



**Countdown for Signatures**

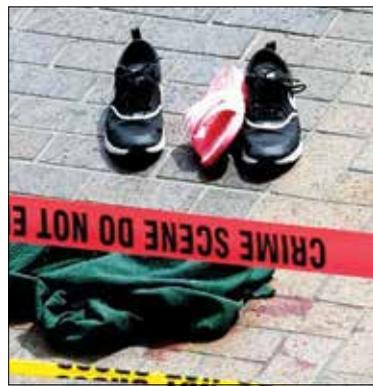
*Assault weapons ban effort gets July 6 deadline*

See Local News, page 3

**Sidewalk Attack**

*Motorist arraigned for attempted murder*

See Local News, page 3



# Portland Observer

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PHOTO COURTESY BOYS & GIRLS CLUB

Imani Muhammad of the Rockwood Boys & Girls Club oversees a basketball clinic held in partnership with the Portland Trail Blazers during the club's grand opening last fall. The Nike-sponsored gym is one of many amenities available to youth over the summer to serve families and single-parent homes of outer east Portland.

# Stepping Up for Kids

## Rockwood Boys & Girls Club's first summer

BY DANNY PETERSON  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The Rockwood Boys & Girls Club is now taking signups for its very first summer season of activities and programs serving a growing need to an ethnically diverse and often economically disadvantaged population in east Portland and Gresham.

The youth organization's eight-week summer program begins June 25 for children ages six to 18. An open house will be hosted on Saturday, June 2, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. for parents to visit the club, meet the staff, and hear about the wide-range of programming available to keep kids safe for summer.

Before the Rockwood Boys & Girls Club opened last October, families and single parent households in the area it serves had few, if any, hubs for after school and summer programs serving kids. The new facilities are one of seven Boys & Girls Clubs across the Portland metro area dedicated to providing youth enrichment

programming after school and during the summer.

"We create our programming around the interests of the children," Imani Muhammad, 38, the Rockwood Club's senior director of programs, told the Portland Ob-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



PHOTO BY JENNY GRAHAM, OREGON SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

Tanis Parenteau (left) and Rainbow Dickerson star in "Manahatta," one of the summer and fall attractions at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in Ashland, a play that moves between time periods to explore and give a voice to the exploitation and colonization faced by Native Americans.

**OPINIONATED JUDGE**  
BY **DARLEEN ORTEGA**



## Rare Perspectives on Stage

It is no exaggeration to say that three plays currently on offer at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in Ashland are making space for authentic, rarely-heard perspectives, and are changing the landscape of the American theater.

"Manahatta," the astonishing work of Cherokee playwright Mary Kathryn Nagle, takes place in three settings and two time periods. A few years before the 2008 financial crisis, a Lenape woman, Jane Snake, arrives on Wall Street -- to Manahatta, the very land her ancestors were forced to leave in the 1600s. She has taken a job in a prestigious investment bank and is fighting for credibility and opportunities to demonstrate her skills, but in a place where she is not seen or expected to rise. Meanwhile, her family is facing personal and financial troubles back in Oklahoma that eventually lead her mother to take out a mortgage loan that will jeopardize the family home. Finally, much of the play involves Lenape people in Manahatta encountering Dutch settlers for the first time, leading to a series of failures of communication with disastrous consequences for the Lenape people.

Staging these three stories together is a feat of theatrical genius, performed by a talented cast under the facile direction of Laurie Woolery. All seven cast members move between time periods, with subtle but clear shifts of costume, movement, and tone, and Nagle (herself an attorney who

formerly worked in Manhattan) has found resonant parallels between the economic pressures driving events in all three stories and the patterns of exploitation and colonization that recur again and again. In this play -- as frequently happens for indigenous and marginalized people--the Lenape characters invest in relationship, and what they offer in friendship and good faith is used as leverage for their removal. Moving between the stories in this way captures a sense, common to indigenous cultures, that ancestors move among us and may help us to respond to suffering with hard-earned wisdom from the past.

The play offers an exceedingly rare opportunity to experience mainstream art that is driven by indigenous storytelling rhythms and that centralizes the perspective of its indigenous characters, rather than the more usual erasure of indigenous people or the tendency to crop their story into a narrative that belongs to the dominant culture. We get a sense of how the first peoples viewed their early trades with European settlers, and of how persistently the perspectives of the colonizers erase evidence of agency and omit signs that they are dealing with a worthy trading partner. When a Lenape character addresses a settler in his language, he remarks in surprise, "You speak," as though

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

PHOTO COURTESY OF TRIMET  
A community member places a flower onto a mural adorned with messages of hope and inspiration at the Hollywood Transit Center during its dedication Saturday to the victims of a fatal MAX train stabbings that occurred at the location one year ago and sent shockwaves through the city. The two men killed and another man who was injured in the attack were defending two teenage girls subjected to a racist tirade.



## Transit Memorial Dedication

### Hope and remembrance one year after deaths

Hundreds of Portlanders gathered Saturday at a new mural adorning the Hollywood Transit Center with messages of hope and remembrance one year after a

double fatal stabbing on MAX light rail stunned the community.

When an anti-Muslim, racial tirade against two young women was challenged by other passengers, the perpetrator then turned on Taliesin Myrddin Namkai-Meche

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

## The Week in Review

### Shelter Shooting Video

On Friday, Portland Police released video from surveillance cameras inside a south-east Portland homeless shelter which recorded the police shooting death of John Elifritz, 48, last April when he entered the shelter while experiencing a mental health crisis and wielding a knife. Elifritz' wife, Barbara Elifritz, has filed a wrongful death lawsuit against the city and eight law enforcement officers in federal court.

### Rosanne Racism Dooms Show

ABC Tuesday canceled its hit reboot of the show "Roseanne" following a racist Twitter rant by the show's star, Roseanne Barr. A few hours earlier, Barr apologized for a tweet she sent out Monday that said "muslim brotherhood & planet of the apes had a baby=vj," which falsely tried to denigrate a former aide to President Obama, Valerie Jarrett.

### Historical Boxer Pardoned

A pardon was issued by President Trump Thursday for the late boxer Jack Johnson, an African American convicted a century ago for the crime of taking a woman

across state lines, saying it righted a wrong in American history. In 1912, the heavy-weight boxer was arrested with Lucille Cameron, a white woman he would later marry.

### NFL Bans Anthem Protests

Some athletes in the NFL are discussing alternative ways of protesting after NFL owners voted on a new policy last week that fines teams for any personnel that "do not show proper respect for the flag and Anthem." Kneeling during the national anthem rose to prominence when former 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick did so to protest racial inequality and police brutality in 2016.

### Dolezal Charged With Fraud



The former NAACP leader in Washington State whose life was turned upside down when she was exposed as a white woman pretending to be black is now facing welfare fraud charges. Rachel Dolezal, who legally changed her name to Nkechi Diallo, has been charged with theft by welfare fraud, perjury, and false verification for public assistance.

### Starbucks Anti Bias Training

Turning away customers looking for an afternoon jolt of caffeine, Starbucks shops across the U.S. began closing up early on Tuesday to hold training for employees on recognizing hidden prejudices. It was part of the coffee chain's effort to deal with the outcry over the arrest of two black men last month for sitting in a Philadelphia Starbucks without buying anything.

### Harvey Weinstein Arraigned

Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein was brought to court Friday on charges of first- and third-degree rape and committing a criminal sexual act in the first degree, which stemmed from incidents from two different women in 2013 and 2004. The arraignment follows claims of multiple decades of abuse by many women first reported in the New York Times in October.

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# The INSIDE

The Week in Review page 2

CLASSIFIEDS pages 6



pages 7-11

## Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



METRO page 9

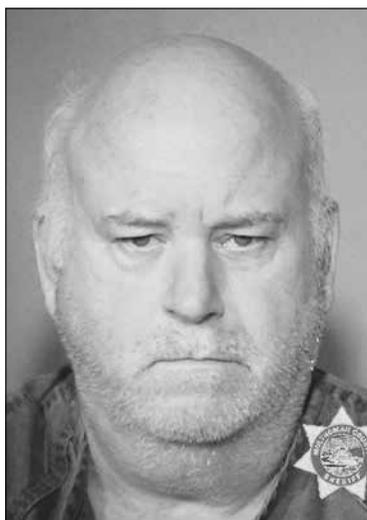


OPINION pages 12-13

CALENDAR page 14

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What's on your list today?



Greg Phillip Porter (left) in a police mug shot charged with three counts of attempted murder, and the clothing left behind on a sidewalk (right) in a scene outside of Portland State University on Friday after three pedestrians were hit in what looked like an intentional act.

# Sidewalk Attack

## Motorist arraigned for attempted murder

A driver accused of ramming three women walking on a sidewalk Friday at Portland State University in downtown Portland, critically injuring one of them, before speeding away and getting arrested within hours of the crash, was due for arraignment on multiple charges Tuesday.

Greg Phillip Porter, 61, faces three counts each of attempted murder, assault, reckless driving and failure to perform the duties of a driver.

Witness Christopher Bond said

he was standing on the sidewalk when he saw the SUV hit at least two women. He estimated it was traveling about 45 mph.

Bond said he turned to help, and the driver "gunned it," nearly hitting him.

Kat Caputo was talking to a friend by the light-rail station when she heard a commotion and turned around. She saw two women lying on the sidewalk and another leaning against a brick wall. Others were shouting that a car had jumped the curb, struck the women and sped

away. "I'm still kind of in shock. If I were two minutes later, that would have been me, or if I had just walked that normal route, that would have been me," Caputo said. "A lot of people were crying."

The crash stunned the city on the Friday before Memorial Day and the anniversary of a racist attack on Max light rail last year in which two men were stabbed to death when they confronted a passenger who was spewing hateful comments at two teenage girls of color.



PHOTO BY DANA LYNN BARBER/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Imam Muhammad A. Najieb (at podium) joins other faith based leaders at Augustana Lutheran Church in northeast Portland Thursday to give an update on a public safety campaign to ban the sale of assault weapons and large capacity magazines in Oregon.

# Countdown for Signatures

## Assault weapons ban effort gets July 6 deadline

BY DANA LYNN BARBAR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Interfaith leaders of the Measure 43 campaign, an initiative petition to promote public safety

in Oregon by banning the sale of assault weapons and large capacity magazines, held a press conference Thursday to announce the next steps needed to reach

the Nov. 6 General Election ballot.

Rev. W. J. Mark Knutson,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

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# Stepping Up for Kids

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

server.

The programs focus on math and science education, the arts, sports and wellness, workforce readiness, public service and leadership. At Rockwood, there are innovative spaces with top-notch equipment, including tech and art labs, a game room and a peace lounge. Teens have their own dedicated area where they can participate in programs like UPS Road Code to learn about driving safety or hone their career skills with targeted workforce training.

"It's learning how to work with people, it's learning how to problem solve and conflict resolution, and also know that they have safe adults that they can come to," Muhammad said.

The club also has a full-sized kitchen where youth receive meals and snacks. Partnerships with supporting organizations have resulted in a new Nike-sponsored gym; the Bemis Field, which includes two outdoor futsal courts gifted to the campus by the Portland Timbers and Thorns; the C.J. McCollum Dream Center, dedicated to broadcast and journalism activi-

ties; a state-of-the-art music studio; the Johnson Teen Center; and more.

The need for a Boys & Girls Club in Rockwood is rooted in the gentrification of north and northeast Portland which shifted a population of families with children from inner city neighborhoods to other locations where the cost of living was more affordable. The demographics of Portland east of I-205 is lower income and more ethnically diverse than the city-wide average. There are eight different languages spoken by children in the club. The club also serves five school districts: David Douglas, Parkrose, Centennial, Gresham/Barlow and Reynolds.

Muhammad has been working for the Boys & Girls Club on and off for 13 years, including at the Blazers Boys & Girls Club on Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. While she dislikes the term 'at-risk youth' to describe the demographic the organization serves, she said the club's after school and summer programs can often help children who've been impacted by trauma shape their futures for the better.

"For young people that have

unstable housing, young people that don't have their parents that they live with, you have to have an after school program to help them change the trajectory of their life. I mean, I think it's essential because parents can't do it all. Especially if 70 percent of the households are ran by single parents," she said.

All of the Portland area Boys & Girls Clubs offer affordable all-day programs for youth in the first to sixth grades, with an extra 7:30 a.m. to 9 a.m. Sunrise Club option, helpful for parents who go to work early and available for a small fee. Teen programming for seventh to twelfth graders runs from noon to 6 p.m. Visitor drop-in rates are also available.

Youth also have the opportunity to take summer field trips across the metro area and beyond to include OMSI, the Oregon Zoo, getting out in nature and participating in summer internship programs. Other fun summer activities are themed around robots, comics, cartoons, superheroes and music making.

Summer registration is currently open. Because spots are limited, parents are encouraged to visit [bgcportland.org/summer](http://bgcportland.org/summer) and register today.

# Countdown for Signatures

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

campaign chair and senior pastor of Augustana Lutheran Church, led the conference, which was held at his northeast Portland church. He was joined by chief petitioner Rabbi Michael Z. Cahana of Congregation Beth Israel, and campaign treasurer Imam Muhammad A. Najieb of the Muslim Community Center of Portland. Other faith leaders and committee members involved in the campaign were also in attendance.

On May 23, the campaign received a certified ballot title as approved by the state Attorney General, giving petitioners until July 6 to collect the required 88,184 signatures in order to move the measure to the ballot.

If passed, the initiative would require currently owned semi-automatic weapons and large capacity magazines to be registered by their owners, as well as for the prohibition of the future sale and transfer of these weapons and magazines statewide.

Joe and Janey Paterno, part of a signature gathering training committee for the measure, an-

nounced that they are planning on working with volunteers at training sessions across the state to make sure enough people sign on to the measure. Sessions have already been scheduled for Portland, Astoria, Pendleton and Bend.

Tamara Knutson, working on behalf of a youth committee supporting the initiative, emphasized the deadly toll assault weapons and high capacity ammunition magazines have taken on children in school shootings and other incidents across the country.

As public schools in Portland and across Oregon begin their summer breaks in early June, student volunteers will be trained to gather signatures and spearhead the process.

Imam Najieb reiterated the importance of the measure being written in a way to impact a younger generation's safety and well-being.

"What future do we have as a country if we do not prepare the foundation for our children today?" he said.

Knutson also offered condolences on the recent mass school shooting in Santa Fe, Texas,

saying that, "We offer not just prayers, but a recommitment to action - we must stop the violence."

The church leader also paid tribute to the victims of the Thurston High School shooting in Springfield, noting the two decades that have passed since the school shooting in Oregon shocked the nation.

"We have lived with fear of gun violence in our schools for 20 years," he noted.

Rabbi Cahana stated the importance of faith leaders having a higher calling regarding the promotion of gun safety.

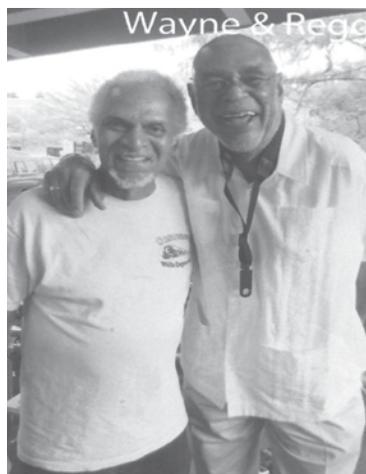
"This campaign is intentionally led by clergy people, who have historically taken responsibility of providing comfort to families after mass shootings. Now is the time to provide more than comfort and say 'enough is enough,'" he said.

Echoed Knutson, "The number of students who have died in school shootings is immoral. And we can do something about it."

More info about the campaign and its signature training sessions can be found at [lifteveryvoiceoregon.com](http://lifteveryvoiceoregon.com).



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# Rare Perspectives on Stage

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

only expression in his language deserves that description.

In the world envisioned here, the indigenous characters are accorded due respect, and spiritual and historical connections are sensed and honored. Although the stories here evoke sorrow, they also inspire reverence. The act of creation in which these artists participate holds the potential to transform. [Runs through Oct. 27.]

Mexican-born playwright Karen Zacarias, tired of having Latinx theater compared indiscriminately to telenovelas, set out to create an unapologetic telenovela when she penned the glorious “Destiny of Desire.” The inapt comparison she reacted to, often meant to be dismissive, minimizes the value and influence of telenovelas, not to mention their comic and political potential. Zacarias finds both in her play, which pairs telenovela storytelling conventions with Brechtian theatrical self-consciousness. The result is a story of female empowerment that is both fun and political, in all the best ways.

Telenovelas are hugely popular in Latin America (though also in Asia, Eastern Europe and the Middle East) and are characterized by stock characters and overblown plots, costumes, and music. While often evincing conservative values, they also influence social



PHOTO BY JENNY GRAHAM, OREGON SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL  
Pilar Esperanza Castillo (*Esperanza America*, right) shares a jail cell with Hortencia Del Rio (*Adriana Sevahn Nichols*), the woman she believes to be her maid in “Destiny of Desire,” a story about female empowerment running through July 12 at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in Ashland.

progress as well by highlighting story lines involving hitherto controversial topics like migration and family planning.

Zacarias has employed the genre of this play to tell a story of women seizing control of their

destinies and even changing the world. On the same night in Belarica, Mexico, two baby girls are born -- one sickly, one healthy; one to a rich family, and one to a poor one. Due to the machinations of the rich girl’s mother, a

former beauty queen, the babies are switched at birth. When they meet 18 years later, unaware of their connection, they quickly become friends and switch their identities to pursue their passions. Further complications of course

ensue and, as often happens in telenovelas, the play turns the tables on the upper class, but also reveals the emptiness of dominant culture values and challenges power imbalances that are often taken for granted.

Director José Luis Valenzuela, a visionary leader of Chicana/Latinx theater, has directed each of the four productions of this play, and strikes a deft balance here of respect and celebration. His production takes telenovelas seriously without taking itself too seriously. The colors are vibrant, the emotions intense -- and while Valenzuela shows us the humor, the production is not making fun. The play’s use of Brechtian conventions brilliantly aids the storytelling here; the actors stop the action to add facts and statistics which illustrate that the plot is not as outrageous as you might think, or to rewind the action to highlight what the plot mechanics are pointing to. Like Bertolt Brecht, this play is less concerned with involving us emotionally than with helping us to see unnoticed ways in which life imitates even the most outrageous art. It seeks to make us laugh, and also to motivate us to seize our destinies. [Runs through July 12.]

How do we make space for those for whom there has been no space? How do we point out

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

## Allen Temple CME Church Pastor Appreciation

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JE Dunn Construction invites written and sealed Bids from qualified Trade Partners to provide construction services for the Roadwork and Misc. Site Services and P1 & P2 Modification on the PACR Project.

**Bids due 2:00pm PST June 4, 2018**

A non-mandatory pre-bid meeting will be located at the Port of Portland HQ, 7000 NE Airport Way, Umatilla Conference Room, on May 21st, 2018 at 8 AM for answering questions regarding the Scopes of Work on the Project.

A complete copy of the RFP can be obtained by emailing Rob Means at [Robert.means@jedunn.com](mailto:Robert.means@jedunn.com). Proposals may also be delivered by email to Rob Means.

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



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A complete copy of the Bidding Documents can be obtained by emailing Jeff Banister at [jeff.banister@jedunn.com](mailto:jeff.banister@jedunn.com). Bids may also be delivered by email to Jeff Banister.

**Bids due 2:00pm PST May 31, 2018**

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A pre-proposal meeting will be located at the PDX Conference Center, 7000 NE Airport Way, Umatilla Conference room, on May 18th, 2018 at 10:30 AM for answering questions regarding the Scopes of Work on the Project.



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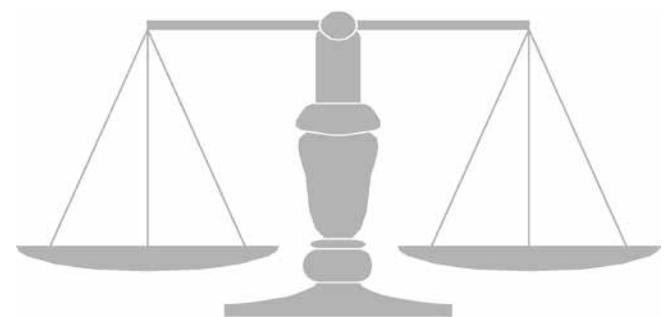
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# Obituary

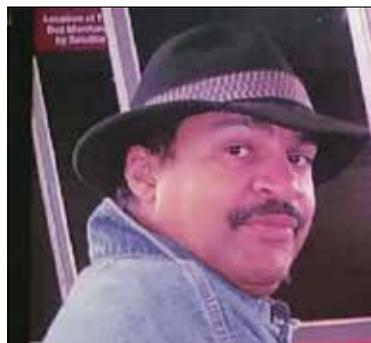
## In Loving Memory

### George Myron Mayes

George Myron Mayes was born on May 8, 1955 and passed on May 3, 2018 in Portland.

George attended Boise Elementary School in 1960 and also went to West Sylvan School in 1964. He graduated from Benson Polytechnic High School in 1973, where he was a 4-year letterman, and a major force in acquiring two basketball championships! He attended Mt. Hood Community College and then ventured on to Lewis-Clark State College in Idaho and Pacific University in Forest Grove.

He was preceded in death by his grandmother, Georgianna Simon in 1979; mother, Mrs. Geneva Ruth Mayes in 1984, and



father, Mr. James Arthur Mayes Jr. in 2006. He is survived by his siblings James Arthur Mayes III (Cynthia), Chyerel R. Mayes, Jane Esther Mayes, Marsha Lynn Carson (Benny), Curtis R. Mayes(Deborah), Edna Denise Mayes and Darryel E. Mayes.

A home going service, in his honor, will be held on Friday, June 8 at 11 a.m. at the Church of the Good Shepherd, 4566 N.E. 87th Ave. A repass will follow promptly after the home going service.

The Mayes family is requesting that in lieu of flowers or plants, please send a donation to the "George M. Mayes Benefit Memorial Fund." Individuals must walk into any Wells Fargo bank nationwide and give the name of the fund above to the bank teller to make a donation. If you prefer to write a check, please write it out to Marsha Carson and mail it in care of the Church of Good Shepherd at the above address. If you still wish to send flowers or plants, please send them to the church on Thursday, June 7, which is the day before the memorial service, from the hours of 8 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

## In Loving Memory

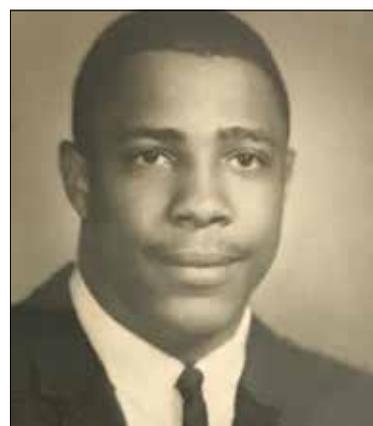
### Rosalyn Sherman Stanton

Rosalyn Sherman Stanton was born on June 3, 1950 and died May 14, 2018.

Her parents were James Butler and Odie Mae Stanton. She is survived by her mother, daughter Carla Stanton and sister Diane Smith.

Funeral services are scheduled for Monday, June 4 at 11 a.m. at Rose City Cemetery and Funeral Home, 5625 N.E. Fremont St.

Contributions of flowers, cards and donations can be sent directly to Rose City Cemetery.



## In Loving Memory

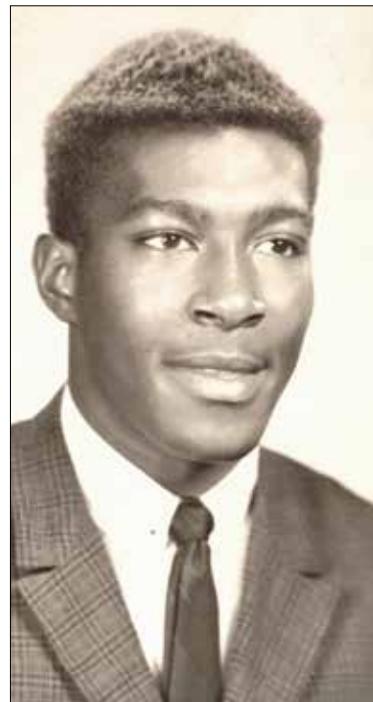
### Charles A. Leech

Charles A. Leech of Portland was born Sept. 19, 1943 in Columbus, Miss. and died May 19, 2018.

Services will be held Saturday, June 2 at 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. at Morning Star Missionary Church, 4927 N.E. 55th Ave.

## In Loving Memory

### Clarence Gene Watkins



Clarence Gene Watkins peacefully passed on April 19, 2018 in Portland.

He was born Nov. 10 1943, in Omaha, Neb. Shortly later he and his family moved to Portland where he lived his entire where. He graduated from Jefferson High School. He was also a Veteran and

hard worker.

He was preceded in death by his father C. G. Watkins, Mother Celistia Watkins, and grandson, Richard Dance. He is survived by his two daughters Yvette Washington and Elsyia Watkins, his sister Velma Redeau, his brother Kip Watkins, and four grandsons.

Services will be held Monday, June 4 at Omega Funeral Home, 223 S.E. 122nd Ave. Interment services will take place at Willamette National Cemetery, 11800 S.E. Mt. Scott Blvd.

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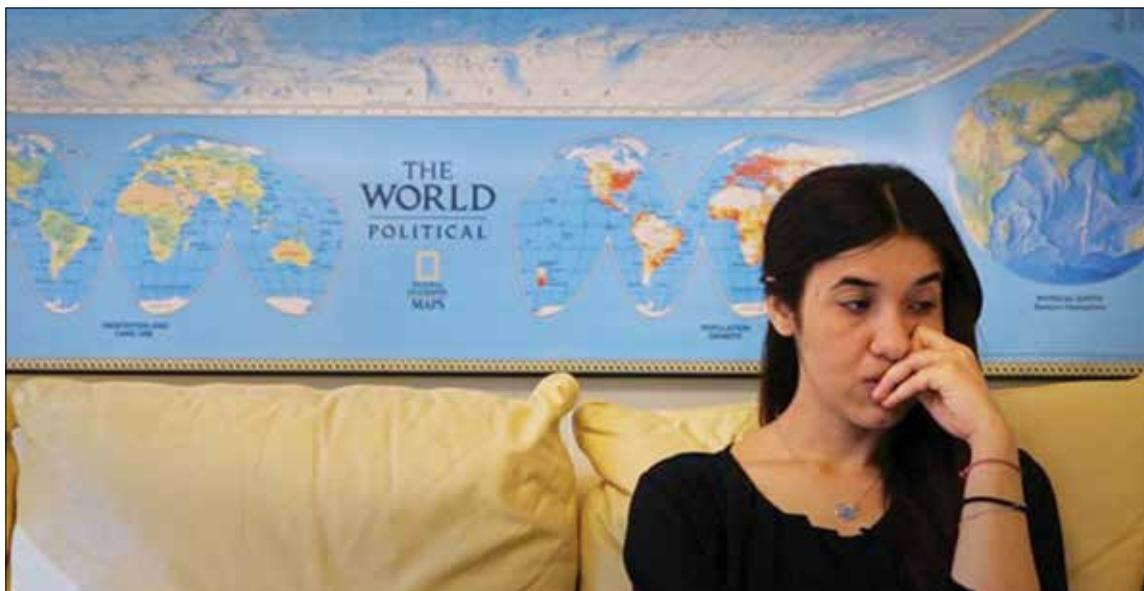
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# Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

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## On Her Shoulders

The Northwest Film Center presents the award-winning documentary "On Her Shoulders," a film that captures the vital urgency of a human rights activist from Iraq who escaped with her own life from sex slavery and witnessing the murder of her family, and a Yazidi, a Kurdish religious minority captured by ISIS. The screening is Sunday, June 3 at 7 p.m. at the Portland Art Museum.

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Portland Parks & Recreation recently renovated the Whitaker Ponds Nature Park in Northeast Portland with a new bus drop-off area and increased parking area, as well as a beautiful hardscape gathering area and improved path system.

## Nature Park Celebration

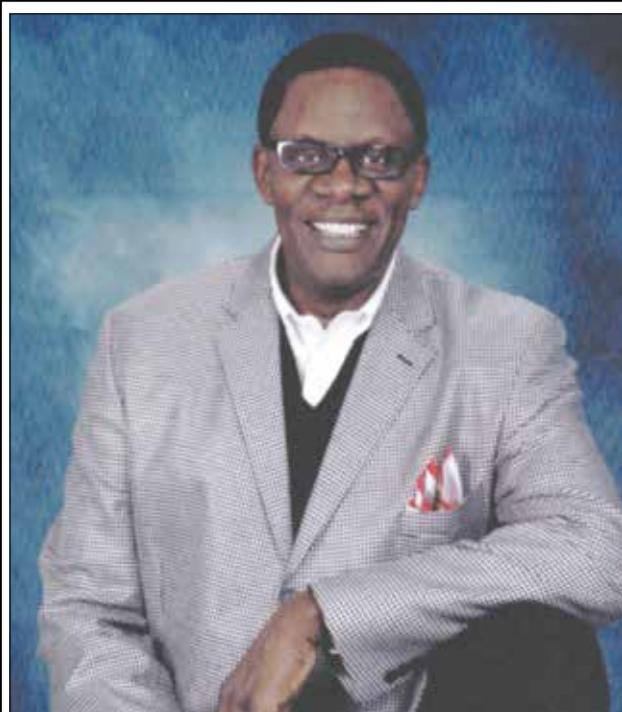
Portland Parks and Recreation will host a community celebration on Saturday, June 2 to mark the recent renovations to the Whitaker

Ponds Nature Park in northeast Portland.

The free event will take place from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the park,

located at 7030 N.E. 47th Ave.

There will be a Native Blessing ceremony, cupcakes, nature walks and activities for kids and families.



Dr. Billy R. Flowers

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to get around, their old activities. Unfortunately, it is often thought that they must "learn to live with it" or be given yet another pain pill. Actually that may be anything but true. In our office we commonly see people in their seventies and eighties. And they love the

spring in their step and the twinkle in their eyes they get through Chiropractic. Why don't you get back in the swing of things again? Give us a call today. Isn't it time you stepped up to Chiropractic? Life's "golden years" truly can be golden once again!

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PHOTO BY KATE SZROM

Deidrie Henry as Billie Holiday in "Lady Day at Emerson's Bar & Grill," a riveting portrait of Holiday's life that features iconic songs like "God Bless the Child" and "Strange Fruit." The show opens Friday, June 1 and continues through July 1 at Portland Center Stage at the Armory.

# 'Lady Day' at the Armory

## Famed jazz singer comes to life in riveting portrait

Deidrie Henry returns to The Armory to star as Billie Holiday in "Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill," a riveting portrait of the famed jazz singer's life told through an imagined final performance in a small bar in South Philadelphia in 1959.

Featuring iconic songs like "God Bless the Child," "Ain't Nobody's Business," "When a Woman Loves a

Man," "What a Little Moonlight Can Do" and "Strange Fruit," the show is an all-access pass to Holiday's humor and hopefulness, as the legendary singer takes us on a journey through the highs and lows of her tumultuous life, interspersed with exuberant renditions of her beloved repertoire.

Henry, who most recently played Blanche in "A Streetcar Named De-

sire" at The Armory, will be joined on stage by Abdul Hamid Royal, the production's music director who also plays the role of Jimmy Powers, along with local musicians Charles Neal (drums) and Andre St. James (bass).

"Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill," opens on Friday, June 1, and runs through July 1 on the Armory's

U.S. Bank Main Stage.

Regular tickets start at \$25 and can be purchased online at [pcs.org](http://pcs.org), by phone at 503-445-3700 or in-person at the box office at 128 N.W. 11th Ave. \$5 tickets are available for Oregon Trail Card holders through the Arts for All program.

For more information visit [www.pcs.org/ladyday](http://www.pcs.org/ladyday).



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# Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



Watering young trees even in spring is vital. These volunteers use three clean 6-gallon containers to give an umbrella pine a weekly dose of life-sustaining water.

## Young Trees Need Watering

### Tips to give plantings a good start

Oregon's Department of Forestry is reminding urban dwellers of the need to water trees even in spring, especially this year for new plantings because so little rain fell during the month of May.

With trees leafed out and putting on new growth, urban trees need to be watered to survive and thrive. Yet many people in Oregon cities only start watering their trees in the hot months of July and August. By then it may be too late.

Kristin Ramstad, manager of

the Oregon Department of Forestry's Urban and Community Forestry Assistance Program, points to the Learning Landscape arboretum at Meek School in northeast Portland's Concordia neighborhood as an example of how irrigating trees in spring and summer has helped non-native trees grow faster and healthier.

"Watered every spring and summer since being planted in 2010-12, trees in that arboretum are already much taller than similar trees which got watered only for the first couple of years," she said.

"Lack of water can cause die-back and even kill non-native trees in Oregon," she warned. "Trees

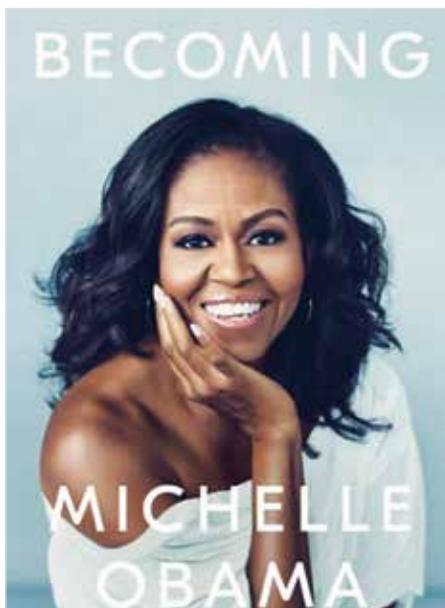
under stress are also more likely to be attacked by insects. That seems especially true for conifers."

Ramstad said trees less than three years old should get 10 to 15 gallons once a week from the time they leaf out until early fall. Older non-native trees might need 20 to 25 gallons. "Let the water slowly soak in. The goal is to have the water get deep into the root zone."

She suggested keeping grass at least 2 to 3 feet away from a tree's trunk to reduce competition for water. "Mulching around the tree also helps," she said.

All newly planted trees require watering to survive their first couple years.

## Michelle Obama Book Cover Revealed



Former First Lady of the United States Michelle Obama has revealed the book cover of her highly anticipated memoir, "Becoming," which is scheduled to be published in November.

Mrs. Obama selected the cover photo for her book jacket from a photo shoot that was done earlier this year.

"I'm thrilled to share with all of you the cover for Becoming," she wrote on Thursday. "The process of writing this book has been so personally meaningful and illuminating for me," she said Thursday.

In her memoir, a work of deep reflection and mesmerizing storytelling, she invites readers into her world, chronicling the experiences that have shaped her—from her childhood on the south side of Chicago to her years as an executive balancing the demands of motherhood and work, to her time spent at the world's most famous address.

Former First Lady Michelle Obama reveals the book cover for her memoir "Becoming" which is scheduled for release in November.

# Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

## BUSINESS Guide

### Summer Reading for Kids

Beaverton City Library offers a Summer Reading program to encourage children of all ages to read this summer. To participate, sign up online at [BeavertonLibrary.org/SRP](http://BeavertonLibrary.org/SRP) or in person at Beaverton's Main or Murray Scholls library branches by July 23.

Participants keep track of time spent reading fiction, non-fiction, eBooks, comic books, newspapers, magazines or blogs. After completing 15 hours of

reading, they can return to the library for a free paperback book and a folder full of coupons for free food and activities.

The library also offers free summer events for all ages. From Make a Family Band for little ones to Game Truck for teens, there is something for everyone. Event calendars and more information is also available on the library website.

#### Rose Festival Starlight Parade

One of the Rose Festival's most popular events, the Portland General Electric/SOLVE Starlight Parade, will fill the streets of downtown Portland Saturday, June 2, beginning at 6:30 p.m., offering funky, eclectic fun for everyone. From traditional marching bands and floodlit floats, to glow-in-the-dark umbrellas and unique hand-built entries, you'll see the best of Portland's diverse community groups together in one whimsical pageant.



**Rose Festival City Fair** -- The Portland Rose Festival's City Fair on the downtown waterfront is open for the next two weekends of June 1-3 and June 8-10. City Fair is the Pacific Northwest's biggest, best and family-friendliest carnival, and includes gentle Kiddie Land rides, tried and true family favorites and over-the-top twisters for older, more adventurous thrill seekers.

**'Left Hook'** -- "Left Hook," fully staged new drama about gentrification and community displacement in 1970's Portland, inspired in part by the Knott Street Boxing Club, premieres Thursday, May 24 as part of the Vanport Mosaic Festival with shows continuing through June 10 at the Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center in north Portland. For tickets and more information about the Memorial Day weekend festival, visit [vanportmosaic.org](http://vanportmosaic.org).

**Church Fashion Show** -- Vancouver Avenue First Baptist Church is inviting the community to its 10th annual Scholarship Fashion Show and Dinner, coming Friday, June 1 at 6 p.m. to the historic church located at 3138 N. Vancouver Ave. Tickets are \$30 and will benefit a Drum Major Scholarship Program.

**Gorge Shuttle Returns** -- The Columbia Gorge Express bus service by the Oregon Department of Transportation has made its seasonal return, now going as far east as Hood River. For the next two weeks, the bus departs Friday through Sunday from the Gateway Transit Center to Rooster Rock State Park, Multnomah Falls, Cascade Locks and Hood River. On June 11, the bus will start service seven days a week, year-round.

**Sister Act** -- Portland actress Kristin Robinson performs the title role in "Sister Act," the feel-good musical based on the 1992 smash hit film, now playing at the Lakewood Center for the Arts in Lake Oswego. Shows run through June 10. Tickets are \$39 for adults and \$37 for seniors. Call the box office at 503-635-3901 or visit [Lakewood-center.org](http://Lakewood-center.org).

**Norman Sylvester** -- 'Boogie Cat' Norman Sylvester plays Friday, June 1 at the Mock Crest Tavern; Saturday, June 2 at Catfish Lou's; Sunday, June 3 at

### ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

the Garages in Beaverton; Friday, June 8 at the Rogue Pub in North Plains; and Saturday, June 9 at the Spare Room.

**Good in the Hood** -- Legendary R&B performer Howard Hewitt will headline the multicultural Good in the Hood Celebration, June 22-24 at King School Park. This year will commemorate the 50th anniversary of the naming of Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary school and pay tribute to Portland's civil rights history. Activities include live bands every day, a kid's area, multicultural food, crafts, marketplace vendors, Portland Farmers Market, free health screens and more.

**'Fences' at Portland Playhouse** -- Lester Purry stars in 'Fences,' the August Wilson play about a husband, father, former athlete and garbage collector trying to define himself in 1950s Pittsburgh. With its African-American narrative, the Portland Playhouse play tackles issues of mental health and the impacts of racism. Now playing through June 10 at Portland Playhouse, 602 N.E. Prescott St

**Juneteenth** -- Portland's annual Juneteenth celebration, free family fun open to everyone and commemorating the end of slavery, will be held Saturday, June 16. A parade will start the festivities at 11 a.m. beginning at the Safeway store on Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and proceeding to the Emanuel field at North Russell and Williams where activities with music, food, hip hop cardio, a kids area and raffle will follow from noon to 6 p.m. On Thursday, June 14 the Billy Webb Elks Lodge will host a Miss Juneteenth Scholarship Pageant. Visit [juenteenthor.com](http://juenteenthor.com) or call 971-930-5862.

**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

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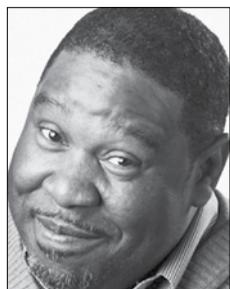
## Why Now is the Time to Celebrate Malcolm X

### His gift to American history

BY E.D. MONDAINÉ

It must have been a very sad and difficult day for those who insisted on believing the world was flat to discover that the world is indeed round. But round it is, and this radical paradigm shift reminds us that throughout history the illusions of human culture must at times give way to proper alignment with the demands of the real world.

The legacy of El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz (Malcolm X) represents one such shift, and today his legacy is more relevant than ever. Because like the discovery of our spherical Earth, his life and his work represented a movement away from the tired and unjust distortions of human ideology, and toward a restorative relationship with the truth that sets all



people free.

his can be summed up in the three critical components that Malcolm X believed would strengthen and fortify the African-American community. They were: 1) the need for blacks to become educated, 2) the rights of blacks to defend themselves, and 3) the urgent requirement of economic development in the black community.

In his critically acclaimed autobiography, Malcolm X recites his own journey to these positions. He reflects on his life and the lives of his various personas (like “Detroit Red,” and “Hustler”) recounting how he dated white women, lied, cheated and became a drug-selling brawler, all to remove himself from the pains of poverty he had experienced as a child.

Climbing from the pit of oppression, Malcolm X eventually converted to Islam while serving time in prison for burglary. Upon his release from prison in the 1950s he became a steadfast disciple of the Honorable Elijah Mu-

hammad, and overtime he became a bitter taste in the mouth of white America, unleashing unabashed criticism of classism and white supremacy.

Naturally this gave momentum to a white backlash already moving against Martin Luther King’s gentler and less radical criticisms of American public life. Adding insult to injury, Malcolm X’s polished, pearlized echoes of Muhammad’s “blue-eyed devil dog” (the myth of Yacob’s portrayal of white people) and his frequent insistence that black communities had to be protected “by any means necessary,” marked him as a threat to white society. Soon the name “Malcolm X” represented a rebel force that white nationalists feared as an imminent danger to the United States.

But Malcolm X’s thinking continued to evolve. In 1964, he began to question the Nation of Islam’s leader. Unearthing the truth of Muhammad’s improprieties, and pushing back against what he saw as a flawed ideology, eventually he parted ways with the Nation of Islam. This break led him to a pilgrimage in Mecca -- a requirement

of all Muslims who are physically able — after which Malcolm X rejected the racially divisive teachings of the Nation of Islam.

In a letter written at the time, he said that seeing Muslims of “all colors, from blue-eyed blondes to black-skinned Africans,” helped him to see the Islamic faith as a way in which racial problems could be reconciled. But it also helped him distill the critical components listed above, and this refined focus, and his dedicated example, became his great gift to American history.

Malcolm X spent the rest of his life trying to build a new organization, all the while being harassed by serious and credible death threats. Ultimately, on Feb. 21, 1965, at the beginning of an Organization of Afro-American Unity meeting in Manhattan’s Audubon Ballroom, Malcolm X was gunned down by assassins affiliated with the Nation of Islam.

Later, in eulogizing Malcolm X, the great African American thespian Ossie Davis dubbed Malcolm X, “A prince... our own black, shining prince, who didn’t

hesitate to die because he loved us all.” But I am even more moved by Malcolm’s own words in the conclusion of his autobiography: “If I can die having brought any light, having exposed any meaningful truth that will help destroy the racist cancer that is malignant in the body of America, then all of the credit is due to Allah. Only the mistakes have been mine.”

This is why we celebrate Malcolm X. He reframed the work of empowering marginalized communities not just as a dream, but as an imminent reality that must be lived into in the here and now. Today our survival depends on seeing the world in its three-dimensional, rounded, and fully realized existence — understanding that are all of us are the same distance from its luminous center. In the name of righteousness, now is the time we must walk the unbroken circle that binds us together, joining our commitment as we join hands around this miraculous, shared, and collective globe.

*E.D. Mondainé is president of the Portland NAACP and pastor of Celebration Tabernacle Church.*

## America’s Cruel Treatment of Palestinians

### No words can describe my anger and anguish

BY RAZAN AZZARKANI

On May 14, Ivanka Trump, Jared Kushner, and Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin smiled for pictures in front of the new U.S. embassy in Jerusalem with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. “Big day for Israel,” Donald Trump tweeted. “Congratulations!”

Meanwhile, just miles away in Gaza, Yazan Ibraheem Mohammed Al-Tubassi lay dying after repeatedly being shot by Israeli troops during protests at the Gaza border fence. Elsewhere, relatives of Taher Ahmed Madi — another shooting victim — carried his body home from the hospital to prepare for his funeral.

No words can describe the anger and anguish I feel as a Palestinian in America watching this unfold.

Along the Gaza fence, Israeli

troops have gunned down thousands of unarmed Palestinian protesters, killing 60 and injuring over 2,700 in a matter of days. Many were teenagers, women, and children.



The protests weren’t about the relocation of the U.S. embassy. They began several weeks ago to mark the anniversary of the Nakba, or “catastrophe” — the mass exodus and ethnic

choose this day for the relocation of the embassy while Palestinians were being murdered just 60 miles away is horrendously cruel. The United States has proven that it isn’t only indifferent toward Israel’s treatment of Palestinians, but has actively green lit the violence of the past few weeks.

In 1948, my grandparents, whose families had lived in Palestine for hundreds of years, were forced out of the only home they ever knew. Practically overnight, they were made into refugees and forced to make the almost 200-

Palestine, never saw it again. They passed away in Jordan, leaving the key to their house in Palestine with my family. We still have it today, serving as a reminder of our roots — and of the abuse my family and so many others have suffered under Israel.

Still, I’m reminded that my grandparents were fortunate enough to make it out alive. The millions who have been forced into Gaza cannot say the same. They aren’t free to come and go as they choose, but remain locked in the world’s largest open air pris-

cent live in poverty. They get only a few hours of electricity a day. Not to mention the psychological effects of living under siege, and the daily fear of attacks by Israel.

Now, politicians across the U.S. are voicing their support for the embassy relocation, while other countries announce their decision to follow America’s lead.

It’s infuriating to see my own country actively condoning brutal violence against my people while other countries sit back and watch. How can Palestinians ever trust a “peace process” led by an administration that degrades them this way?

I keep hearing people say that Gazans need to “protest peacefully” as Israeli snipers gun them down methodically. They’re being given two options: Either suffer inhumane treatment or get killed protesting it. It’s not much of a choice.

No one would passively accept a life like this. Why should Gazans?

*Razan Azzarkani is a Palestinian American living in Virginia and working at the Center for Global Policy. Distributed by OtherWords.org.*

*“I’m reminded that my grandparents were fortunate enough to make it out alive. The millions who have been forced into Gaza cannot say the same.”*

cleansing of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians since Israel’s founding in 1948.

Every year, while Israelis celebrate the establishment of their state, millions of Palestinians mourn the end to their existence as they knew it.

For the Trump administration to

mile journey to Jordan on foot.

Leaving behind their belongings, family, and memories, they settled in Jordan, hoping the international community would help them one day return to their homes.

My grandparents, who never stopped talking about their life in

on — cut down if they so much as approach the “border fence” with Israel.

Inside they suffer unimaginable conditions.

Only 10 percent of Gazans have access to safe drinking water, almost half of the population is unemployed, and over 70 per-

# OPINION



## Court Nominees Threaten Brown v. Board

The people willing to do Trump's bidding

BY DERRICK JOHNSON

In March, Linda Brown, who as a third-grader lent her name to the fight to dismantle school segregation, passed away at age 75. While systemic inequality and racial disparities still exist, the landmark Supreme Court ruling in *Brown v. Board of Education* changed our entire nation for the better.



The 1954 decision not only struck down state-sponsored segregation and became a cornerstone of our justice system; its principles of equality and opportunity are now foundational aspects of our democracy.

If there was ever a Supreme Court ruling that nominees to federal courts should wholly embrace, it should be *Brown*. The doctrine of "separate but equal" has no role in today's society.

The case was famously decided by a unanimous Supreme Court. Although the ruling was initially met with massive resistance throughout the South, it was precisely because of federal judges on the lower courts that its mandate was respected. The decision is not about to be revisited by any court anywhere.

Brown is not subject to debate. Yet today, as we celebrate the

64th anniversary of *Brown v. Board*, several of President Donald Trump's judicial nominees have recently dared to challenge it.

Wendy Vitter, nominated to a federal district court in Louisiana, was the first, saying at her April confirmation hearing, "I think I get into a difficult area when I start commenting on Supreme Court decisions which are correctly decided and which I may disagree with."

Next came Andrew Oldham, ironically nominated to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit, which was home to the unlikely heroes called upon to enforce *Brown* throughout the South. Then, four more district court nominees refused to answer the *Brown* question.

Clearly, there was another answer, the right answer. All sitting Supreme Court justices endorsed *Brown* at their own confirmation hearings.

Conservative justice Samuel Alito called it "one of the greatest, if not the single greatest thing that the Supreme Court of the United States has ever done." Clarence Thomas stated, "[*Brown*] is certainly one of the cases — even before I knew all of the legal ramifications, it is one that changed my life and changed the South."

The refusal to endorse *Brown* is a powerful symbol of the intensely xenophobic zealotry shared by many Trump judicial nominees that threatens civil rights jurisprudence

in particular and the rule of law in general. These are lawyers on the fringes of society who, if confirmed, will willingly depart from widely accepted principles and may harm communities of color.

We know about Brett Talley, the failed nominee to an Alabama federal court, who allegedly praised an early leader of the Ku Klux Klan on a University of Alabama message board. The nation should also know about Thomas Farr, a nominee to a North Carolina federal court who has ties to white supremacists and personally engaged in activities to intimidate black voters in order to help segregationist Sen. Jesse Helms win his 1990 re-election bid.

Both Farr and Kyle Duncan, who was recently confirmed to the 5th Circuit, appealed to the Supreme Court to overturn the 4th Circuit's ruling in 2016 that North Carolina's voter suppression efforts targeted African-Americans with "almost surgical precision."

Oldham, the other appellate nominee who refused to support *Brown*, also refused to answer Sen. Kamala Harris' question about whether voting discrimination exists today.

As deputy solicitor general in Texas, Oldham tried to gut the Voting Rights Act in defending the state's photo ID laws, which federal courts found to be intentionally discriminatory. But Trump has nominated him to the 5th Circuit, which now covers three states with a large percentage of residents of color.

Trump's apparent efforts to whiten the federal bench are central to

reshaping the courts. Black nominees are rarely to be found among the scores of nominees the Senate is rushing through to confirmation. Of some 120 nominees to lifetime seats on the federal bench, only two are African-American. Courts such as the 7th Circuit, which covers Illinois, Wisconsin and Indiana, currently have no judges of color.

This lack of diversity comes at a severe cost to the nation. It could lead to the undermining of laws that have transformed our country and ensure democracy works for all of us. We have seen the direction the president wants to take our nation. A key part of making America "hate" again lies in stacking the federal bench with people willing to do Trump's bidding — judges willing to rubber-stamp partisan gerrymandering, voter suppression, inhumane immigration policies and laws that favor corporations over people.

Sixty-four years after the Supreme Court's watershed decision, our nation still has much work to do to make sure that the promise of *Brown* is realized.

We must never forget that judges who understood their role in maintaining the balance of power among branches of government helped bring about the positive transformation we have seen in our society. We must remain cautious of any who seek to utilize the courts to return us to an era before *Brown*.

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



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# Transit Memorial Dedication

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

and Ricky Best, who were both killed, and Micah Fletcher, who was seriously wounded. Jeremy Christian was arrested and stands charged with murder.

A spontaneous memorial first covered the walls of the transit center in the days following the

stabblings, with messages of love and mourning written in chalk, and piles of flowers.

The new mural also has messages of hope and Inspirational quotes from the two who lost their lives. Titled "We Choose Love" the mural was designed by artist Sarah Farahat with brightly colored paints.

Among those present at the dedication ceremony were the family members of some of the victims, including Best, Namkai Meche, and one of the teenage girls targeted by Christian.

Interfaith leaders, community organizers, and Farahat spoke at the event and a bell from the Buddhist Daihonzan Temple was

rung five times in remembrance of the two women and three stabbing victims. Vocalist Saeeda Wright sang while community members lined up to leave flowers at the site, including Mayor Ted Wheeler.

Wheeler released statement de-riding the violence and hatred that are "too pervasive in our society."

"As we mark this day, we must choose to remain united in our resolve to choose love. We

must recognize the incredible resilience of our community," he said. "Taliesin, Ricky and Micah stood up to hatred. They are heroes. They continue to serve as inspiration to me personally, and to us all. Let us all take time today to honor and remember these men."

A memorial plaque will also be placed at the transit center by designer John Laurel in the next year or two.



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# CALENDAR

## May 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>13</p> <p><b>Mother's Day</b> Tulip Day Stevie Wonder; born 1950; legendary music artist</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Lewis and Clark Expedition, 1804 Dance Like a Chicken Day</p>	<p>15</p> <p>●</p> <p>Frank L. Baum Author of <i>The Wizard of Oz</i> - born in 1856</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Ramadan Begins First US Nickel Minted In 1866</p>	<p>17</p> <p>First Kentucky Derby In 1875</p>	<p>18</p> <p>International Museum Day Visit Your Relatives Day</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Miniature Golf Day <b>Armed Forces Day</b></p>
<p>20</p> <p>Lindbergh Flight Day in 1927 Mary Pope Osborne born, 1949</p>	<p>21</p> <p>☾</p> <p>American Red Cross Founded Founded by Clara Barton in 1881</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Buy-A-Musical Instrument Day Bernard Shaw; 1856-1950; journalist and anchor of CNN News</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Lucky Penny Day Scatman Crothers; 1910-1986; best known for "Chico and the Man"</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Patti LaBelle; born 1944; R&amp;B legend known for her many hits</p>	<p>25</p> <p>National Missing Children's Day National Tap Dance Day</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Blueberry Cheesecake Day Pam Grier; born 1949; actress, played "Foxy Brown"</p>
<p>27</p> <p>Golden Gate Bridge Opens, 1937 Masking Tape Patented in 1930</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Memorial Day Jim Thorpe Born in 1888</p>	<p>29</p> <p>○</p> <p>John F. Kennedy Born in 1917 Dr. Henry McBay; 1914-1995; chemist, professor at Morehouse College</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Lincoln Theodore Monroe Andrew Perry; 1902-1985; actor</p>	<p>31</p> <p>World No Tobacco Day Shirley Verrett; born 1931-2010; renowned Soprano</p>		



PHOTO BY JENNY GRAHAM, OREGON SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

Curly (Tatiana Wechsler, right) tries to entice Laurey (Royer Bockus) into accompanying her to the box social in "Oklahoma," a LGBTQ+ focus production now showing through Oct. 27 at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival.

## Rare Perspectives on Stage

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

their absence from the spaces that do exist? How do we model and live exclusiveness, even while the spaces that exist are tainted by oppression? OSF'S current production of "Oklahoma!" lives into these questions in a powerful way.

It's an interesting choice of material, this most American of musicals, which feels about as straight and as white as they come. But the truth is, LGBTQ+ people and people of color exist in most communities, even if they are hidden or not allowed to fully participate.

For more than two decades, director Bill Rauch has held onto an ambition to produce "Oklahoma!" in an LGBTQ+-focused way, with the four leads cast as same-sex couples. It is the first Rogers and Hammerstein collaboration and one of the first true musical plays, where songs and dance emerged from the dialogue. The songs have permeated American culture like no other in the canon.

And yet as a gay man who loved musicals, Rauch felt unrepresented and shut out. His instinct to change that with this specific musical feels like a powerful one: to watch this playful, open-hearted, and conventional love story, sentimentally set in the American frontier, celebrating the love of two gay couples; to hear them sing these familiar songs – It communicates that America is for the LGBTQ+ community too. No holding back; sing it with full voices and hearts.

I'll acknowledge that, as musicals go, "Oklahoma!" is not my favorite. There are some unsolved problems in the play; for example, a Persian peddler is comic relief, an angry farmhand is treated as an unredeemable pariah in this idyllic world where "the farmer and the cowhand should

be friends," and the plot is hardly subtle. I gravitate toward original material that aims to tell new stories in new ways.

And yet, this production helped me appreciate how embodying old material in a new way has a particular value in pushing us past our failures of imagination. Hearing two female voices sing "People Will Say We're in Love" and watching two men playfully negotiate their commitment in "All 'Er Nuthin'" is strangely moving. With a multiracial cast that includes a transgender Aunt Eller and characters who present at several places along the range of gender expression, the cast lives, sings, and embodies community more openly than we are used to seeing -- infusing the pioneer setting with new meaning. Part of what made "Oklahoma!" so remarkable when it premiered in 1943 was its focus on a pioneer story, departing from the usual more urbane musical settings. This production presents a new community of pioneers.

I expect there will be naysayers in every audience; this production aims to move the collective conversation, using a beloved traditional vehicle. I was there at opening, likely one of the most receptive audiences the company will experience, and felt a lot of negative energy from the couple to my left. But the show is selling well, and expanding our vision of inclusion -- due in large part to Rauch's vision and to a company of artists who bring their whole selves to the stage with each performance. [Runs through Oct. 27.]

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](http://opinionatedjudge.blogspot.com).

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