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**Honoring King
50 Years Later**

*Special
ceremonies to
reflect on life
and impact*

See Local News, page 3

**Tax Credit
for Families**

*Non-profit helps
filers as tax
deadline nears*

See Local News, page 3



Portland Observer

Volume XLVII • Number 14



www.portlandobserver.com
Wednesday • April 4, 2018



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PHOTO BY DANA LYNN BARBAR/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Faith leaders representing Portland’s diverse religious community come together at Augustana Lutheran Church in northeast Portland to promote a proposed ballot measure to regulate semiautomatic weapons and large capacity ammunition magazines in Oregon. Pictured (from left) are Liz McKanna, Rabbi Michael Z. Cahana, Rev. Alcena Boozer, Rev. W. J. Mark Knutson, Tamrah Knutson and Iman Muhammad A. Najieb.

‘Now is the Time to Act’

**Moved by gun violence,
faith leaders call for action**

BY DANA LYNN BARBAR
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Protecting children and teenagers from gun violence is the driving force of a new grass roots effort

to regulate semiautomatic weapons and large capacity ammunition magazines in Oregon.

A diverse group of faith leaders in Portland are working together to gather signatures for a proposed ballot measure that if approved by voters would require that existing semiautomatic weapons and large capacity magazines be registered by their owners,

as well prohibit the future sale and transfer of these weapons and magazines statewide.

Rev. W. J. Mark Knutson, senior pastor of Augustana Lutheran Church in northeast Portland, is chairing the ballot initiative campaign, along with

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



The Week in Review

yet to be found. The multi-racial family was most recently from Woodland, Wash. and previously lived in Lake Oswego.

Ockley Green Students Rally for Teacher

Ockley Green Middle School students rallied on Monday morning in support of their teacher. Chris Riser was placed on leave last month when over 250 students demonstrated in support of teenager Quanice Hayes, who was shot and killed by Portland police in 2017. The walkout happened after a Black Lives Matter assembly at the school.

Taken Over Cliff to Deaths

A preliminary investigation shows that a woman stopped on a dirt pull-off along California's picturesque Mendocino coastline and then pressed her foot on the accelerator, driving the van with her wife and six adopted children over a 100-foot cliff, sending everyone inside to their deaths, official said Tuesday. Three of the victims from the March 26 crash have

2nd Gun Control Initiative

Two relatives of people killed in the 2012 Clackamas Town Center shooting filed a proposed ballot initiative Monday that would require gun owners to store their weapons with gun locks and make gun owners liable for injuries caused with their firearms. The initiative is the second gun control measure that could appear on the November ballot if backers gather enough valid signatures.

Anti Muslim Flier Scare

Portland police put out extra patrols at schools and mosques Tuesday after an anti-Muslim flier

appeared online calling April 3, "Punish a Muslim Day." Authorities said they knew of no direct threats against anyone and that the hate-filled flier started in Europe.



Lillard Introduces Dame Jr.

Damian Lillard is proud new father. The Blazer's most valuable player and fan favorite shared a picture of his newborn son on Thursday, captioning the photo 'Dame Jr.' Previous reports confirm the baby would be named Damian Jr.

Brother Shot at Mall

Damian Lillard's 20-year-old half brother, a resident of California, was recovering in a Portland hospital after he was shot in his car in the parking lot of the Clackamas Town Center Thursday night. Police were looking for two African

American suspects who fled on foot.



Winnie Mandela Dies at 81

Nelson Mandela's ex-wife, Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, known to many in South African as "The Mother of the Nation" died Monday at the age of 81.

Shots Fired in the Back

Stephon Clark, the unarmed black man who was fatally shot by Sacramento police in his grandmother's backyard, was struck eight times -- including seven bullets in the back, according to a private autopsy commissioned by the family and released on Friday.

Unprovoked Attack on Fred Meyer Beaverton Cashier

A stranger, unprovoked, punched a cashier at a Fred Meyer in Beaverton on Sunday, causing minor injuries, according to Beaverton Police. Bystanders held the suspect down until police arrived on scene.



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What's on your list today?™



PHOTO BY DANNY PETERSON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Sarah Adams, executive director of non-profit CASH Oregon, welcomes low income families and individuals to offices on the third floor of the Lloyd Center where they can get free help to prepare their taxes and claim an Earned Income Tax Credit.

Tax help non-profit helps filers claim sizable tax credit

BY DANNY PETERSON THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Tax season is upon us and if you're a low income worker, you may be eligible for a tax credit that averages \$2,400 for recipients—that may be lower or higher depending on the situation.

A non-profit called CASH Oregon offers free tax preparation services at the Lloyd Center and numerous other locations, aimed at helping eligible recipients claim the credit, called an Earned Income Tax Credit. It can be especially helpful to families.

The tax credit, which can be worth up to \$6,300, tends to be higher for qualifying individuals with children.

"For example, for a family of

Cash in Hand

Adams said the biggest barrier people probably have to making the claim is simply filing their taxes.

"Sometimes if you make a low enough amount of money you don't actually have to file a tax return. So it may be just a very easy thing to say 'well, why bother with that hassle?' But if you don't file it, you won't claim it, you won't be able to get it," Adams said.

Of course, refunds won't occur the same day, but once received, there are no restrictions on how to spend the money.

According to CASH Oregon data, it's estimated that 55 percent of the tax refunds they helped prepare last year went to pay debt or bills, while 34 percent went into savings accounts, and another 11 percent was used to offset other expenses.

Audrey Techur and Elfinia Syoziatro both sought tax assistance

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

Honoring King 50 Years Later

Church bells set to toll for each of the 39 years of his life and special ceremonies in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. were planned across the city of Portland Wednesday on the anniversary of his death 50 years ago when he was gunned down by an assassin in Memphis, Tenn. on April 4, 1968.

Reflecting on civil rights prog-

ress since his death, residents were asked to rededicate themselves to King's vision of equality and justice by meeting at 5 p.m. at the Japanese-American Historical Plaza, downtown, and marching to the MLK statue outside the Oregon Convention Center for a 6:30 p.m. rally sponsored by the Albina Ministerial Alliance Coalition for Justice and Police Reform and Ec-

umenical Ministries of Oregon.

Metro regional government also planned to host community leaders early Wednesday to speak about the civil rights movement and civil rights work that's still needed. The NAACP Portland Branch was marking the anniversary with a noon ribbon-cutting ceremony for their new branch office at the Lloyd Center.

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‘Now is the Time to Act’

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

chief petitioners Rev. Alcena Boozer, director emerita at St. Philip the Deacon Episcopal Church in northeast Portland and a former principal at Jefferson High School, and Rabbi Michael Z. Cahana of Congregation Beth Israel. Imam Muhammad A. Najieb, director of the Muslim Community Center of Portland, is campaign treasurer.

At this time, the initiative is called “Lift Every Voice,

Oregon Measure 43.” If the required number of signatures are gathered and approved, it will be on the ballot in November.

Talks of a campaign to prevent mass shootings with tougher gun control laws have been in the works before. However, after an overwhelming response from youth across the country demanding gun reforms following last month’s mass school shooting in Parkland, Fla., Rev. Knutson and the others decided it was time to do something in Oregon.

“The youth are our biggest commodity – what will we leave them?” said Iman Najieb. “Life and protection of our youth today is paramount. We want to amplify their voices.”

Added Boozer, “We need to let the young people know that we have their backs.”

Tamrah Knutson, who is leading the youth committee for the ballot measure campaign, hopes that youth involvement in the effort will inspire and empower young people to create positive change moving forward.

“I hope this can serve as a vehicle for them to enter the political system hands-on, as they are at the front and center of this effort,” she said.

All involved hope that the campaign will serve as an example of what can be accomplished when people from different walks of life find common ground and work

together to better the greater community.

“There is power in this being a faith-led movement. We take glory in our differences but we also honor the commonalities, one of which is a commitment to preserve life,” said Rabbi Cahana, noting that there are three different religions represented in the leadership of this campaign.

“Faith leaders have a higher calling that demands our attention, and now is the time to act,” he added.

As of last week, 3,443 signatures were delivered to the Secretary of State’s office to get the initiative’s title approved. Once it clears regulatory hurdles, the campaign can start collecting the required 88,184 signatures needed to make it to the ballot. All petitioners are volunteers.

Although gun control is a controversial issue, the advocates are confident that they will be met with support.

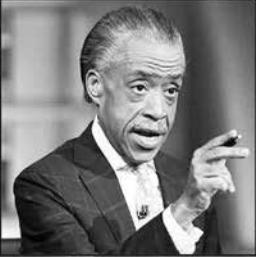
“This is a modest proposal that takes one step in trying to make our state safer,” said Liz McKanna, chair of the campaign’s legal advice committee. Added Tamrah Knutson, “We are for the Second Amendment. We are against weapons of war. We invite good faith gun owners to join us.”

For updates and more information on the Oregon Measure 43 campaign, visit lifteveryvoiceoregon.com.

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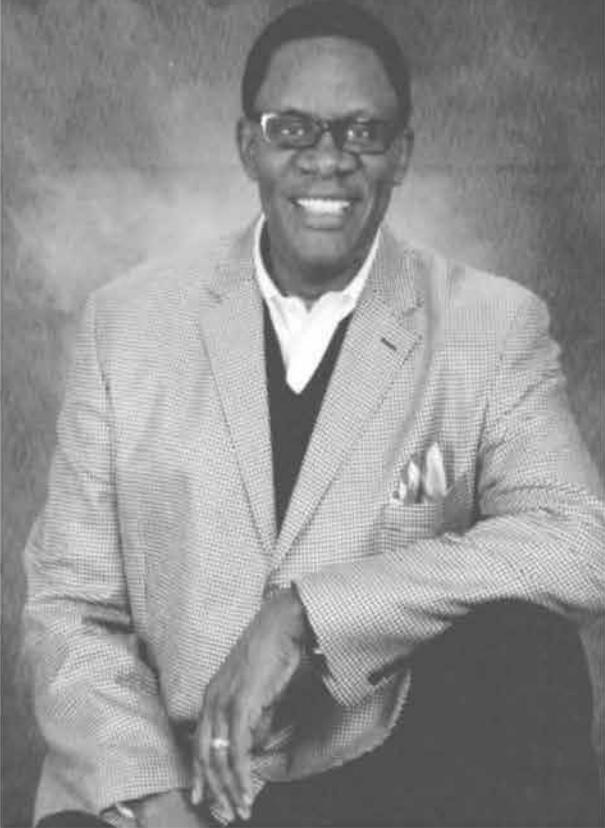
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PHOTO BY DANNY PETERSON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Volunteers, interns and workers at the CASH Oregon office in Lloyd Center help low-income Oregonians prepare their taxes for free and help eligible recipients claim an Earned Income Tax Credit. Pictured (from left) are Pina Chipen, Alexis Hopson, Gilberto Elena, and Myrna Andrade-Booker. The program will be open through April 17 at over 50 locations in the Portland metro area.

Cash in Hand

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

through the program for the first time this year after hearing about it from word of mouth. They said a refund like the Earned Income Tax Credit would really help them out financially.

“The reason I came is because it’s free. I usually go to H & R Block, but it’s a \$300 something dollar fee,” Syoziatro said.

Between CASH Oregon and AARP Tax-Aide, \$54 million in Earned Income Tax Credits was made to eligible clients in Oregon last year, according to the non-profit’s annual report. Over \$21 million of refunds were issued in the tri-county area of Washington, Multnomah, and Clackamas counties.

The tax filing deadline is April 17 and the free tax preparation sites will be open for services through that time, except Fridays. But come early, Adams said, because the service is first-come first-serve. And be sure to bring a photo ID, Social Security card, the tax IDs of all who you are filing for, your employers W-2s and other documents related to your income, as well as tax-related expenses for the year, and last year’s tax return, if you have it.

At Lloyd Center, which is the largest CASH Oregon site in the state, the hours are posted as 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday through Wednesday, and 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Thursdays. The offices are located on the third floor near the food court.

You can find CASH Oregon’s other locations by calling 2-11 or visiting cashoregon.org/locations. The website also has links to free resources in order to file taxes yourself from home.

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Meeting on Gang Violence

Laurie Palmer, a black community activist who started a local organization to address the root causes of gang violence invites members of the community to an upcoming meeting to explore and advance efforts to combat the influence of gangs and reduce violence.



Laurie Palmer

The session will be held Wednesday, April 11, from noon to 2 p.m. in the community room of the Human Solutions/Rockwood building at 124 N.E. 181th. Palmer is the founder of the “Go Get Your Child” (GGYC) community coalition she started after her own son was injured in a shooting. She is also an inspirational speaker and a “Women in Transition: life coach.

works and building ties with non-violence, locally-based organizations and explore honest challenges in the efforts to make our communities safer.

The meeting will focus on strengthening community net-

For more information, call Palmer at 503-927-9753 or email lauriepalmer39@yahoo.com.

Free Legal Services Day

In an effort to help low-income individuals apply for jobs, attain housing, and regain their driver’s licenses, a free legal services day will be held at the Rosewood Initiative in Gresham on Friday, April 13, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

with an attorney and earn a waiver of fines and fees they owe, if they show proof that they completed non-court-mandated community service or recent treatment. Individuals can also see if they’re eligible for expungement of old cases or address any outstanding warrants.

The non-profit, located at 16126 S.E. Stark St., will provide the opportunity for people to meet

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ELECTRICIAN



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON JR./THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Five candidates running for a future open seat on the Portland City Council appear at the March 24 candidates' forum sponsored by Black Voices United at Maranatha Church in northeast Portland. Pictured (from left) are Jo Ann Hardesty, Felicia Williams, Andrea Valderrama, Loretta Smith and Stuart Emmons.

Issues Raised at Black Voices Candidates' Forum

BY BEVERLY CORBELL
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Editor's note: The following story is being repeated after it was accidentally cut short in last week's print issue. A correction was made to comments on sanctuary cities that appeared online and are now properly attributed to the candidate who made them. We apologize for the errors.

A diverse group of candidates running for a future open seat on the Portland City Council voiced their concerns during a March 24 Black Voices candidates' forum at Maranatha Church in northeast

Portland, 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 running 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.

"We need someone with a successful track record delivering housing, and I am that candidate," Emmons said. "I will bring decades of private sector experience and actually getting projects built, and not just talking about them."

Loretta Smith, a current member of the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners, who can't run for re-election to her post because of term limits, has thrown her hat into the City Council race. On creating more affordable housing in the city, Smith said she

wants to clean up polluted lots and build homes on them.

"There is no question that housing is probably the most important issue for folks living in Portland and the state of Oregon. But there are opportunities we can take if we just push forward and be very deliberate and intentional about what we're going to do.

"We have about 989 brown-fields in this community, properties that need to be cleaned up," Smith said. "We can use those to get mixed-use (buildings constructed) so more folks can get affordable housing right here in this inner city area."

Smith said she also believes the city should consider housing the homeless in the long-empty and never used Wapato Jail in north Portland.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15



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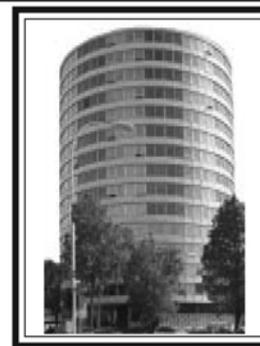


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Journey to the Trail of Tears



Cherokee performance artist DeLanna Studi returns to The Armory with "And So We Walked," her powerful and inspiring story of retracing the 900-mile Trail of Tears with her father.

Cherokee performance artist and activist DeLanna Studi returns to The Armory, downtown, to perform her powerful memoir play "And So We Walked: An Artist's Journey Along the Trail of Tears."

The frank, funny and sometimes misguided story is about a contemporary Cherokee woman who goes on a six-week, 900-mile journey with her father along the Trail of Tears in search of her heroic self. She retraces the path from North Carolina to Oklahoma that her great-great grandparents took in the 1830s during the forced relocation of 17,000 Cherokee from their homelands, during which as many as 6,000 perished along the way.

Performances open on Friday, April 6 and run through May 13. Regular tickets start at \$25 and may be purchased by visiting pcs.org or calling 503-445-3700.

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Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

Black Women and Positive Roles

“Visibly Invisible,” a two-hour program to explore the complex roles that black women have within their own communities and an event to honor several women who are positive role models at home and the world at large, is the title for the next “We Can Listen” series at the Old Church Concert Hall, 1422 S.W. 11th Ave.

Shalonda Menefee, a Portland entrepreneur, creative healer, designer and community champion, has produced the event, scheduled for Tuesday, April 10 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Menefee has a deep passion for helping others live up to their full potential and has been committed to empowering women and youth in her community for over 15 years. As a result, she has developed programs, curriculum, workshops, service and products that promote self-care, spiritual healing and empowerment.

The program will also feature a photography and clothing design presentation featuring Africa inspired prints that exemplify a strong connection to culture and



Shalonda Menefee

heritage. The session will be moderated by Grammy-nominated local recording artist and theatrical

performer Julianne R. Johnson. Reserve seats online at visiblyinvisible.bpt.me.

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Dance Troupe Benefit Saturday

A gala fundraiser for Portland’s Kúkátónón Children’s African Dance Troupe will take place Saturday, April 7 from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. at Madeleine Parish Hall, 3123 N.E. 24th Ave. The annual event will include a traditional West African meal, drinks, performances by the Kúkátónón dancers, and many chances to win amazing prizes by supporting nonprofit organizations. For tickets and more information, visit kukatnon.org.



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Beaverton



The Meyer Memorial Trust, one of the largest private foundations in Oregon, has purchased property at North Tillamook Street and Vancouver Avenue to build a new headquarters, pledging support for the historic African American neighborhood as its future home and ongoing initiatives to help the community remain affordable, thriving and diverse.

Meyer Trust to Build in Albina

New headquarters to build on equity mission

The largest private foundation in Oregon, The Meyer Memorial Trust, has purchased property in the historically African American Albina neighborhood of inner north Portland to build a new headquarters as part of its growing commitment to equity.

The Meyer Trust will be moving from leased office space in the Pearl District, downtown, to the corner of North Tillamook Street and North Vancouver Avenue after construction is completed in early 2020, officials with

the charity announced recently.

The location was chosen for its central location and rich history, allowing for closer interaction with grantees, partners and the community, officials said. The Albina community also boasts a wide array of transportation options, including proximity to TriMet bus and light-rail, ease of walkability and bike-ability.

Started by the late Fred G. Meyer, founder of Fred Meyer stores, the foundation refocused its mission on equity a few years ago. The trust's board of trustees, staff and leadership are now predominately people of color.

Meyer board member Mitch Hornecker said the decision to build a new Meyer headquarters is a good financial

and community investment.

Doug Stamm, Meyer's chief executive officer, said Meyer's mission and values will be manifested in the design, including the design process and contracting.

"Albina is a community whose rich history we intend to honor through our ongoing commitment to equity," Stamm said. "Many of our partners work and are based in the neighborhood where our founder, then known by his birth name Frederick Grubmeyer, set down his own Oregon roots. A significant number of our staff also live in north and northeast Portland. It means so much for Meyer Memorial Trust to invest directly into this pivotal place."

Early design plans are for a three-story structure with roughly 20,000 square feet of workspace. But the final plans for the building will be developed and finalized following conversations with community leaders, faith and nonprofit leaders and foundation staff.

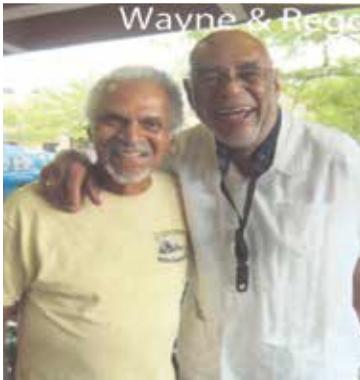
Meyer is determined to be a good neighbor in a neighborhood that has experienced destabilizing waves of urban renewal and gentrification.

"As new neighbors, we look forward to supporting efforts by many people and organizations, including the Albina Vision Trust, to ensure that as Albina evolves toward an exciting future, it remains an affordable, thriving and diverse central city community," Stamm said.

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



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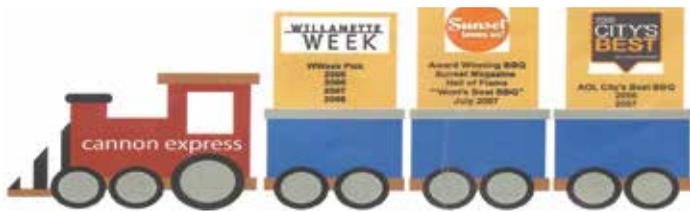


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Christopher B. Wager creates figurative sculptures carved from reclaimed lumber.



Amy Ruedinger hammers copper into three-dimensional forms.



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April Shows at Guardino



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Distortions of reality are behind the creative works from artists featured this month at Guardino Gallery, 2939 N.E. Alberta St.

Christopher B. Wagner focuses on the creation of figurative sculptures carved from reclaimed lumber. He is inter-

ested in distorting the human figure, changing proportions, stretching or squashing the form.

Paul X. Rutzis paints in oils. Where he departs the traditional is in carving wood panels to distort the traditional rectangle that paintings usually occupy.

In the gallery's feature area are hammered copper works by Amy Ruedinger and print-making by Stirling Gorsuch.

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

BUSINESS Guide

ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

Martin Luther King Jr. March

All people who love democracy, freedom, justice, equality and peace and who desire to build Martin Luther King's "Beloved Community" are invited to commemorate the 50th anniversary of his death on Wednesday, March 4 for a march that begins at 5 p.m. at the Japanese-American Historical Plaza on the downtown waterfront and concludes with a rally at the MLK statue outside the Oregon Convention center at 6:30 p.m.

Everybody Reads -- Multnomah County Library's 16th annual community reading program "Everybody Reads" welcomes author Moshin Hamid to Portland this week. Hamid's book 'Exit West' was distributed across the district so readers and students can engage with the book's themes of safety, migration, displacement and conflict. He 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.

The Murder of Fred Hampton -- 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 show, Wednesday, April 11 at 7 p.m., highlighting 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. For a complete schedule, visit nwfilm.org.



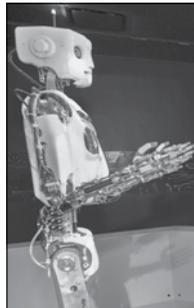
Norman Sylvester -- 'Boogie Cat' Norman Sylvester plays Saturday, April 7 at Catfish Lou's; Saturday, April 14 at the Spare Room; Friday, April 20 at the Vinyl Tap; Saturday, April 21 at the Inner City Blues Festival; Wednesday, April 25 at Billy Blues in Vancouver; Friday, April 27 at Clyde's; and Saturday, April 28 at the Half Penny in Salem.

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

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.

A Proud Tradition of Student Social Activism

Youth lead in rallying for social justice

BY MARC H. MORIAL

When the nation's students march to protest gun violence in their schools, they are following in a proud tradition of student leadership in social justice in America.



By early May 1963, the series of civil rights protests known as the Birmingham Campaign had been ongoing for more than a month. National attention generated by Martin Luther King Jr.'s arrest – which resulted in his Letter from a Birmingham Jail – had begun to fade. It was only when the children marched that America's attention would be riveted, and stay riveted.

Images of school children – mostly teenagers, but some as young as 7 or 9 – attacked by dogs and blasted with firehoses dominated the front pages of newspapers and television news broadcasts. The Children's Crusade, as the student march was called, marked a stark turning point in Birmingham and galvanized the effort to pass the Civil

Rights Act.

The Children's Crusade is among the best-known student acts of social activism, but was by no means the first. In 1924, students at Fisk University staged walkouts to protest efforts by its white president to steer the curriculum away from liberal arts toward industrial education. In the throes of the Great

The rise of the internet has given socially-active young people a critical organizing tool, which they've used to elevate hashtags like #NeverAgain, #VoteThemOut and #MarchForOurLives.

Depression, the American Youth Congress formed to advocate for young people and led to the establishment of the National Youth Administration jobs program.

The student activism of the 1960s helped bring about the end of the war in Vietnam, lowered the voting age to 18,

and fueled the emerging movements for women and LGBTQ people. In the 1980s students successfully pressured their universities to divest from companies profiting from apartheid in South Africa. The rise of the internet has given socially-active young people a critical organizing tool, which they've used to elevate hashtags like #NeverAgain,

violence in our communities.

In 2014, the year 12-year-old Tamir Rice was killed by police while playing with a toy gun, black people died at a rate of about 17 per 100,000 people, compared with 10 per 100,000 white people. Black men are 17 times more likely than white men to be shot and killed with guns. In 2012, the year Marissa Alexander was jailed for defending herself against her abuser, black women were murdered at a rate two-and-a-half times higher than their white counterparts, 56 percent of them by domestic partners or boyfriends, and nearly 60 percent of them with guns.

With the committed help of our youngest Urban Leaguers, we will continue to fight for common-sense reforms like universal background checks, limits to magazine capacity and muzzle speeds, keeping guns out of the hands of domestic abusers and a strong federal gun trafficking law.

Our hearts are with the hundreds of Urban League youth who are marching and fighting for their own lives, not only in Washington, but in every community in the nation.

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

Supporting Black Male Teachers in the Classroom

Help me be there for my students

BY FRANCIS PINA

Does being me give me an advantage in my inner-city classroom? I often reflect on this question because every school year I learn from a handful of students that I am their very first black male teacher.



If we got 100 teachers in a room, statistically I would be one of just two black males in that room and one of 50 who will leave the profession within our first five years. I am now in my fifth year of teaching and I want to stay where I am.

I know that it's not my skin tone but my cultural experiences that give me the advantage. I develop close bonds with my students quicker because I grew up in the same Boston neighborhoods as most of them, and have had close bonds with diverse people of color since my childhood.

Boston Public Schools has a diverse

student body that goes beyond race. Someone white might be Albanian or Polish, someone black might be Haitian or Nigerian and someone Asian might be Vietnamese or Filipino.

I have known and been close to this diversity since I was a student at Boston Public Schools. At the same time, I am aware of my limitations. I am not a monolith of the urban experience and a Boston childhood has changed greatly since I was growing up in the city.

More kids come into my classroom having experienced trauma and are labeled with behavioral problems than when I was a student. Many more have parental-like responsibilities.

So while I may be a role model, an exemplar for my black male students, I still have the same challenges as many other teachers in my school building.

Challenges like trying to teach Brianna how to interpret linear graphs when she is constantly responding to Facebook drama on her phone. Like trying to engage Jeffery in a Desmos activity when he is tired, hungry, and did not eat the school lunch. Or the larger challenge of making algebra meaningful when

many of my students are struggling socially and emotionally.

Yes, my ability to bond, to develop relationships with my students is the foundation I need to have to support them effectively, both academically and with their social-emotional needs. With every interaction, redirection and teachable moment in the hallways or on the sidewalks, I strengthen my influence.

However, there is a price I pay, an invisible tax, to doing that work, a weight that's placed on me when I learn about a student's self-harm, a friend's murder, immigration status or eviction.

Many of the things I have learned about my students over the years keep me up at night. This is why I and other teachers like me need coaching to continue learning, deepening and reflecting on our own social-emotional competencies so we can understand how to respond and support our students' social emotional struggles.

Just like my students, I want a coach for my own social-emotional learning, a professional who would focus on how I am building my own social-emotional competencies, facilitating those of

my students and caring for myself. This coach could be a district-level position and could work with my school's teaching team so we could all reflect on our coaching and our social-emotional needs.

Our district could also create a social-emotional learning mentor-teacher role. This could be an opportunity for a teacher to get trained in supporting other teachers' practices.

If my own most basic needs are not being met, I will not be able to consistently achieve the goals I have set for my students.

I am reminded of Audre Lorde's words, "Caring for myself is not self-indulgence, it is self-preservation." I do not want my self-preservation to come from leaving the profession. I want to be there for my black students, and for all of my students, for as long as I can so that I can continue to bond with them, influence them and carry them forward. For that to happen, I need a coach of my own.

Francis Pina is a math teacher teaches at Charlestown High School in Boston Public Schools.

OPINION



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A No-Brainer Way to Bring Gun Deaths Down

Oregon sets example by closing loophole

BY ANIQA RAIHAN

It's now been just over a month since 17 teenagers were gunned down at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, culminating in a march that brought nearly a million people to the capital. Yet Congress is still dragging its feet on guns.



While Republicans and Democrats gridlocked over the best way to prevent shootings, the Oregon Legislature took action to prevent a particularly deadly form of gun violence — and it didn't involve arming teachers or outlawing AR-15s.

Just one day after the devastating Valentine's Day shooting in Florida, the Oregon House of Representatives passed a bill to close what's called the "boyfriend loophole" in its gun laws. The new law will prevent anyone from buying or owning a firearm who's been convicted of stalking or domestic violence, as well as people with active protective orders against them.

While federal law is already supposed to prevent gun ownership by domestic abusers, the law's outdated definition left out those who didn't live with or have

children with their victims — hence, the boyfriend loophole.

While this news received relatively little coverage, it's a huge step forward and will unquestionably save lives. Over 1,000 women are murdered each year by current or past husbands or partners — that's three women a day or one woman dead each time you sit down for a meal.

And though the story of the battered wife is not an unfamiliar one, a recent study at the University of Pennsylvania found that over 80 percent of intimate partner violence incidents reported in 2013 involved current or past dating partners, while current and past spouses accounted for less than 20 percent of incidents.

As Americans continue to get married later and less frequently, the nationwide population of unmarried adults will grow, which is why closing the boyfriend loophole should be a top priority for lawmakers across the country.

Oregon's new law makes it the 24th state to officially close the loophole, but there's still much work to be done. The federal law prohibiting gun ownership for abusers doesn't actually outline a mechanism for them to hand over weapons they already own.

Twenty-seven states require convicted abusers and those subject to protective orders to relinquish their firearms, but only half of those specify whom the weapons should be given to. And just four require law enforcement to proactively remove guns from offenders rather than wait for

them to be turned in.

Meanwhile, 13 states have no laws at all to prevent domestic abusers from owning or buying new guns. Six of those states are in the top 10 with the highest rates of gun deaths.

Reps. Debbie Dingell, D-Mich. and Dan Donovan, R-N.Y., along with Sen. Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn., have introduced legislation to close the boyfriend loophole on the federal level. But that alone won't be enough to ensure that abusers don't have access to deadly firearms.

We need thoroughness and uniformity across state lines. We need specific systems to remove weapons from dangerous people, including laws allowing law enforcement to seize weapons found while responding to reports of intimate partner violence.

We need legislation requiring law enforcement agencies to report offenders for inclusion in the National Instant Criminal Background Check System. And, of course, we need universal background checks on all gun sales, no matter where they occur.

Survivors everywhere deserve support, security, and peace of mind, and it's long past time our laws reflect that fact.

Anika Raihan is a writer, activist and community organizer with a focus on violence against women. She led a movement against campus sexual assault at the George Washington University. Distributed by OtherWords.org.

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United Way of the Columbia-Willamette is hiring a FT Operations Coordinator to perform administrative duties in support of multiple functions; serve as the organization's primary receptionist; coordinate meeting logistics for the broader organization; and ensure the smooth operation of the mail room, lunch room, and kitchen. Hiring range: \$34,347 TO \$41,217, DOE. For more information and to apply: www.unitedway-pdx.org/about/careers. Position closes 4/20/18 or when filled. EOE

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REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

MERC - OCC - EXPO EVENT SECURITY SERVICES RFQu 3463

Metro, with the MERC Commission, is soliciting qualifications from potential providers of uniformed and peer t-shirt event security personnel to users of the MERC facilities.

Sealed qualification packet submissions are due no later than 2:00 p.m., May 17, 2018, in Metro's business offices at 600 NE Grand Avenue, Portland, OR 97232-2736, Attention: Jon Deveaux, Procurement Analyst, RFQu 3463.

A voluntary meeting will be held and is recommended for attendance for current and potential Security Providers and is scheduled for April 18, 2018 at 11:30 p.m. at OCC, 777 NE Martin Luther King Jr Blvd, Portland, OR 97232.

MERC operates the Oregon Convention Center, the Portland's Centers for the Performing Arts, and the Portland Metropolitan Exposition Center. MERC is interested in hearing from qualified firms that are capable of providing uniformed and peer t-shirt event security personnel directly to users of OCC and Expo facilities. MERC anticipates that it will qualify one or more firms to act as authorized non-exclusive providers of event security personnel. Qualified firms will contract directly with users of OCC and Expo for event related security required by MERC policies and procedures.

Qualified firms will be required to obtain and maintain MERC qualified status in order to provide event-related security to users of OCC and Expo. MERC will not guarantee a minimum or maximum number of hours a qualified firm shall work in any MERC facility.

Proposals/Bids can be viewed and downloaded from the Oregon Procurement Information Network (ORPIN), at <http://orpin.oregon.gov/open.dll/>.

Metro may accept or reject any or all submissions, in whole or in part, or waive irregularities not affecting substantial rights if such action is deemed in the public interest.

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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.

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.

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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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Issues Raised at Black Voices Candidates' Forum

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

"It doesn't make sense that we have 88 people who have died in our streets last year when we have a building we spent \$100 million for and that we spend \$500,000 a year to maintain and has no one in it," she said.

Emmons said he agreed with Smith on Wapato, and doesn't think the city is doing nearly enough to ease the housing pressures. He released his own comprehensive housing plan last week, called the Portland Home Project.

"I don't think the mayor is prioritizing homelessness enough," he said, despite a recent bond measure that will create 1,300 more apartments.

"There are 25,000 people who are in need of affordable housing," Emmons said. "We see after four years hardly any change in homelessness and hardly any change in affordable housing," he said. "I want to turbocharge our bond dollars and our public monies to get as much housing built as possible."

Jo Ann Hardesty, a former state representative who stepped down from her role as president of the Portland NAACP to seek the city office, agrees.

"We have way too many people living on the streets, and our solu-

tion has been to criminalize them or warehouse them," Hardesty said. "We need affordable housing in every neighborhood in the city of Portland."

Felicia Williams, a history professor, said she has worked on a diversion program for the "hard-core homeless" and found after a survey that their greatest need was for medical care, followed by housing, substance abuse help and mental health treatment.

"So when we're talking about homelessness and housing issues, we need to understand that it's a public health issue instead of just a shelter issue," Williams said. "If we're going to be sending money from the city budget over to the county we need to make sure it's going to go into a position or the resources necessary to break the cycle of homelessness."

"That's our job: to protect our people," she said.

Williams said she grew up poor in South Dakota, one of 15 kids, and joined the Air Force after high school where she spent five years managing crisis situations. She's also been a neighborhood association leader, "in the trenches," for years, she said.

"I've seen what the city does well and what the city does very badly," Williams said.

"I know how to reach consensus. I know how to get unanimous

votes," she said. "There are things we need for fix. I want you to support me to get things done."

While Hardesty and Smith are both African American, Valderrama said she is a first-generation Peruvian American and is concerned about police racially profiling residents in her low-income neighborhood.

"I come home to an area where I don't see sidewalks and my own family is at risk of being profiled," she said, questioning what "equity lens" the city is using to keep itself accountable.

Emmons said one way that City Hall can help increase racial equity is to support training in the building trades in high schools.

"If we want to have more minority-owned businesses we need to support schools and support those projects," he said.

Hardesty said she was "very disappointed" with a lack of accomplishment from the city's Office of Equity and Human Rights,

which she was on a panel to help form a few years ago.

"What has happened in the city of Portland is they hired 1.5 staff persons and made them the equity coordinator so that the director, the elected official, is no longer accountable for eliminating racial inequitable outcomes that are systemic in the city of Portland," she said.

Hardesty also discussed gentrification and hate crimes.

She said gentrification was pushing black residents to the edges of the city who are then penalized with higher transportation costs. She said public transportation should be free.

"We'd rather criminalize people for not having \$2.50 rather than creating a world-class transit system that is made for the people who are most transit dependent," Hardesty said.

Valderrama said she's been the target of hate crimes, with white supremacists showing up at her school board meeting, receiving

death threats, and having her car vandalized.

"The fear is real and something I personally experienced she said. "I've also heard testimony from parents who are scared of being deported, and who are afraid to get medical services."

Hardesty claims there are white supremacists in the Portland Police Bureau and that city leaders have been "deathly silent" about racism in the ranks.

"As an African American woman, we need leadership that's not going to pretend that we're not living this reality," she said.

Hardesty also criticized leaders for not doing more to protect undocumented residents.

"Let's stop telling people we're a sanctuary city. There's absolutely nothing sanctuary about the city of Portland and Multnomah County. We have to fight this as a community and I would love to see us developing a new underground railroad," Hardesty said.

June Key Delta Candidates Forum

The Portland chapter of the historic black sorority Delta Sigma Theta and Portland's AARP invite the public to join them for a forum with candidates running for the Portland City Council on Wednesday, April 11 at the June Key Delta Community Center, located at 4940 N. Albina Ave. and Ainsworth Street, across from Peninsula Park.

The forum will begin at 6 p.m. and there will be a social time preceding the session at 5:30 p.m. All six candidates running for the post to replace current City Commissioner Dan Saltzman, who is retiring at the end of the year, have been invited. Candidates confirming their plans to attend are Jo Ann Hardesty, Loretta Smith, Andrea Valderrama, Felicia Williams and Stuart Emmons.



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April 2018 CALENDAR

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

1 Easter April Fool's Day One Cent Day	2 International Children's Book Day	3 Find-A-Rainbow Day First iPad sold in the U.S. in 2010	4 First U.S. flag approved (1818)	5 National Read a Road Map Day Educator Booker T. Washington born, 1856	6 North Pole Discovered In 1898 U.S. entered World War I (1917)	7 No Housework Day World Health Day, established 1948
8 Trina Schart Hyman born, 1939	9 Robert E. Lee surrendered (1865)	10 Encourage a Young Writer Day National Sibling Day	11 President Johnson signs the Civil Rights Act, 1964	12 Space Shuttle Columbia First Launched - 1981	13 3rd President Thomas Jefferson born, 1743	14 Webster's Dictionary Published, 1828

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