson told the Portland Observer. "Now do I have enough time to do it on a consistent basis anymore? No. But this one day, I

just move all my appointments to the side."

Wilson was introduced to Zumba at his gym a few years ago. At first, he was an assistant instructor for the class, which was held regularly at the school before he arrived there. But the main instructor wasn't available the second year, so he memorized the moves and took over.

Wilson is pretty sure students appreciate their face to face time with him in class.

"I really want to spend [time] with these kids so that we can make life-long memories," he said. "Because years from now, when they're off in college or where ever, high school will start to fade. But I'm pretty sure that spending a day with their principal dancing will probably stay with them for a long time."

Teacher Disciplined for Protest

A popular middle school teacher who led students in a school walkout last month to protest a police officer involved shooting death was placed on leave after a school district investigation found he put students at risk.

In a letter sent Friday to Oakley Green parents, principal Paul McCullough and district senior director Karl Logan say students from the north Portland school were subjected to the risk of harm

because of unauthorized actions that were not in keeping with the school's obligation to ensure student safety at all times.

During the walkout, students were directed to lie down on Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard near Ainsworth Street as part of a die-in protest to support the family of Quanice Haynes, an unarmed black teenager killed by Portland police last year.

The disciplinary action against

the teacher, identified as Chris Riser, was criticized by his supporters who have started a change.org petition to help get him back in the classroom. "He is a strong voice for social justice, diversity and equity," the petition reads. "At a critical time when gun violence is rampant, Chris Riser is teaching the kids that their greatest weapon is their voice."

More than 1,300 people had signed the petition as of Sunday.



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON JR./THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Black Voices United, a start-up organization striving to create new educational and political spaces for the black community, draws five candidates running for the No. 3 seat on the Portland City Council to the stage of their candidates' forum Saturday at Maranatha Church. The candidates pictured (from left) are Stuart Emmons, Loretta Smith, Andrea Valderrama, Felicia Williams and Jo Ann Hardesty.

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MIKE SHANNON

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Election Face Off

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

ning for the position No. 3 seat which will be left vacant at the end of the year with the political retirement of current City Commissioner Dan Saltzman.

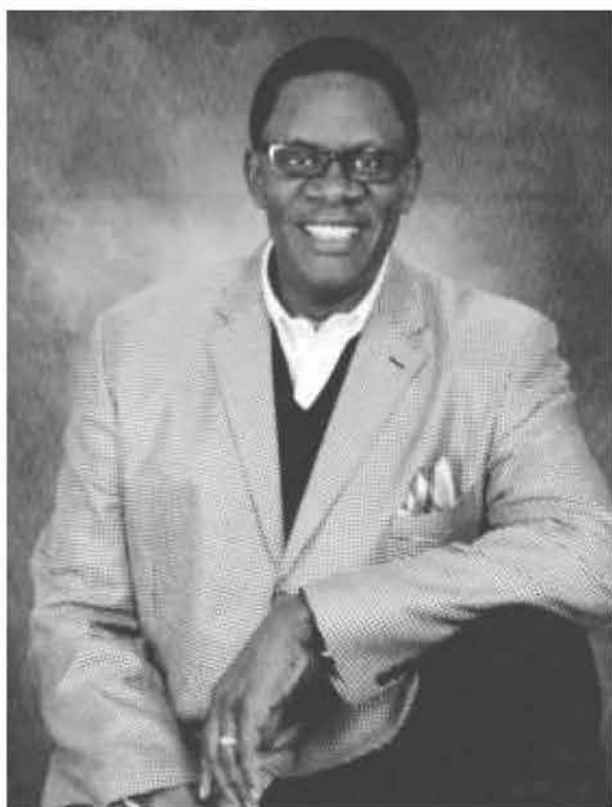
Black Voices United, a start-up community organization structure striving to create new educational and political spaces for the black community, sponsored the forum, which included an earlier session for Multnomah County Commissioner candidates.

Andrea Valderrama, a David Douglas School District school board member and current City

Hall staffer, said people may have good ideas for combating homelessness and housing shortages, but the City Council needs to adopt workable funding measures.

"I understand how to address these issues, not just to get good ideas, but have the means to put them into action and what type of budget makes the most sense for what type of action," Valderrama said. "Those are things I've already been working on."

Stuart Emmons, a Portland architect and community activist, said he has been a housing advocate for the last 20 years.



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PHOTO COURTESY PORTLAND BUREAU OF TRANSPORTATION

David Bouchard navigates the streets of Portland as a blind man in a video made to highlight walking experiences in the city.

Videos Promote Pedestrian Safety

A series of eight videos highlighting the pedestrian experiences of Portlanders with differing abilities navigating the city are now available to watch online to promote safety and improve the city's walkability.

The 1-3 minute short films sponsored by the Portland Bureau of Transportation were screened last Tuesday with the filmmakers, subjects, and general public at the University of Oregon's White Stag Block, downtown.

The videos were made in conjunction with the school's Multimedia Journalism Master's students, and included work by Portland Observer reporter Danny Peterson.



Anjeanette Brown

Some highlights include a video that follows David Bouchard, a man with blindness, as he navigates the hardships of getting around on foot.

Filmmaker Mary Ann Funk captures in harrowing detail the moment when Bouchard braves crossing the street with-

out a crosswalk in outer east Portland, where traffic lights are sometimes far and few between.

Another story by filmmaker Gordon Klco sees Anjeanette Brown face the challenges of "walking while black" in the northeast Portland neighborhood she grew up in, now radically altered by gentrification.

Another video about bird-house builder George Mayes highlights how he gets around with the custom bicycle cart that carries his creations.

The videos can be seen on pedpdx.com, the website for Portland's citywide pedestrian plan called Vision Zero to eliminate traffic-related deaths and injury.

Church Invite for Easter Services

Historic Vancouver Avenue First Baptist Church, 3138 N. Vancouver Ave., invites the community to a series of programs to celebrate Easter and Holy Week.

On Friday, March 30, there will be Good Friday worship service featuring guest speaker Dr. James Forbes, pastor emeritus of the Riverside Church in New York City.

On Easter Sunday, April 1, a sunrise service will start at 7 a.m. and be followed by a free Brotherhood Union Easter brunch. Reservations are required by calling the church office at 503-282-9496. At 9:30 a.m., a Sunday School theatrical depiction of "The Lord Supper" will take place. At 10:45 a.m., the annual Family and Friends Easter Sunday Worship and Communion Service will begin with Pastor

J.W. Matt Hennessee officiating, and the Junior Angel Children's Easter Chorale rendering music selections, along with the Easter Gospel Mass Choir and the High Praise Dance Team.

Parking is available at the Legacy Emanuel Parking Lot located at North Monroe and Vancouver. For those needing transportation, you can call the church to sign up for free shuttle service.



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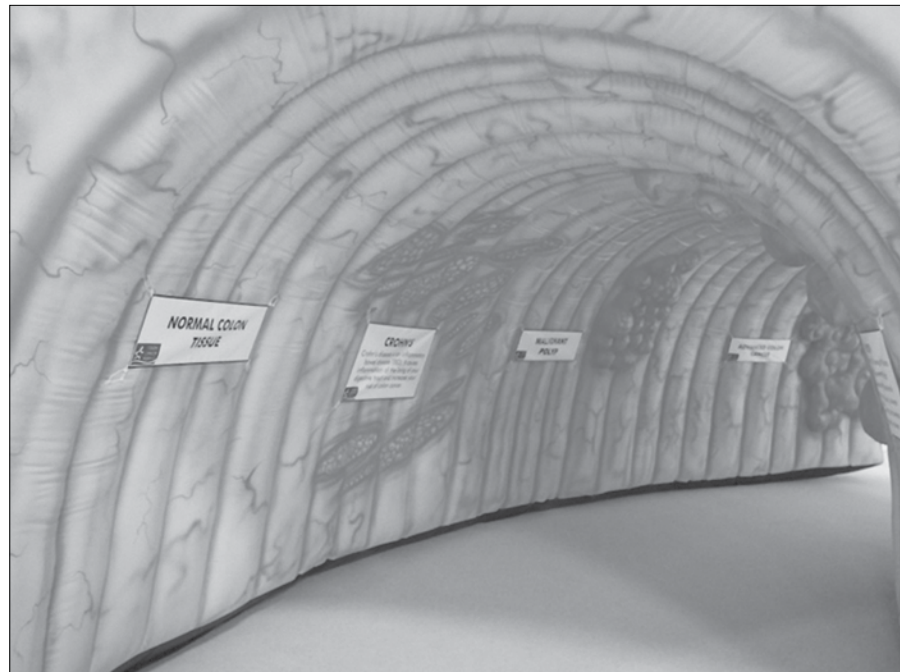
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A giant inflatable colon shows how polyps can turn into cancer. Legacy Emanuel is hosting the informational display for the public on Friday, March 30 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Legacy Promotes Colon Health

The public is invited to Legacy Emanuel Medical Center on Friday, March 30 to learn more about colorectal health by walking through a giant inflatable colon that shows how polyps can turn into cancer.

The 12-foot-long display shows the difference between a healthy colon and one with polyps. There will be information available on preventative screenings, such as colonoscopies and other ways to stay healthy.

The event will take place between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. in the hospital's

Atrium at 2801 N. Gantenbein.

According to the American Cancer Society, colon cancer is the third most common cancer diagnosed in both men and women in the U.S. Legacy doctors emphasize that colon cancer is highly curable if found and treated early. It is recommended people get screen at age 50, sooner if a person has symptoms or a family history.

"It's all about keeping you healthy for years to come," says gastroenterologist Erich Vorlop, M.D.



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Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



PHOTO BY MICHAEL DURHAM/COURTESY OF THE OREGON ZOO

A climber scales the new wall at the Oregon Zoo.

Zoo Opens New Climbing Wall

The Oregon Zoo’s mountain goats have some climbing competition. A new rock-climbing wall opened to the public Saturday near the goats’ rocky Cascade Crest habitat just inside the main entrance.

The 24-foot wall can accommodate up to four climbers at a time, with routes to the top ranging from easy to medium for different climbing abilities. The safety harness and auto-belay — an automatic brake-and-release sys-

tem designed to lower climbers to the ground — adjusts based on the weight of the person climbing, from 40 to 250 pounds.

““We think our guests are really going to have fun with it,” said Lisa Thornton, the zoo’s admissions manager.

The wall will be open daily, weather permitting with tickets at \$5 or \$4.50 for zoo members. Climbers must wear closed-toe shoes, but beyond that no experience or special gear is required.



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Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



Museum Welcome for Spring Break

The Oregon Historical Society is offering free admission for kids 18 and under during Spring Break. The downtown museum has every gallery full of exhibitions, including 'Racing to Change: Oregon's Civil Rights Years' curated by the Oregon Black Pioneers. The exhibit showcases the cultural and social changes that came as part of the Civil Rights Movement as well as an era of celebration, experimentation and achievement for African Americans.

'Citizen King' Film Screening

Reed College in southeast Portland is inviting the community to join them in commemorating the 50th anniversary of the death of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with a screening of the documentary 'Citizen King.'

The 2004 film by black film director Orlando Bagwell goes behind the "I Have a Dream" speech that is habitually highlighted as the culmination of the civil rights leader's career, skewing this narrative by focusing on the final five years of King's life, from the March on Washington to his assassination in Memphis on April 4, 1968 at the age of 39.

Bagwell and writer Noland Walker present King as an activist who at the time was extending the civil rights struggle beyond the South, deepening his analysis of social injustice to consider intersections of race and class, and voicing increasingly open opposition to the Vietnam War.

The free and open to the public screening of "Citizen King" will take place Tuesday, April 3 at 6:30 p.m. in the Reed College Performing Arts Building.



Reed College will commemorate the 50th anniversary of the death of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with a screening of the documentary 'Citizen King' on Tuesday, April 3 at 6:30 p.m. in the southeast Portland college's Performing Arts Building.



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PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

OHSU employees donate a diverse collection of books to help children at the Kairos PDX charter school in north Portland see themselves represented in the literature they read and foster a love for reading. Pictured (back row, from left) are Quayuana Washington, Melanie Maurice and Kelli Byrd of OHSU; and Zalika Gardner and Marshal Williams of KairosPDX; and (front row, from left) KairosPDX student leaders Byrnn Ladd, Tre'Sean Bates and Georgye Gray-Holyfield.

Fostering a Love of Reading

Diverse books let children see themselves

Less than 25 percent of children's books published in the U.S. today feature persons of color. Yet, more than half of the nation's children are expected to be part of a minority race or ethnic group by the year 2020.

To help children see themselves in the literature they read and create a supportive environment, a group of employees for Oregon Health Sciences University recently delivered a diverse collection of books to KairosPDX, a north Portland charter school.

The OHSU Black Employee Resource Group – which is dedicated to creating a supportive environment for blacks, Africans and African Amer-

icans at OHSU – held a book drive in February as part of Black History Month. OHSU faculty, staff and students contributed more than 300 books. More than half of the titles collected featured racially diverse characters.

"We know that fostering a love for reading at a young age is vital for success in all areas of education. In order to ensure this, it is equally important that our children see themselves rep-

resented in the literature they read," said Lakeyscia Griffin, KairosPDX communications coordinator.

When the OHSU employees visited KairosPDX on March 9 to donate the collection to the school's library, their gift was met with smiles.

"It made my day to see how excited the kids were to receive these books," said Melanie Maurice, OHSU legal counsel and vice chair of the employee resource group.



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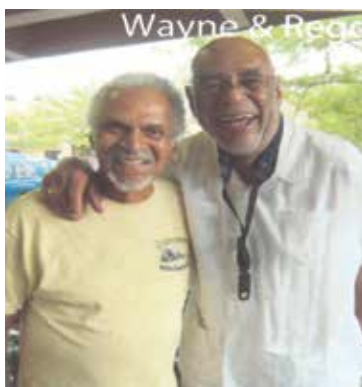
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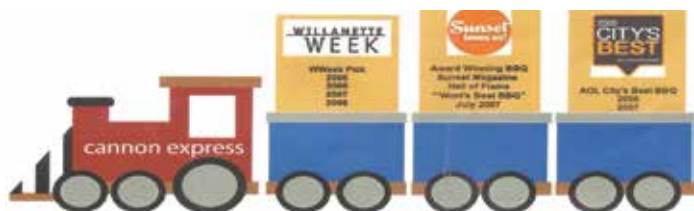


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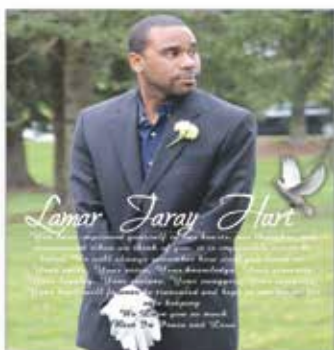
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Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



A pristine preservation of the 1971 documentary 'The Murder of Fred Hampton,' a film about the killing of Black Panther Party leader Fred Hampton by Chicago police in 1969, will highlight a series of films from the UCLA Film and Television Archive scheduled for screening this month by the Northwest Film Center at the Portland Art Museum.

The Murder of Fred Hampton

A film that investigates the 1969 Chicago police killing of Fred Hampton, the founder of the Illinois chapter of the Black Panther Party, will highlight a month of screenings of pristine preservation films from the UCLA Film and Television Archive that will be shown during April sponsored by the Northwest Film Center at the Portland Art Museum.

Each year, the UCLA archives presents its film Festival of Preservation in Los Angeles and the Portland showings will be part of a smaller touring program, bringing more than a dozen films for showings between April 1 and April 22.

"The Murder of Fred Hampton," the 1971 documentary about the 21-year-old Black Pan-

ther leader, will be screened on Wednesday, April 11 at 7 p.m. Northwest Film Center organizers says the film has never felt more relevant. It serves a document of the late 1960s, but it is impossible not to draw comparisons between the film's representation of the Black Panther Party, which started as a way to fight police brutality towards young black men and today's Black Lives Matter movement, sparked by police shootings African American youth.

Admission is \$9 general and \$8 for students and seniors. For a complete schedule of the UCLA touring films, a treasure trove sure to delight cinema lovers of many persuasions, visit nwfilm.org.

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Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

BUSINESS Guide

Ten Grands Legends Concert -- Michael Allen



Harrison will front his 18th annual Ten Grands Legends Concert with 10 pianos and 10 world-class pianists and featuring Portland's Grammy-nominated singing artist Julianne Johnson Weiss on Saturday, March 31 at 7 p.m. at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall. Proceeds benefit music education and instruments for disadvantaged youth.

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.



PIR Auto Swap Meet -- The 13th annual Portland International Raceway (PIR) Auto Swap Meet will return to the racetrack in north Portland, running from Thursday, April 5 to Saturday, April 7, from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Admission is \$7 per day and free for children under 12. Parking is \$10 a day or take the Max. The event runs in conjunction with the annual Portland Swap Meet at the Expo center.

Norman Sylvester -- 'Boogie Cat' Norman Sylvester plays Saturday, March 31 at the Half Penny in Salem; Saturday, April 7 at Catfish Lou's; Friday, April 13 at the Rogue Pub in North Plains; Friday, April 20 at the Vinyl Tap and Saturday, April 21 at the Inner City Blues Festival.

Collision with Gentrification -- Portland's African-American producing theater company PassinArt presents 'Two Trains Running' by August Wilson, now showing through Sunday, April 1 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.

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.

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.

Robot Revolution -- A new exhibit at OMSI brings some of the most innovative robots from all over the world. Learn about the skills robots possess that mimic and often surpass human capabilities in "Robot Revolution," now showing through Sept. 7

History Hub -- Oregon Historical Society exhibit for young people explores the topic of diversity with interactive objects and pictures that tell the stories of the people of Oregon, past and present. With puzzles, touch screen activities and board games, History Hub asks students to consider questions like "Who is an Oregonian?," "How has discrimination and segregation affected people who live in Oregon?," and "How can you make Oregon a great place for everyone?"

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

Discount Tickets -- Low income families and individuals can purchase \$5 tickets to classical musical performances in Portland as part of a unique program called Music for All. Participating organizations include the Oregon Symphony, Portland Opera, Oregon Ballet Theater, Chamber Music Northwest, Portland Youth Philharmonic, Portland Baroque Orchestra, Friends of Chamber Music, Portland Chamber Orchestra, Portland Piano International, Portland Symphonic Choir, Cappella Romana and Portland Vocal Consort.

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OPINION



Remember the Truth about the Alamo

Correcting a distorted history

BY OSCAR H. BLAYTON

Like a million other kids in America with their eyes glued to black and white television, I sat watching Walt Disney's version of the Battle of the Alamo on a Saturday evening in February 1955.

What we saw was the popular actor Fess Parker portraying a heroic Davy Crockett on the ramparts of the famous old Spanish mission battling Mexican soldiers in the defense of freedom.

What I did not know at the time was that the history surrounding this battle, and the role of Americans in the early history of the Mexican republic, was being extremely distorted.

Walt Disney never told us that slavery was the reason for the battle and the ultimate creation of the Republic of Texas, which later became the state of Texas.

On September 16, 1829, the Afro-Mexican president of Mexico, Vicente Guerrero, signed a decree outlawing slavery in that nation at a time when the southern United States was deeply in

thrall to slave labor.

While most of Mexico welcomed the emancipation decree, its northern region, known as "Texas," was largely populated with American Southerners who had moved west in search of more fertile land where their slaves could produce cotton.

To accommodate the "Texican" slaveholders, Texas was exempted from the decree for one year. But after the period of exemption ended in 1830, the Texicans refused to free their slaves and the Mexican government demanded that they comply with the law or face military intervention.

While military intervention did not occur for another six years, several violent conflicts broke out in the interim between Texicans and the Mexican government, some escalating to the use of arms.

Finally, in 1836 Gen. Antonio López de Santa Anna led an army north from Mexico City to put down what had grown to be a Texas insurrection and freeing slaves along the way.

Determined to resist Mexico's intention to free their slaves, Davy Crockett and roughly 200

other Texicans gathered at the Alamo in San Antonio to block Santa Anna's advancing army. Santa Anna laid siege to the Alamo, and after 13 days, it fell.

While the "heroes" of the Alamo were under siege in San Antonio, Sam Houston and other Texicans were less than 200 miles away drafting a constitution for the hoped-for independent Republic of Texas. That constitution contained the following guarantees that chattel slavery would be protected in Texas:

"...[N]or shall Congress have power to emancipate slaves; nor shall any slave-holder be allowed to emancipate his or her slave or slaves, without the consent of Congress..."

The Texas constitution established additional racist policies by stating:

"No free person of African descent, either in whole or in part, shall be permitted to reside permanently in the Republic, without the consent of Congress..."

Weeks after their defeat at the Alamo, the slaveholding Texicans got what they wanted when they defeated Gen. Santa Anna at the Battle of San Jacinto and forced him, as a prisoner, to sign the Treaty of Velasco. That treaty

recognized Texas as a republic, independent of Mexico, but it also stated in part:

"[A]ll private property including... negro slaves... that may have been captured by ... the Mexican army or may have taken refuge in the said army ... shall be restored to the Commander of the Texican army..."

The Mexican government refused to recognize the Treaty of Velasco and consequently did not return any slaves. But Texas continued as a slaveholding republic and later as one of the slaveholding states of the United States.

Twenty-five years after the Battle of the Alamo, Texas, along with 10 other slaveholding states, tried to revolt against the United States as it had with Mexico.

Today, whenever we hear cries of "Remember the Alamo," we should ignore Disney's false image of Davy Crockett bravely wielding his musket as a club in defense of freedom while being swarmed by Santa Anna's troops. Instead, we should remember that Crockett and those by his side were fighting in defense of slavery, not freedom.

Oscar H. Blayton is a former Marine Corps combat pilot and human rights activist who practices law in Virginia.

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

15 Years After the Iraq War, What Are the Costs?

Adding up the numbers and human toll

BY STEPHANIE SAVELL

This March marked the 15th anniversary of the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq.

In 2003, President George W. Bush and his advisers based

their case for war on the idea that Saddam Hussein, then dictator of Iraq, possessed weapons of mass destruction — weapons that have never been found. Nevertheless, all these years later, Bush's "Global War on Terror" continues — in Iraq and in many other countries.

It's a good time to reflect on what this war — the longest in U.S. history — has cost Americans and others around the world.

First, the economic costs: Ac-



cording to estimates by the Costs of War project at Brown University's Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs, the war on terror has cost Americans a staggering \$5.6 trillion since 2001, when the U.S. invaded Afghanistan.

This figure includes not just the Pentagon's war fund, but also future obligations such as social services for an ever-growing number of post-9/11 veterans.

It's hard for most of us to even begin to grasp such an enormous number.

It means Americans spend \$32 million per hour, according to a counter by the National Priorities Project at the Institute for Policy Studies.

Put another way: Since 2001, every American taxpayer has spent almost \$24,000 on the wars

— equal to the average down payment on a house, a new Honda Accord, or a year at a public university.

As stupefying as those numbers are, the budgetary costs pale in comparison with the human toll.

As of 2015, when the Costs of War project made its latest tallies, up to 165,000 Iraqi civilians had died as a direct consequence of U.S. war, plus around 8,000 U.S. soldiers and military contractors in Iraq.

Those numbers have only continued to rise. Up to 6,000 civilians were killed by U.S.-led strikes in Iraq and Syria in 2017 — more civilians than in any previous year, according to the watchdog group AirWars.

In addition to those direct deaths, at least four times as many people in Iraq have died from the side effects of war, such as malnutrition, environmental degradation, and deteriorated infrastruc-

ture.

Since the 2003 invasion, for instance, Iraqi health care has plummeted — with hospitals and clinics bombed, supplies of medicine and electricity jeopardized, and thousands of physicians and healthcare workers fleeing the country.

Meanwhile, the war continues to spread, no longer limited to Afghanistan, Iraq, or Syria, as many Americans think. Indeed, the U.S. military is escalating a shadowy network of anti-terror operations all across the world — in at least 76 nations, or 40 percent of countries on the planet.

Last October, news about four Green Berets killed by an Islamic State affiliate in the West African nation of Niger gave Americans a glimpse of just how broad this network is. And along with it comes all the devastating consequences of militarism for the people of these countries.

We must ask: Are these astounding costs worth it? Is the U.S. accomplishing anything close to its goal of diminishing the global terrorist threat?

The answer is, resoundingly, no.

U.S. activity in Iraq and the Middle East has only spurred greater political upheaval and unrest. The U.S.-led coalition is seen not as a liberating force, but as an aggressor. This has fomented insurgent recruitment, and there are now more terrorist groups in the Middle East than ever before.

Until a broad swath of the American public gets engaged to call for an end to the war on terror, these mushrooming costs — economic, human, social, and political — will just continue to grow.

Stephanie Savell co-directs the Costs of War project at Brown University's Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs. Distributed by OtherWords.org.

A Community Conversation about Menthol Cigarettes

Coalition looks at negative impacts

BY DE'SHAWN HARDY

The Highland African American Youth Community Coalition and Multnomah County have been "talkin' tobacco" for a few years.

In June 2015, youth and adults came together for a day-long tobacco prevention training session called "Becoming a Power Player." The group learned about the predatory marketing of tobacco in African American communities and what the policy-making process looks like. Youth learned to develop their own messages and tried them out on staff from the Multnomah County Commission.

The Highland coalition has been active in protecting our youth from easy access to tobacco by supporting licensing at retailers of tobacco products and raising

the legal age to buy tobacco to 21 years old, rules which have been in effect since the New Year.

Now we are talking about restrictions on menthol flavored tobacco — the product of choice among many African Americans, youth and underserved communities.

Mona MacDonald, Highland

Haven REACH (Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health) program coordinator, in collaboration with Multnomah County REACH staff, are delivering powerful presentations about the harms of menthol cigarettes.

When a room full of youth were recently asked 'does anyone smoke or know someone who

who smoke in Multnomah County die from smoking related diseases, infant mortality, colorectal cancer, lung cancer, stroke, diabetes, coronary heart disease and all cancers, at a higher rate than all other smokers.

Despite the myths about the safety of menthol vs. regular cigarettes, there is no medical value

and death from smoking-related illnesses.

Menthol is more, not less addictive, than regular cigarettes as well. Menthol increases the amount of nicotine in the blood, making cigarettes more addictive and harder to quit. Research has found that people who smoke menthols have a harder time quitting smoking, especially African American women. But people are not generally aware of this when they take up the habit, often thinking they can quit whenever they decide.

For all these reasons, cities throughout the country are banning the sale of menthol cigarettes (San Francisco, Oakland, Sonoma, Chicago, New York and Berkeley). Several other countries already have prohibited the sale of menthol cigarettes as well.

Highland Haven REACH program, in partnership with Multnomah County Health Department, is available to come and share with your organization or youth group information about menthol and to hear your ideas about what we can do about it.

If you are interested, please email Sandra Meucci at andra.meucci@multco.us. Let's keep "talkin' tobacco" and figure out how we can help our community!

De'Shawn Hardy is a coordinator with the Highland African American Youth Community Coalition.

For the overwhelming majority of African Americans and youth who smoke, menthol is their product of choice. Nationally, 95 percent of black smokers use menthol cigarettes! African Americans who smoke in Multnomah County die from smoking related diseases, infant mortality, colorectal cancer, lung cancer, stroke, diabetes, coronary heart disease and all cancers, at a higher rate than all other smokers.

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smokes menthols' all hands went up.

"We know this is an important topic to talk about, but it's a hard discussion to have," MacDonald says.

For the overwhelming majority of African Americans and youth who smoke, menthol is their product of choice. Nationally, 95 percent of black smokers use menthol cigarettes! African Americans

or health benefit of using menthol cigarettes. Rather, the product is actually more harmful, because the menthol flavoring (which is the one flavor that is still legal for cigarette products) results in people taking a deeper draw with each inhalation of the cigarette. This means more of the cigarette's toxic chemicals find their way into the lungs and bloodstream of the smoker, meaning more sickness

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Bid Package #10: Audio Visual

Pre-Bid Meeting: March 22 10:00am

Bids Due: April 12 2:00pm

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Follow these steps: Read the petition and documents filed at court with this summons. Fill out form: FL. Non-Parent 415 Response to Non-Parent Custody Petition, go to the Washington State Courts, website: www.courts.wa.gov/forms. The administrative Office of the Courts (360) 705-5328. Washington LawHelp: www.washingtonlawhelp.org or The Superior Court Clerk's office or county law library. You may use certified mail with return receipt request. File your original Response with the clerk: Mason County Superior Court Clerk, 419th PO Box 340, Shelton, Wa 98584. (Published date March 28, 2018 until May 23, 2018)

SUB BIDS REQUESTED

Portland International Airport (PDX) Parking Additions and Consolidated Rental Car Facility (PACR)

Earthwork & Site Utilities

JE Dunn Construction invites written Bids from qualified Trade Partners to provide construction services for Earthwork & Site Utilities on the PACR project.

A complete copy of the Bidding Documents can be obtained by emailing Robert Means at Robert.Means@jedunn.com. Bids may also be delivered by email to Robert Means.

Bids due 2:00pm PST April 13, 2018

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

A non-mandatory pre-proposal conference will be located at the PDX Conference Center, 7000 Airport Way, St. Helens B room, on April 4th, 2018 at 10:00 AM 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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SUB BIDS REQUESTED

University of Oregon Knight Campus for the Acceleration of Scientific Impact (KCASI) Eugene, OR

Bid Package: #3

Earthwork & Underground Utilities

Pre-Bid Meeting: March 28th 10:00am

Bids Due: April 9th 2:00pm

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The waitlists for the properties below will OPEN on March 19th, 2018 and will CLOSE on April 2nd, 2018.

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HUD Waitlist

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The Maples II (503) 681-9096 (1BD)

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All information is current as of February 1ST, 2018

SUB BIDS REQUESTED

Portland International Airport (PDX) Parking Additions and Consolidated Rental Car Facility (PACR)

HQ Employee Lot & Pedestrian Tunnel Mods

JE Dunn Construction invites written Bids from qualified Trade Partners to provide construction services for HQ Employee Lot and Pedestrian Tunnel Mods on the PACR project.

A complete copy of the Bidding Documents can be obtained by emailing Robert Means at Robert.Means@jedunn.com. Bids may also be delivered by email to Robert Means.

Bids due 2:00pm PST April 6th, 2018

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



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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March

2018
CALENDAR

MONDAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY	
				 <div>1</div> <div>Share a Smile Day <i>Harry Belafonte born, 1927; Singer, actor and civil and human rights activist</i></div>		<div>2</div> <div><i>Dr. Seuss born, 1904</i> Read Across America Day</div>		<div>3</div> <div>National Anthem Day <i>Inventor Alexander Graham Bell born, 1847</i></div>		<div>4</div> <div><i>First meeting of Congress (1789)</i></div>			
<div>5</div> <div><i>Boston Massacre (1770)</i></div>		<div>6</div> <div><i>Artist Michelangelo born, 1475</i> <i>Shaquille O'Neal born, 1972; Four-time NBA champion</i></div>		<div>7</div> <div>National Cereal Day <i>Telephone Patent Granted (1876)</i></div>		<div>8</div> <div>International Women's Day <i>Robert Sabuda born, 1965</i></div>		 <div>9</div> <div><i>Floyd B. McKissick, Sr. born, 1922; Civil Rights activist, first Black student at the Univ. of N. Carolina</i></div>		<div>10</div> <div>Abolitionist Harriet Tubman Day <i>1st Paper Money Issued in 1862</i></div>		<div>11</div> <div>Daylight Savings Time Begins <i>Johnny Appleseed Da</i></div>	
<div>12</div> <div><i>Anniversary of the Death of Anne Frank (1945)</i></div>		<div>13</div> <div>Good Samaritan Day <i>Uranus Discovered (1781)</i></div>		<div>14</div> <div>Pi Day (3.14) <i>Scientist Albert Einstein born, 1879</i></div>		<div>15</div> <div>Absolutely Incredible Kid Day <i>Funk music legend Sly Stone born, 1943</i></div>		<div>16</div> <div><i>James Madison born, 1751 (4th President)</i></div>		 <div>17</div> <div>St. Patrick's Day <i>Nat King Cole born, 1919; Legendary jazz musician and singer</i></div>		<div>18</div> <div><i>First Walk in Space (1965)</i> <i>Grover Cleveland born, 1837 (22nd & 24th President)</i></div>	
<div>19</div> <div><i>Swallows Return to San Juan Capistrano</i></div>		<div>20</div> <div>1st Day of Spring <i>Spike Lee born, 1957; Emmy Award winning filmmaker</i></div>		<div>21</div> <div>Children's Poetry Day National Teen-Agers Day Single Parents' Day</div>		<div>22</div> <div>United Nations World Water Day</div>		<div>23</div> <div>Toast Day <i>Political Leader Patrick Henry declared, "Give me liberty...", 1775</i></div>		 <div>24</div> <div><i>Harry Houdini born, 1874</i> <i>Exxon Valdez runs aground (1989)</i></div>		<div>25</div> <div>Palm Sunday <i>Aretha Franklin born, 1942; undisputed "Queen Of Soul"</i></div>	
<div>26</div> <div>Make up Your own Holiday Day <i>Diana Ross born, 1944; singer & Oscar-nom. actress</i></div>		<div>27</div> <div><i>Alaska hit by 8.4 Earthquake (1964)</i></div>		<div>28</div> <div><i>"Greatest Show on Earth" formed 1881</i></div>		<div>29</div> <div><i>Armed Forces left Vietnam (1973)</i> <i>Pearl Bailey born, 1918; award-Winning singer & actress</i></div>		<div>30</div> <div>Passover Begins at Sundown Doctor's Day <i>Artist Vincent van Gogh born, 1853</i></div>		 <div>31</div> <div><i>First Map of the US Published (1784)</i></div>			

FOOD

Brownie Biscotti

The rich chocolate taste of a brownie combined with the delightful crunch of biscotti—brilliant. Prep. time, 20 minutes; baking time, 35 minutes; yields 24 pieces.

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Main Ingredients:

- 1/3 Cup butter, softened
- 2/3 Cup sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 tsp. pure vanilla extract
- 1 3/4 Cups all-purpose flour
- 1/3 Cup cocoa powder
- 2 tsp. baking powder
- 1/2 Cup miniature semisweet chocolate chips
- 1/4 Cup walnuts or pecans, chopped

Topping Ingredients:

- 1 egg yolk, beaten
- 1 TB. water

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 375°.
2. Line a baking sheet with parchment or waxed paper. In a large bowl, cream together the butter and sugar until smooth. Beat in the vanilla and eggs, one at a time. In a separate bowl, combine the flour, cocoa and baking powder; stir into creamed mixture on low until well blended. Dough will be stiff. By hand, stir in the chocolate chips and nuts.
3. Divide dough into two equal parts and place on prepared baking sheet. Shape each into 9x2x1-inch logs making sure they are 4 inches apart. You can also use two pans. Blend the egg yolk and water together and brush the loaves lightly with the mixture. Bake at 375° for 20-25 minutes, until firm. Remove from pan, cool for 30 minutes.
4. Using a serrated knife, slice the loaves diagonally into 1-inch slices. Return the slices to the covered baking sheet, placing them on their sides.
5. Reduce heat to 350° and bake for 10 minutes on each side or until dry. Cool completely and store in an airtight container.

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