



Taking the Lead in 'Sister Act'
Feel-good musical based on smash hit
See Metro, page 9



Staffing Plans Upend King
Diverse school faces big cuts; parents upset
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Portland Observer

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Melissa Torre-Duran, Grant



Madison Nieuwendorp, Roosevelt

Rose Festival Court

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Mariamou Abdoulaye, Benson



Kiara Johnson, Parkrose



Kash'Imani Thomas, Jefferson



Alanesia "Ally" Vang, David Douglas



Amaya Gustave, Franklin



Sydney Toops, Cleveland



Maya Bedge, Westview



Lux Preciado-Solis, Lincoln



Jennifer "Jenny" White, St. Mary's



Stephanie Vo-Nguyen, Madison



Anna Kien, Wilson



Caitlin McCabe, West Linn

Fourteen outstanding Portland area high school students comprise the 2018 Rose Festival Court presented by Unitus Community Credit Union. Each member receives a \$3,500 scholarship generously provided by The Randall Group. One will be named Rose Festival Queen on Saturday, June 9 when the Queen's Coronation takes place ahead of Portland's annual Bank of the West Rose Festival Grand Floral Parade.

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PHOTO BY DANNY PERERSON/
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Benson High Principal Curtis Wilson Jr. inspires students by teaching a Zumba dance class earlier this year. The school administrator was just named Oregon High School Principal of the Year.

Principal of the Year

Benson's Curtis Wilson Jr. named top school leader

Curtis Wilson Jr. of Benson has been named the Oregon High School Principal of the Year.

"Caught me completely off guard," Wilson said of learning about the honor Thursday. "I did not expect that at all."

The award, administered by the Confederation of Oregon School Administrators and the Oregon Association of Secondary School Administrators, makes Wilson eli-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

The Week in Review

School Administration Cuts

Portland Public Schools will eliminate about 35 positions and realign and consolidate a number of departments at the district's central office, Superintendent Guadalupe Guerrero announced Monday. The moves were aimed at protecting high-priority areas such as school staffing and the district's racial equity priorities in the wake of budget and strategic planning changes, Guerrero said.

USS Portland Commissioned

The USS Portland was put into service in front of over 5,000 onlookers in a Portland waterfront ceremony Saturday celebrating the first Navy ship named after the Rose City. Under construction since 2013 and christened in February 2016, the San-Diego based ship was dubbed by Mayor Ted Wheeler as a 'force for peace' at the ceremony.

Navy Ship Draws Protest

10 different organizations protested the USS Portland's commissioning ceremony Saturday. Protesting U.S. involvement in foreign wars, the Portland Democratic Socialists of America were among the groups who marched from Northwest 21st Ave-

nue to the gates of the waterfront terminal where Saturday's ceremony was taking place.

Burgerville Workers Unionize

Burgerville is now the only fast food chain in the nation that must legally oblige a federally recognized workers union. Employees of the Burgerville on Southeast 92nd Avenue and Powell ended a two-day election Monday night that saw an 18-4 vote in favor of the establishing The Burgerville Workers Union to negotiate for wage increases, affordable healthcare, and other benefits.

Driver Plows into Pedestrians

The driver of a rental van plowed into a crowd of pedestrians in Toronto Monday, killing 10 and injuring 15 more in what authorities say was a deliberate act of violence. The suspect, Alek Minassian, 25, was put in custody shortly after leaving behind a mile long trail of destruction.

Prince Ingested Counterfeit Pills

A Minnesota prosecutor said Thursday that Prince likely mistakenly ingested a counterfeit pain killer that he thought was Vicodin but instead was laced with the dangerously powerful drug fentanyl prior to his death. The Carver County Attorney Mark Metz said no criminal charges would be filed for his death and that the artist had suffered years of pain and pain medication addition.

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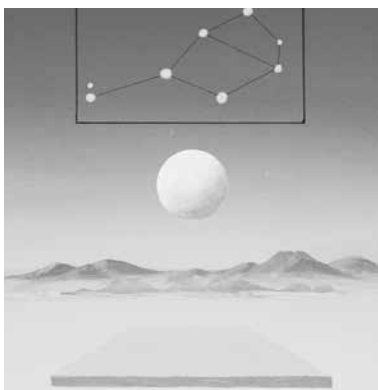
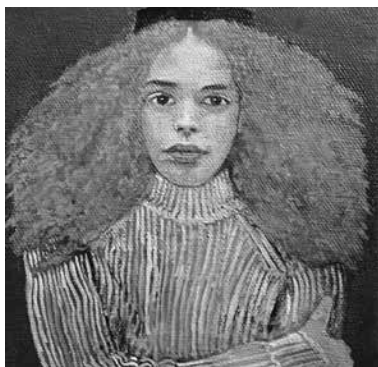


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What's on your list today?



King Elementary School parents are calling out the school district over plans to reduce staffing at the school and say the proposal goes against the district's own equity goals.

Staffing Plans Upend King

Diverse school faces huge cuts; parents upset

BY DANNY PETERSON
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Parents at Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School, one of the most diverse and historic public schools in the heart of Portland's African-American community, are upset over proposed staffing cuts for the upcoming school year.

Amid the 50th anniversary of the school's renaming last week were celebrations of its historic past and uneasiness for school's future.

Leaders of the King Parent Teachers Association say the school district's recently announced plans to cut teaching, administrative and other staff positions at King as it transitions next school year from a K-8 program

to K-5, are too extreme and go against the district's own equity goals. In addition, they say a long term failure to draw more students to King by expanding boundaries over the long haul means the northeast Portland school will fall behind other schools and get short changed again and again.

Eight full time equivalent positions—which could include a number of part-time staff whose hours add up together to be full-time—are anticipated to be cut at King which may include teachers for English language learners and special education, the school psychologist, and Vice Principal Yolanda Coleman, the PTA said.

Located at 4906 N.E. Sixth Ave., King is one of eight K-8 schools that is converting to a K-5 school next year. Those conversions, along with the opening of two new middle schools and other changes have caused projected staffing levels district-wide to

change.

A detailed report of each school's expectant enrollment changes and subsequent funding changes was released last Tuesday by the school district, along with a set of equity-based goals for the changes, one of which is to "ensure schools have adequate staffing to maintain reasonable class sizes."

Martin Luther King's enrollment is expected to drop by 21 percent along with a staff cut equivalent to eight full-time positions, the report said, leaving an anticipated student-to-teacher ratio of about 10 to 1 for next school year. But those projections explode to about 30 to 1 when you remove special programs at King, school officials said.

The school houses both a Mandarin language immersion program, enrolled via a lottery, and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

Condemnation of Bigotry Defended

The Oregon State Bar is standing by statements condemning the rise of speech that incites racism and violence even as it is poised to give partial refunds of dues to some of its members who were upset by an adjoining statement criticizing President Trump.

The two statements appeared side by side in the lawyer group's recent news bulletin. One condemned the rise of hate groups, cit-

ing the white nationalist march in Charlottesville, Va. last August and the fatal Portland Max train stabbing in May. The second statement went a step further and criticized President Trump, saying he has "catered to this white nationalist movement, allowing it to make up the base of his support and providing it a false sense of legitimacy."

A Republican bar member complained saying the statements

were too political, particularly the second one, and in violation of federal laws that prohibit partisan activities in state bar associations that require mandatory participation for practicing attorneys.

A state bar spokesman said the criticism of Trump was not meant as the view of the group as a whole and said its placement next to the first statement was "ill-advised and confusing."

New Documentaries Worth Watching

OPINIONATED JUDGE

BY
DARLEEN ORTEGA



To close out my report on the Full Frame Film Documentary Festival, I offer some thoughts about the films I saw in the last two days of the festival in order of my own appreciation. The first three, especially, are well worth seeking out.

"Crime + Punishment" won a

special jury prize at the Sundance Film Festival and is the product of some fantastic investigative reporting by director Steven Maing. He follows the NYPD12, a group of New York police officers of color who risk their safety and careers to expose systemic racism in the police department in the form

of quota systems that target communities of color. Even after quota systems were "officially" outlawed, they continue in the form of barely-tacit pressure to issue the requisite volume of summons and arrests each month, a practice which police leadership brazenly denies each time they are confronted. The officers at the center of this film are impressive in their courage, and the film serves as an excellent and hard-to-capture depiction of the relentless determination that it takes to challenge systemic oppression. It is little wonder that so few people find the inner resources to challenge structural wrongs when it is so much easier to allow the system to dictate what is actually happening, even when the agreed-upon story contradicts so much other evidence. Both the film and its subjects evince awareness that these officers are fighting only one piece of a still-larger system that has produced mass incarceration and other devastating effects on communities of color; this documentary is a primer on the importance of standing up and telling the truth about the pieces happening inside one's own orbit. Follow the film at <http://crimeandpunishmentdoc.com/>.

"The Jazz Ambassadors" tells a fascinating and complex story very well. During the height of the Cold War in the 1950s, the U.S. and the Soviet Union were engaged in propaganda campaigns against each other, and the Soviets were all over the ugly facts of American racism. At the same time, the U.S. sought to win the propaganda war and curb the spread of communism with a program that sent American jazz musicians like Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, Dizzy Gillespie, along with their mixed-race bands, to play all over the U.S.S.R., Asia, and Africa. How did this plan originate? Why did the musicians agree to do it? The answers are far more complex and inspiring than I imagined; among other things, one of the first black congressmen, Adam Clayton Powell Jr., conceived the plan and sold it in Congress; the musicians saw how they were being used, but also grabbed the opportunity to show up as themselves and to let the power of their music and personalities changes hearts and energy in ways the power structure scarcely grasped. They also gained a window on freedom movements around the world, and brought back perspective that impacted the movements for civil rights at home. The music here is amazing (a soundtrack album is planned) and, supported by amazing footage and astute expert commentary, the film offers



Sgt. Edwin Raymond was among a group of police officers of color who put their safety and careers at risk by exposing systemic racism in the New York Police Department. The story is told in the fantastic new documentary **"Crime + Punishment."**

is an unexpectedly inspiring story of how it is possible to employ resourcefulness that is not overly distracted by the agendas of the powerful. This PBS documentary is will air on May 4 and hopefully will have an online release as well.

"Sky and Ground" follows the journey of one Syrian family from a refugee camp near the Greek-Macedonian border across seven countries to join family members in Germany, where they hope to start a new life after escaping Islamic militants and the Assad regime in Aleppo. But it is by no means a straight path; this film conveys a concrete sense of life in a refugee camp, the danger of travelling with few resources while struggling to avoid detection for fear of being sent back to the chaos of a camp or, worse yet, some form of imprisonment; the heightened stakes that can lead to assuming the risk of hiring transportation that can lead to other problems. The filmmakers were quite resourceful in capturing an important story of vulnerable people; not wanting to expose them to further danger, they allowed the family to film themselves a good portion of the trip, but also spent enough time with them to build an intimate portrait of a perilous journey that far too many people must make. I was so struck by the senselessness of what refugees experience simply trying to find safety; this film has the potential to help us become far less comfortable with how we treat people who have lost everything and simply want a place to build a functional life. You can follow the film at <http://www.humanityon-themove.org/>.

"The Pushouts" aims to help viewers understand and engage with a segment of kids whom society essentially throws away as impossible to help. We often refer to them as dropouts but, according to Dr. Victor Rios, a better term would be "pushouts," because the

combination of their challenging circumstances and lack of any real effort to meet these black and brown kids where they are essentially pushes them out of engagement with education and into drug use, criminal activity, and hopelessness. Rios should know; his own impossible life challenges found him, at age 15, with a criminal record and no hope. Now a professor at UC Berkeley, he is a compelling focus for examining the forces arrayed against poor kids of color and the sort of personal investment that can help them reframe their lives. Follow updates about the film at <https://www.facebook.com/thepushouts/>.

"12th and Clairmount" - Fifty years after the 1967 Detroit uprising, it is hard to locate a coherent story of those events. This doc is an attempt to examine that history through those who lived through it, assembling home movies and oral histories of many people who lived through those events to tell the story as it appeared to them. The assemblage has some power, capturing a sense of the signs that lurked, unnoticed, beneath the communal story of Detroit and the misunderstandings that bubbled to the surface during those devastating days in July. Director Brian Kaufman elected not to attribute any of the voices, which I found frustrating at times because it robbed the viewers of the capacity for assessing the various social locations at play. Nevertheless, the compilation here is a powerful one, and an opportunity for some deep listening to the perspectives who weathered the confusion and loss of innocence in their bodies. You can follow the film here: <https://www.facebook.com/12thandClairmount/>.

"Maynard" is an admiring look at former Atlanta mayor Maynard Jackson, the first black mayor of a major southern city.

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New Orleans' Jrue Holiday and his Pelican teammates stop Portland in the NBA playoffs with Saturday's 131-123 victory and a 4-0 sweep in the opening round. (AP photo)

Blazers Look to Future

A good season ends with a crash

(AP) — Another late-season surge, another first-round exit.

The Portland Trail Blazers head into the offseason with plenty of questions, with speculation that big changes could be ahead. Minutes after the Blazers were eliminated by the New Orleans Pelicans with a 131-123 win on Saturday and a 4-0 sweep in the opening round of the NBA playoffs, Blazers coach Terry Stotts was already addressing how Portland gets better going forward.

Stotts said he has confidence that Portland President of Basketball Operations Neil Olshey will keep the team pointed in the right direction.

"It's tough to evaluate after a playoff loss," Stotts said. "We had a good regular season. We did a lot of positive things in the regular season, but ultimately you're defined by the postseason. I think it's still a little early right now to say what direction we're going to go and what needs to be done moving forward, but one thing is that Neil is really good."

Portland made it to the playoffs

for the fifth straight year after finishing the season 49-33 and winning the Northwest Division title for the seventh time in franchise history.

The Blazers were boosted by a 13-game winning streak that started with a victory over the Golden State Warriors just before the All-Star break, and secured the third seed in the Western Conference. The team's streak matched the franchise record.

Damian Lillard drove the team's success during that span. In March he averaged 27.9 points, 4.6 rebounds and 6.5 assists. He also set a franchise record by making 64 straight free throws. He was named the West's player of the week twice.

But New Orleans was able to contain him in the playoffs. He averaged 18.5 points during the series, after scoring 26.9 per game during the regular season.

The Blazers have lost 10 straight playoff games. They were understandably stunned when the Pelicans took the first two games at the Moda Center. While they fought in Game 4, it was too late. New Orleans had the momentum.

No sixth seed had ever swept a No. 3 in a best-of-seven series.

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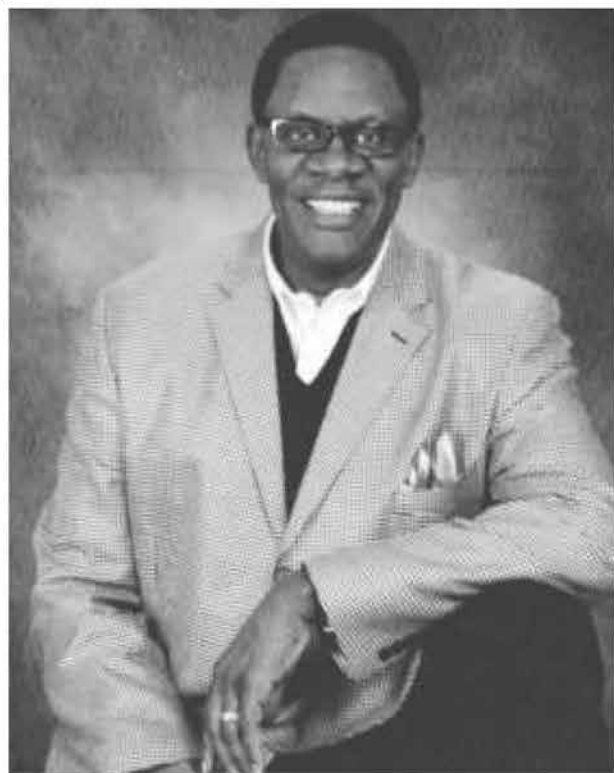
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Staffing Plans Upend King

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

a traditional neighborhood program, which is enrolled through boundary designations. The two strands are funded separately and have widely different enrollment figures.

"Hidden in the averages, what you don't see, is that our neighborhood strand looks to have very large classes, a single class for each grade," said King PTA Vice President Megan Newell-Ching. "The actual situation that we're looking at next year for our Fourth and Fifth grades is going to be 30 students."

Next year the Mandarin only side is projected to have class sizes ranging from 15-25, while the English only side will have class sizes from 23-33, school Prin-

cipal Jill Sage told the Portland Observer. There are currently 125 students in the Mandarin program and 174 on the English only side and those figures are likely to be flipped next year, she added.

Newell-Ching said the new formulation was supposed to support the district's equity goals, but instead they continue year after year policies that "have led up to the situation that we're in now. I mean, that's not equity."

Over the years the district has applied a number of "bandaid fixes" to the school which has struggled with low performance levels in the past, Newell-Ching said, like implementing King as a Turnaround Art school and then abandoning the program prematurely. A Mandarin immersion language program within the

school in which half the lessons are taught in English and half in Mandarin, from Kindergarten on, was started at the school in 2014. The school is also designated as an International Baccalaureate program, for all students.

The district's equity goals provide for the maintenance of reasonable class sizes and baseline academic program offerings at every school. Staff re-allocation decisions should consider school stability "in schools that have been historically under-enrolled," according to the policy.

Precise allocations of staff won't be locked down until next fall when enrollment figures will be known. The staff that gets cut from one school may very well end up hired at another school, like one of the two new middle

schools opening next school year, Harriet Tubman and Roseway Heights, PPS media relations specialist David Northfield told the Portland Observer.

80 students are projected to be leaving Martin Luther King Jr. School and moving to one of the middle schools next year, bringing the total enrollment to around 310. School administrators have said King will also likely lose at least three staff members of color due to the reallocation, according to the school's PTA President Shei Meka Owens.

King Elementary has the smallest catchment area in the district—the geographic area from which enrollment is derived—and been under-enrolled for many years now. In fact, many parents who want their child to attend the school in the surrounding community, sometimes just 3-5 blocks away from the school, have resorted to using a friends' address within the catchment area to get in, Owens said.

In the 2000-2001 school year, King had a robust enrollment of 733, a number that steadily went down through the years, according to a 2015 Portland Public Schools informational video, "Growing Great Schools." By fall of 2017 their enrollment was only 390.

Redrawing of schools' boundaries, which has been in talks district-wide since 2014, was supposed to help ameliorate MLK School's under-enrollment issue and hence provide more staffing.

The enrollment balancing effort was formulated to accommodate city-wide population growth across the district that is continuing to occur to this day. But the School Board has postponed such changes time and again in the face of periodic backlash with individual school communities.

"It's a complete failure of leadership on the part of the district that they haven't done the enrollment balancing. And frankly it's because they've listened to the loudest voices, which are the parents from higher socio-economic status schools," Newell-Ching said.

Any enrollment balancing efforts the school district attempts now will likely occur after the staff cuts take place, Newell-Ching said.

The parent leaders suggest a couple of ways the school district could help mitigate possible understaffing at MLK School going forward, the first being dedicating unassigned staff, which the school district keeps a pool of on reserve, to the school and other small, under-enrolled schools like it.

"And then the other thing is they could put legs on their continued promise to address our boundary issue. We need to see action, we need to see them begin the process of doing what they need to do to change the boundary," Newell-Ching said.

"We're asking to have not just a real conversation, but some real movement," added Owens.

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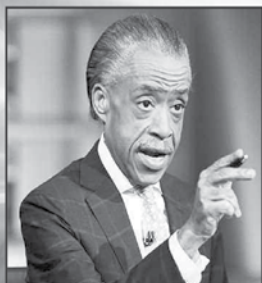
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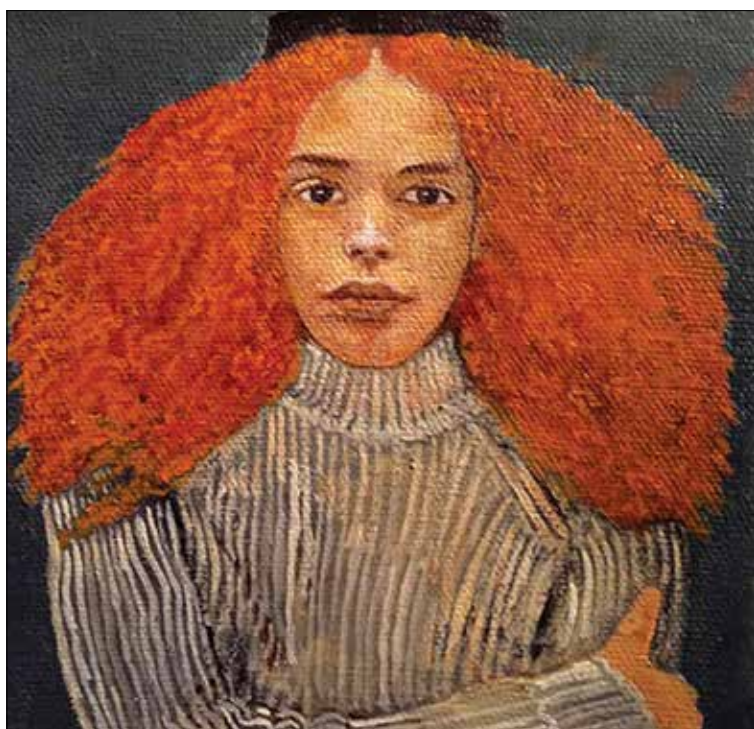
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Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



Oil portraits by Reed Clark underline the mystery of what it means to be human.

Artists Reception Opens Show



New featured artists displaying works at Guardino Gallery, 2939 N.E. Alberta St., will open their May shows during an artist's reception on Last Thursday, April 26 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

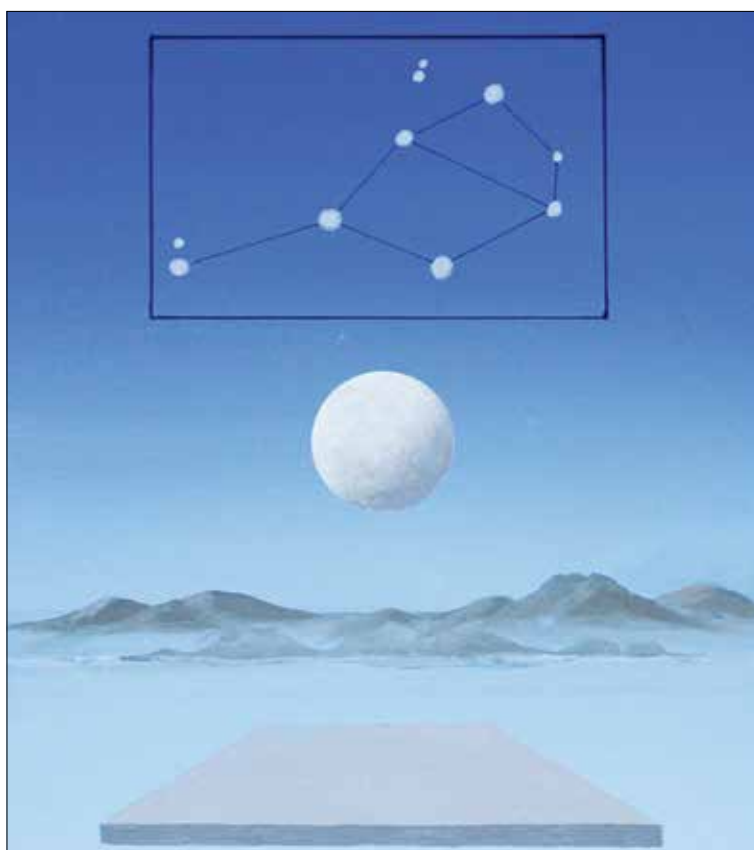
Works by Brad McLemore, Reed Clark and Ralph Davis are the main and featured attractions

for the month.

McLemore's ceramic sculptures are made of stoneware and porcelain clays imbued with ash and atmospheric deposit from firing in wood fueled kilns.

Clarke is an oil painter who concentrates on faces. He portrays people in order to show their unique presence, but also to allude to the underlying mystery of what it means to be human.

Davis is a painter who is interested in the combination of the hard-edged otherworldly formality of the geometric figure.



Ralph Davis' geometric constructions convey a sense of discovery.

All proceeds leftover from the **Joyce Washington Classic** basketball game will be donated to an athletic program by submitting a **100 word essay**; on why your team (*soccer, basketball, football, swim team, etc, etc*) would qualify for this donation.



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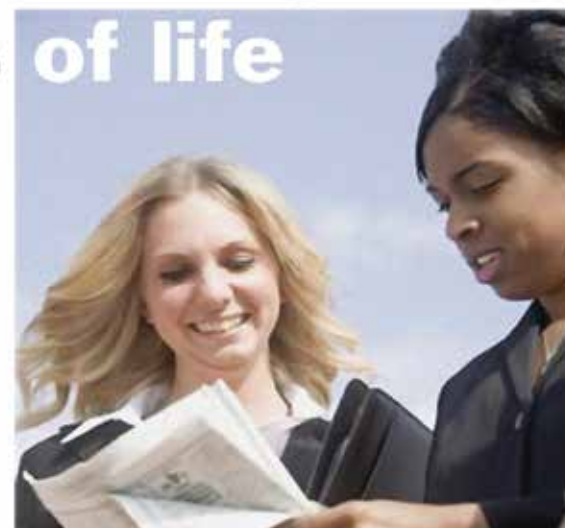
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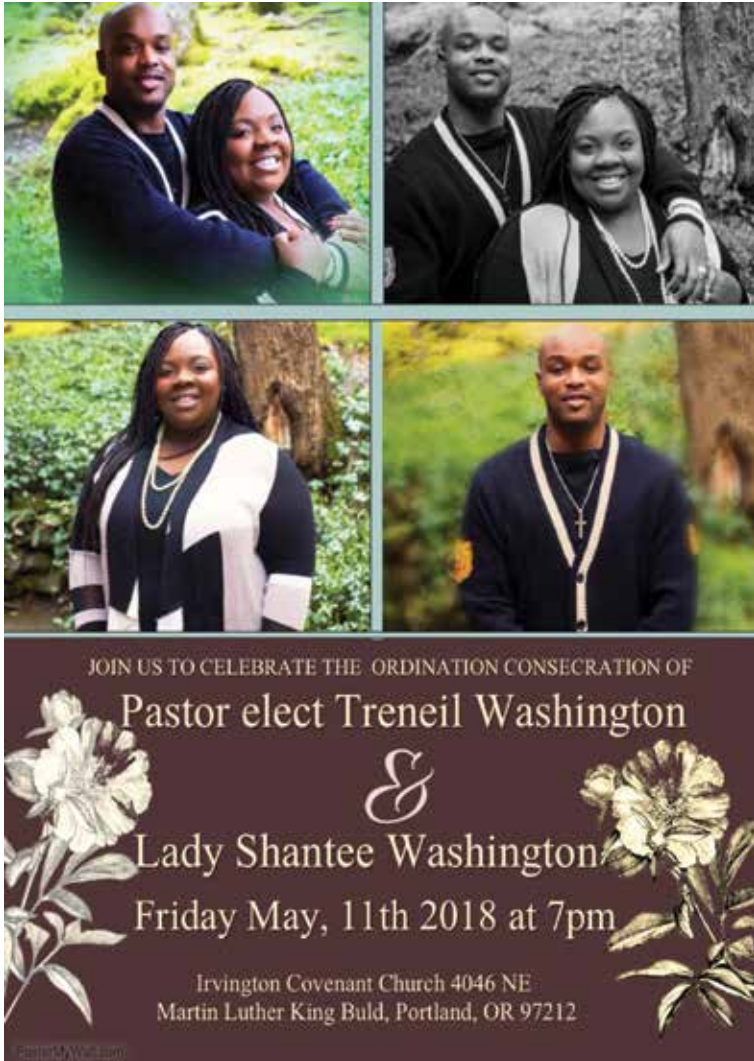


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Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



A melon is transformed into a flower during the annual celebration of Southeast Asian culture and heritage called "New Year in the Park," an annual event returning to Glenhaven Park in northeast Portland on Saturday, April 28 from 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Celebrate Asian Culture

You're invited to join Portland Parks and Recreation for the 4th annual New Year in the Park festival celebrating Cambodian, Lao, Thai and Burmese cultures on Saturday, April 28 at Glenhaven Park, located at Northeast 82nd Avenue and Siskiyou.

The day-long event is free and open to all. Featured attractions

will include cultural music and dance performances, food made from authentic recipes, vendors, traditional games and more.

The festival is an opportunity to celebrate the cultures of Southeast Asia and to reaffirm that Portland parks are inclusive -- and a safe place for everyone. That goes for all neighbors, whether they've

been in Portland for a week -- or for their entire lives," said Portland Parks Commissioner Amanda Fritz.

Thousands of people attended last year's New Year in the Park.

"I love seeing the community coming together to celebrate this joyous festival," said Saron Khut, one of the festival's creators.



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PHOTO BY KELSEY WALLACE, COURTESY OF THE OREGON ZOO

Old Friends Welcomed Back

Kids play on a camel sculpture in the newly reinstalled Warren J. Iliff Sculpture Garden at the Oregon Zoo. The garden's five popular statues, a hippo, bighorn sheep, bear and her cubs, a mouse and camel calf, were brought back after having been in storage since construction began on the Elephant Lands habitat in 2012.



PHOTO BY TRIUMPHY PHOTOGRAPHY

Kristin Robinson of Portland (center) performs the title role in "Sister Act," the feel-good musical based on the 1992 smash hit film, coming to the Lakewood Theater Company in Lake Oswego. Opening night is Friday, April 27 with shows running through June 10.

Taking the Lead in Sister Act

Feel-good musical based on smash hit

"Sister Act," the feel-good musical comedy based on the smash hit 1992 film, takes to the stage in Lake Oswego this week featuring Portland actress Kristin Robinson in the title role.

Robinson has worked in North-

west repertory theaters for the last eight years. Her earliest acting and vocal training came in church and she snagged her first leading role as Dorothy in *The Wiz* and continued honing her dancing and acting skills at Jefferson Arts High School and by studying theater in college.

Then after over 22 years working for Southwest Airlines and 20 years

away from the stage, Robinson was approached by her long-time friend Shalanda Sims to take part in her annual Black History Month production, "Who I Am Celebrating Me." Through this, Robinson won the lead role in "The Black Nativity" (Passinart Theatre Company), readings with Artists Repertory Theatre, and most recently as the infamous Alma Hix in "The Mu-

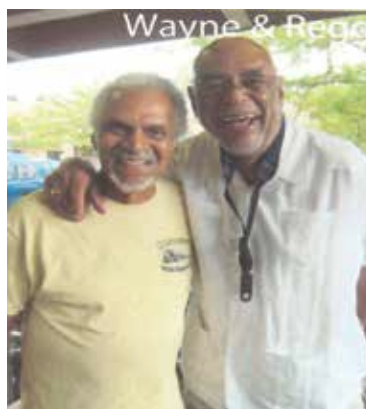
sic Man" (Clackamas Repertory Theatre).

Lakewood Theatre Company will open "Sister Act" on Friday, April 27 with shows continuing through June 10. Tickets are \$39 for adults and \$37 for seniors with discounts available for students and groups. Call the box office at 503-635-3901 or visit Lakewood-center.org.

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



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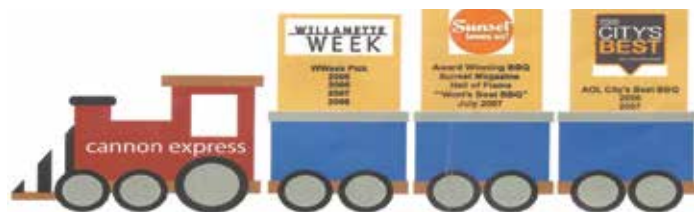
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The documentary "The Jazz Ambassadors" is a fascinating story about how mixed-race bands and African American jazz musicians like Louis Armstrong (center, pictured in Africa) were recruited during the Cold War to help win a propaganda war against the Soviet Union and curb the spread of communism.

New Documentaries Worth Watching

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Although I did not experience this as a particularly critical examination, it does convey a sense of his significance; Jackson is royalty in the black community, and the film makes a case for why that makes sense. His first wife and the mother of three of his children speaks of him with notable appreciation, despite having experienced the challenges of being somewhat left behind in Jackson's push to make Atlanta great; his second wife and his children similarly speak of him with genuine admiration, even while conveying a sense of loss over his absences. The film grounds Jackson's achievements as mayor in the time periods when he served, conveying a sense of how hard he had to fight to lead in a context where leadership from a black man was neither wanted nor trusted. One cannot help admire Jackson's single-minded and affable determination. This feels like essential history, and you can follow the film here: <https://www.facebook.com/maynardmovie/>.

"America to Me" is a documentary series that will air this fall on the Starz network. Director Steve James ("Hoop Dreams" and "Abacus: Too Small to Jail") embedded in an Oak Park, Ill. high school that is recognized for its racial diversity but which reflects an achievement gap between white students and students of color. The film seeks to interrogate the forces that can lead students of color to lag behind even in a resource-rich school; I thought,

after watching the first two of 10 hours of the series, that so much time and access (and good editing) did yield some suggestions of systemic racism, but wondered if James is the right person to tell that story. In questioning the filmmaker after, his answer did not suggest that he and his crew undertook anti-racism training that would have helped them ask the right questions of what they were seeing. Still, James knows how to tell a story, and here he has collected an interesting window into the current state of race relations in America.

"América" focuses on a family in Mexico providing care to an elderly grandmother, América. Her three adult grandsons end

up serving as her caretakers after their father (her son) is jailed for elder abuse; the film takes the time to observe the family over many months, as the young men struggle with how to care for América, who is frail and exhibits signs of dementia. There is love, and frustration, and some windows into Mexican life, along with a carefully observed family portrait that earned the film's directors an emerging artist award.

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



Troops on Linwood Avenue in Detroit, during a July 1967 uprising. The new documentary "12th and Clairmont" examines the history of the civil rights turmoil through the lives of those who lived through it.

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

BUSINESS Guide

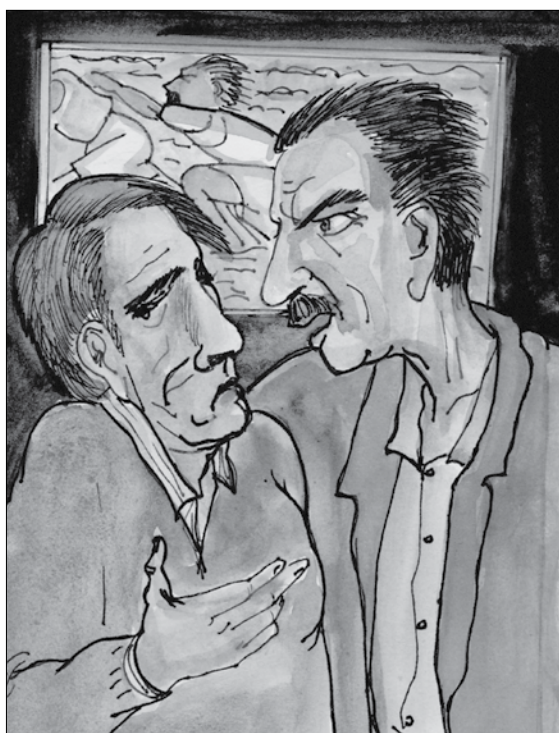
Youth Poetry Slam --

Verselandia! Portland's citywide youth poetry slam will take place Thursday, April 26 at 7 p.m. at the Arlene Schnitzer. Students will take the stage to share their original poetry in front of a panel of judges and a live audience. Show Portland's youth that their voices matter. Tickets are \$10 for youth and \$15 adults with no additional fees.



Alvin Ailey at the Schnitzer -- White Bird presents Alvin Ailey American Dance on Wednesday, April 25 at 7:30 p.m. at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall. The show will shine a light on social issues, celebrate the jazz legend Ella Fitzgerald, and honor the legacy of the company's founder Alvin Ailey, with his masterpiece Revelations.

Journey to the Trail of Tears -- Cherokee performance artist and activist DeLanna Studi performs her powerful memoir play "And So We Walked: An Artist's Journey Along the Trail of Tears" at the Armory, downtown. Studi retraces the path her great-great grandparents took in the 1830s during the forced relocation of 17,000 Cherokee from their homelands. Now showing through May 13. Regular tickets start at \$25. Visit pcs.org or call 503-445-3700.



Violence and Reconciliation -- "Quietly," a play that grapples with the carnage, consequences and hope for healing following Ireland's decades-long, bloody conflict referred to as the Troubles, makes its West Coast premiere with Portland's Corrib Theatre, now showing through May 6 at New Expressive Works, 810 S.E. Belmont St. Admission is \$25 general and \$20 for students. For tickets, call 800-838-3006 or visit brownpapertickets.com.

Norman Sylvester -- 'Boogie Cat' Norman Sylvester plays Wednesday, April 25 at Billy Blues in Vancouver; Friday, April 27 at Clyde's; Saturday, April 28 at the Half Penny in Salem; Friday, May 4 at Wilf's; and Saturday, May 5 at Catfish Lou's.

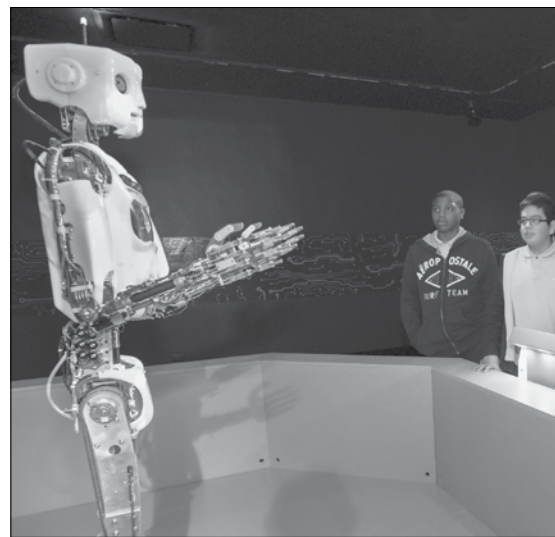
OMSI Exhibit on Arctic Thaw -- "Digging into

ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

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.

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.

Addressing Gun Violence in its Totality

Police kill more people than mass shooters

BY EBONY SLAUGHTER-JOHNSON

This spring, an estimated 800,000 Americans gathered in Washington, D.C. to participate in the “March for Our Lives” organized by the teenage survivors of the school massacre in Parkland, Fla. Thousands more attended 800 sister marches across the nation and around the world for gun reform.

Gun control is often portrayed as a “white” issue, but the march was encouragingly intersectional. Organizers shared the stage with members of black and brown communities whose daily encounters with gun violence are rarely treated with the kind of media attention the Florida students have gotten.

A number of the Parkland students have been upfront about the privileges afforded to them by their race and socioeconomic status — and have used these privileges to create space for those from other communities. Alongside them were activists of color from Los Angeles, Chicago, and Washington, D.C. who testified to their personal experiences with

gun violence.

There was no doubt at the March for Our Lives that black lives matter. National events still show, however, the extent to which black life is devalued.

On April 4, Saheed Vassell was killed by law enforcement officers in Brooklyn. He was unarmed and suffering from mental illness. What the officers claimed they thought was a gun was shown to be a piece of a welding torch Vassell used for work.

On March 18, Stephon Clark, an unarmed black man, was killed by law enforcement officers in his grandparents’ backyard in Sacramento, Calif. He too was unarmed. Clark was shot at 20 times and hit eight times in the back.

Some 590 Americans were killed in mass shootings last year, according to MassShootingTracker.org which counts events in which four or more people are shot. But that figure almost pales in comparison to the number of Americans subjected to gun violence by law enforcement.

According to the Washington Post, law enforcement officers shot and killed 987 Americans in 2017 alone. Despite constituting 12 percent of the population, nearly a quarter of those shot were black Americans. Of those 223 black Americans, all but nine were

black men.

Because police don’t report this data themselves, counts can vary. MappingPoliceViolence.org, counting more than just shootings, determined that law enforcement officers killed 1,146 Americans in 2017. Similarly, one quarter of those were black.

suburbs, and city centers can be curbed with legislation that mandates universal background checks, a ban on bump stocks, a ban on assault weapons, and an increase in the age at which Americans are able to purchase guns.

But to those common demands I’d add: There should be more

faith — like the ones who killed Stephon Clark after muting theirs — cannot and should not be trusted with a weapon.

If the movement behind the March for Our Lives wants to address gun violence in its totality, it should keep reaching out to all affected communities. And it must



Some 590 Americans were killed in mass shootings last year, according to MassShootingTracker.org which counts events in which four or more people are shot. But that figure almost pales in comparison to the number of Americans subjected to gun violence by law enforcement.

Gun violence is devastating in all its forms and must be addressed at all levels of government. However, there’s something truly perverse about the frequency of the violence inflicted by law enforcement upon the communities they’re called to serve and protect.

Shootings in schools, wealthy

sensitivity training for law enforcement, community policing, and weapons training that reinforces that there are other ways to subdue a suspect than to kill them.

At the very least, all officers should be required to wear body cameras properly at all times. An officer that cannot be trusted to operate a body camera in good

not only speak to instances of mass gun violence, but also to gun violence inflicted by law enforcement every day across the country.

Ebony Slaughter-Johnson is an associate fellow at the Institute for Policy Studies who covers history, race, and the criminalization of poverty. Distributed by OtherWords.org.

A Counterproductive Assault on Food Stamps

GOP pushes mean plan against poor

BY JILL RICHARDSON

Once again, Republicans are taking aim at poor people.

What is it this time? Adding a stricter work requirement to receive what used to be known as food stamps. (Today it’s known as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, but that just doesn’t have the same ring to it.)

If the Republican House bill goes through, anyone between the ages of 18 and 59 will have to work or participate in a work training program for 20 hours

a week in order to receive food stamp benefits.

Frankly, this is both disgusting and counterproductive. Let me explain why.

First of all, among other things, food stamps are an incredible economic stimulus. For every \$1 spent on food stamps, the economy gets a \$1.79 boost. Every \$1 billion spent on food stamps results in creating an additional 8,900 to 17,900 full time jobs.

In other words, cutting food stamps cuts jobs.

Making it harder to get food stamps will, in effect, cut food stamps — and therefore cut jobs.

How so? Well, most people on food stamps who can work already do.

About two out of five food stamp recipients live in house-

holds where someone works. They’re the working poor. They work, but don’t make enough money to make ends meet.

What about the rest, who have no income? One in five are disabled, and one quarter are elderly.

For many Americans, there’s a moral obligation to feed the hungry. Period, end of story, no more information needed. If somebody is hungry, feed them. The fact that feeding them creates jobs is just a bonus.

Let’s say you’re a skeptic, though. Who are these lazy people who just won’t work? And why can’t they work?

Turns out we’ve been here before, when we began requiring welfare recipients to have jobs or participate in training programs back in the 1990s. And, lucky for us, sociologists Jane Collins and Victoria Mayer researched the people affected by it and wrote

a book about them called *Both Hands Tied*.

Note that the title is *Both Hands Tied* and not *Lazy People Who Should Get Off Their Duffs and Work*.

They found that most of the people on welfare had worked for most of their lives. In almost every single case, they went on welfare because a family member needed care and they had to stay home to do it, or they themselves were ill.

One woman had a severely disabled child that no day care would agree to accept. She had to stay home to care for her child, and therefore wasn’t able to work.

Is that the person you want to deny food stamps? The mother caring for her disabled child?

The job training programs provided weren’t helpful either. They didn’t teach useful skills, and they didn’t lead to people finding long-

term work.

I don’t know who’s on food stamps and not working. But since food stamps pay only for food and not for any other needs, odds are everyone who can work already does. It’s not possible to get by otherwise.

I’ve been on food stamps. Trust me, you aren’t living the good life when you have to get them. On the contrary, you must be so poor to even qualify that you’ll do just about anything to work for more income.

Adding a work requirement to food stamps is a mean-spirited and short-sighted move that will harm our economy while exacerbating hunger.

OtherWords columnist Jill Richardson is the author of [Recipe for America: Why Our Food System Is Broken and What We Can Do to Fix It](http://RecipeforAmerica.com).



OPINION



The Good Far Exceeds Our Shortcomings

Renewing the public trust

BY CT WELLS

From the moment we received the call in the summer of 1988 from then Mayor J.D. Bud Clark to engage the burgeoning gang violence problem, which, at that time was a new phenomenon to the city of Portland, Emmanuel Community Services' (ECS) goal has been to solve problems that impair the social, economic, spiritual, moral, health-related, and educational development of our children, youth, and families.

For over 30 years ECS has sought to serve the broken and needy in our community by providing 25 ministry programs to serve children, youth and families.

From gang outreach, to youth empowerment and training programs; from mentoring offenders and providing transitional housing for the re-entry of men back into society from prison; from early child-care and day care services to the Renaissance Market, all these efforts were envisioned to make our community better. Over the years we have not been without flaw, but our heart and motive has



Over the next few months, we will be looking for ways that we can engage our community in new, thoughtful, and innovative ways, while at the same time ensuring that our systems and practices are stellar and beyond reproach.

always been pure.

As a non-profit organization, we have an obligation to comport ourselves deserving of the public trust. We have a fiduciary responsibility to the community who believe in us to reflect the highest ethical standards. While our intentions have been noble, we recognized that events over the last few months have offended some. This is of great consternation to us, and we offer our sincere apologies, as we have fallen short.

Over the next few months, we will be looking for ways that we can engage our community in new, thoughtful, and innovative ways, while at the same time ensuring that our systems and practices are stellar and beyond reproach.

My thanks to the good leadership, board members, staff and the many employees who served ECS for 30 years. Thank you for your heartfelt service to the betterment of our community. I firmly believe the good far exceeds our shortcomings.

To our community, please keep us in your good thoughts and prayers as we envision new and more proficient ways to serve our community. This remains our hearts desire.

CT Wells is president of Emmanuel Community Services.



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The Meadows' units are designated for households who are homeless or living in shelters. Preference for some units is given to families with children, veterans, the disabled, and persons diagnosed as chronically mentally ill.

Applications will be available online only beginning May 2, 2018. To apply visit www.vhousa.org look under Housing for Open Waitlists.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Worksystems

Request for Proposals

Bid Date: noon on Monday, June 4, 2018

Worksystems is seeking qualified and experienced organizations or individuals to deliver high quality workforce development services through the WorkSource Portland Metro system. The Request for Proposals is posted on Worksystems' website at www.worksystems.org. Proposals must be received no later than noon on Monday, June 4, 2018. Worksystems is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

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Principal of the Year

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

gible for the national Principal of the Year Award.

Under Wilson, Benson's graduate rate rose to 88.8 percent for 2016-17, well ahead of the Oregon average of 74.8 percent. Benson's dropout rate for that year was 0.2 percent; the state average was 3.9 percent.

Wilson said he is proudest of being able to build a community with Benson's diverse student body that is about 70 percent students of color and with about 70 percent who qualify for the free-and-reduced lunch program.

"It's just being able to work with students, staff and family and help bring them together," Wilson said.

Wilson manages a campus that shares space with the Dart Program, Alliance at Benson, Benson Evening Scholars, a full slate of Summer School Programming, and several other alternative pathways programs.

"He is a valued peer for the administrators of those programs helping to serve our most vulnerable learners," said Ginger Taylor, former Benson Evening Scholars Principal.

Wilson is in his fifth year as Benson principal after moving from Grant, where he was a vice principal. A graduate of Roosevelt High School and the University of Oregon, Wilson started his education career as a health teacher at Harriet Tubman Middle School in 1997, before moving to Roosevelt

to teach in 1997.

He also served as a coach, of basketball at Harriet Tubman, and track and cross country at Roosevelt.

In 2006, he moved into administration, first as dean of students at Roosevelt, then moving to Grant as a vice principal in 2007. In 2013, he took over as principal at Benson, succeeding Carol Campbell, who took the same position at Grant.

Wilson showed just how dedicated he is to Benson when the school's girls basketball team made the state championship game. He offered to pay the admission of any Benson student who wanted to watch the Techsters play Southridge at the Chil-es Center.



PHOTO BY TRACY STADAMIRE/UN-4-GETTABLE PHOTOGRAPHY

Allen Temple Church Pastor LeRoy Haynes and Oregon Supreme Court Associate Justice Adrienne Nelson attend a recent fundraiser at the home of community leader Kay Toran to raise donations and purchase customized bricks to rebuild the church.

Allen Temple Brick Campaign

Portland community leader Kay Toran recently hosted a fundraiser at her home to help Allen Temple Church rebuild from a 2015 fire.

Participants could make a donation or purchase customized bricks which will be laid on the grounds of the rebuilt northeast Portland church. Generous contributions have come from Tom Kelly of Neil Kelly remodeling, Stan Pauls, Décor Cabinets,

Prosper Portland, NW Natural, Maranatha Church, the Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods, Portland Community Reinvestment Initiatives, Life Change Church, Walsh Construction, Alicia Yoder, Matt Leeding and Ryan Wilde.

It's not too late to purchase your own brick for the re-building campaign. Four different sizes with your words are available by calling the church at 503-852-1758.

Gun Measure Petition Training

An initiative petition promoting public safety in Oregon by banning the sale of assault weapons and large capacity magazines takes another step forward when a rally and signature gathering training session for all ages is held on Monday, April 30 at 7 p.m. at Augustana Lutheran Church, 2710 N.E. 14th Ave.

"Now is the time, this is the

moment. We encourage everyone to join our Lift Every Voice campaign for Ballot Measure 43," said campaign chair Rev. W. J. Mark Knutson, Augustana senior pastor.

The other chief petitioners are Rev. Alcena Boozer, former principal of Jefferson High School and pastor emeritus of St. Philip the Deacon Episcopal Church, and

Rabbi Michael Cahana of Congregation Beth Israel. The treasurer is Imam Muhammad Najieb, director of the Muslim Community Center of Portland and a veteran of the Marines. Rev. Lynn Smouse-Lopez of Ainsworth United Church of Christ is serving as an alternate petitioner.

More information, visit lifteveryvoiceoregon.com.



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April 2018 CALENDAR

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

22

Earth Day,
established 1970
Girl Scout Leader
Appreciation Day

23

Home Run Day
William Shake-
speare born, 1564

24

Library of Congress
established (1800)
Pigs-in-a-Blanket
Day

25

Admin. Profession-
als/ Secretaries Day
Hubble Telescope
launched, 1990
World Penguin Day

26

Take your Daughter
to Work Day
Hug a Friend Day
National Pretzel
Day

27

Arbor Day
Tell a Story Day

○ 28

James Monroe
born, 1758 (5th
President)

29

Zipper Day (pat-
ented by Gideon
Sundback in 1913)

30

National Honesty
Day
Anniversary Lou-
isiana Purchase
completed (1803)



*In memory of Joyce Washington and
Charles Washington for their tireless
work in the Portland Community.*



Come join us on
May 19, 2018
at SEI, 3920 N. Kerby,
Portland, OR 97217



*Featuring many
top athletic talents
from Portland
middle schools*

*Still looking for Boys & Girls
Basketball Teams to participate*

**4th & 5th Grade Girls
5th & 6th Grade Boys**
(Guaranteed two games)



*Any athletic program can apply for a team
sponsorship. Submit a written **100 word essay** on
why your team would qualify for this donation.*

Tournament games take place on May 19, 2018
9 am until 5 pm



SEI
3920 N Kerby
Portland, Or 97217



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