

PHOTO BY DANNY PETERSON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Brian Florence (left), one of the workers at the Federal Correctional Institution in Sheridan forced to go without pay during a government shutdown, gets a word of encouragement and a thank you from U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden, during a visit Friday to the Oregon Food Bank in northeast Portland. Florence also met with other members of Oregon's Congressional delegation, Democratic Reps. Suzanne Bonamici and Earl Blumenauer joining a chorus of voices to condemn the shutdown and call on President Donald Trump to end it.

# Shutdown Impacts Grow Food pantries are lifeline to furloughed workers

### BY DANNY PETERSON

#### THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Furloughed and unpaid federal workers from around the state were bracing for more financial uncertainty while also receiving emergency help from food pantries to feed their families as the longest partial government shutdown in U.S. history entered its second month and 32nd day on Tuesday. the Oregon Food Bank in northeast Portland. Bonamici said she has voted with the H

Members of Oregon's Congressional delegation, including Democrats Sen. Ron Wyden, Rep. Earl Blumenauer, and Rep. Suzanne Bonamici, called on the president to end the shutdown during an appearance Friday at Bonamici said she has voted with the House on numerous bills with bi-partisan support to re-open the government, but they've been continually blocked by Senate

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#### PHOTO BY DANNY PETERSON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

# Service Weekend Honors King

Mayor Ted Wheeler (right) helps clean up around Irving Park on Northeast Fremont Street on Monday, one of hundreds of volunteers who mobilized across 73 community projects to honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and his legacy over the weekend. The 12th Annual MLK Weekend of Service was sponsored by United Way of the Columbia-Willamette, SOLVE, and other community partners.

# The Week in Review

### Measles Emergency Issued; Cases Grow

A public health emergency was declared Friday in response to a measles outbreak in Vancouver and southwestern Washington. By Tuesday, the number of confirmed measles cases had increased to 23 with 2 suspected cases of the infection.

### **Merkley on Family Separations Policy**

Oregon Sen. Jeff Merkley released a document last week from a whistleblower showing the Trump Administration specifically considered separating families as a way to curb illegal immigration at the border. Among the options listed was the "prosecution of family units" and "separate family units."



**Reclaim MLK March Fills Portland Streets** Hundreds of demonstrators across all age groups filled the streets in north and northeast Portland Sunday on the eve of Martin Luther King Jr. Day Holiday for the Reclaim MLK Annual March for Human Rights and Dignity. The protest was organized by Don't Shoot Portland along with a variety of other community

### organizations.

**TriMet Hire Leaving Agency** 

Maurice Henderson, who was Mayor Ted Wheeler's first chief of staff, announced last week he's leaving TriMet after a brief tenure as the transportation agency's chief operating



officer. Henderson is joining the e-scooter company Bird, in Bend, which he called "an exciting professional opportunity."

#### Man Kills Four Members of Oregon Family

A rural white man killed four members of his family at the home they shared in Woodburn Saturday and was shot by sheriff's deputies as he tried to kill a girl, authorities said.

#### **Microsoft Donates to Fight Homelessness**

Microsoft last week pledged \$500 million to build and preserve affordable housing units and address homelessness in the Seattle area. Most of the money will be aimed at increasing housing options for low- and middle-income workers including teachers, firefighters and people who work in hospitals.

#### **Portland Sex Offender Convicted Again**

A Multnomah County Jury convicted a Portland man last week on 23 counts of various sex crimes involving a 15-year-old girl. Anthony Curry, 54, was already serving a life sentence under Oregon's three strikes law for sex offenders.

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Calendar

### The Portland Observer



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## LASSIFIEDS

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## This page This page Sponsored by: **FredMeyer** What's on your list today?«

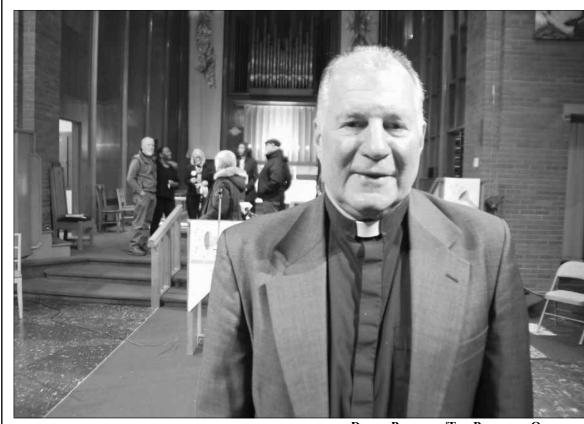


PHOTO BY DANNY PETERSON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Rev. Mark Knutson of Augustana Lutheran Church in northeast Portland is again leading an effort to strengthen gun control laws in Oregon as part of the Lift Every Voice campaign of interfaith leaders and other supporters, including representatives from the Albina Ministerial Alliance Coalition for Justice and Police Reform.

## New Effort at Gun Control Faith leaders draft legislation for current session

### BY DANNY PETERSON

THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Local faith leaders and advocates from around the state in support of stronger gun control measures are planning on introducing two bills to the legislature this year.

The Lift Every Voice Oregon campaign is an interfaith group spear-headed by multiple denom-

well as non-religious supporters.

A ban on ammunition magazines greater than 10 rounds and phasing out availability of assault rifles will be in the proposed bills.

Dr. Leroy Haynes, pastor of Allen Temple CME Church in northeast Portland and representing the Albina Ministerial Alliance Coalition for Justice and Police Reform inations of religious leaders in the said the push is in response to the

Portland area, and statewide, as "massive repercussions of gun violence in our community and nation."

> After unsuccessfully petitioning for a ballot initiative of similar measures last year, in the wake of the deadly shooting at a high school in Parkland, Fla., Lift Every Voice organizers say they have continued gaining traction

> > **CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**

## Charged in Lawyer's Murder

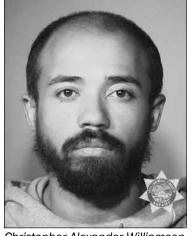
Authorities have arrested a man in the decade-old murder of a Portland public defender.

The Portland Police Bureau said Christopher Alexander Williamson, 28, was taken into custody on Friday for the death of Nancy Bergeson, a prominent lawyer.

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It's unknown if Williamson, who would have been 19 years old at the time, knew Bergeson, who was a long-time assistance federal public defender, authorities said.

She was found dead at the age of 57 in her southwest Portland home in November 2009. It was eventually determined that she was strangled to death. But at the time she was discovered, her body was removed from the crime



Christopher Alexander Williamson scene because authorities initially believed she died of natural causes. That hampered the investigation and the cold case remained a



mystery for years.

Police say they tracked down Williamson after a number of leads

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Portland Bureau of Planning nd Sustainability

### Pacific Power Replacing Meters HEALTHY FAMILIES, HEALTHY HOMES

### Installations coming first half of year

Pacific Power is bringing more efficient and effective smart meters to residential and business customers in the Portland area, replacing thousands of aging electric meters throughout the first half of the year.

About 78,000 new meters will be installed for area customers. This includes parts of north,



Pacific Power is installing smart meters for residential and business customers in the Portland area.

northeast, southeast, and downtown Portland, as well as Maywood Park. The installations are set to begin next week and will continue in the area through June.

"We're installing smart meters in Portland as part of a statewide upgrade for the homes and businesses we serve," said Diana Knous, Pacific Power's regional business manager for Multnomah County. "It's a project that will enable our communities to take advantage of faster, more efficient energy technology."

The new smart meters will instantly track outages, meaning faster service response and shorter outages overall; let customers view their power usage hour-by-hour, so they can adjust their activity to reduce both their carbon footprint and bill; provide businesses with detailed usage reporting which will help them cut costs and make investments in items that help their business grow; and update the grid to work more efficiently and better integrate renewable power sources.

"This upgrade brings a future of reliable and efficient power to our region and to our state," said Knous. "We are connecting communities throughout Oregon, improving the way we power our customers' lives both at home and at work."



# Miracles Club Scholarships

A special events committee son and Roosevelt. of the Miracles Club invites the community to join them during the presentation of college scholarships of \$500 awarded to two Jefferson High School students while also supporting efforts to grow the program for other local high schools such as Grant, Ben-

The non-alcoholic and nonprofit social club named its scholarship fund is in honor of longtime recovery advocate Harry Watson

"We are proud to honor a great man who made a huge impact in the lives of people in recovery,"

said Martin Rivers.

The scholarships presentation will take place on Saturday, Feb. 2 at 6 p.m. at the Miracles Club, located at 4200 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. For more information, email themiraclesclubsec@gmail.com or stop by the club.



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> JesusIsComingAgain@usa.com PO Box 231023, Tigard OR 97281

### Lift Every Voice Oregon Vigil & Rally To ban the sale of assault weapons and large capacity magazines.

Sunday, January 27 6:00 p.m.

Augustana Lutheran Church 2710 NE 14th Ave (NE 15th & Knott)

All are welcome to join the march!

### Gun Control **CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3**

with people across the state who support the cause. Those groups and individuals include safety organizations, those who worked on gun legislation in the past, medical professionals, and members of law enforcement, organizer Rev. Mark Knutson of Augustana Lutheran Church in northeast Portland, told the Portland Observer.

"As faith leaders we understand when you come to a place of obstacle you just regroup and work even harder to go the next step. That's what we did," Knutson said.

The Supreme Court ruled last year that Petition 43, the original initiative of the campaign, needed to be re-worded due to vague language. It was later withdrawn because the group ran out of time to gather signatures by the deadline.

The new bills, which were first submitted back in September, are expected to receive official numbers by the end of the week.

Lift Every Voice organizers, meanwhile, invite the community to convene again for a vigil and rally with supporters on Sunday, Jan. 27 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Augustana Lutheran Church, 2710 N.E. 14th Ave.

# Shutdown Impacts Grow

#### **CONTINUED FROM FRONT**

Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Kentucky, who refused to put them up for a vote because they didn't include Trump's wall funding in full.

"Stop holding federal workers hostage because Congress won't get him funding for an ineffective and expensive border wall that he promised that Mexico was supposed to pay for," Bomanici said.

Wyden said the shutdown "isn't making American great," but rather is "making American wait for Donald Trump to come to his senses and finally re-open the government."

Blumenauer urged Trump to "stop this charade" and called the government work stoppage "mind-boggling."

Bonamici said she's heard stories from a Transportation Security Administration worker who had to sell his plasma just to pay his bills and a law enforcement officer who narrowly evaded eviction for lack of rent money.

More than 500 U.S. Coast Guard members in Oregon are continuing their duties, even without receiving pay, Bomanici said, which has been the case nationally, the first time members of the Armed Forces weren't paid during a shutdown.

These stories are examples of why the shutdown is "infuriating' and "must end," she said.

About 800,000 of the 2.1 million federal employees who have been impacted by the shutdown nationally, including 380,000 who were furloughed and are not working and the remainder of which who are considered essential employees and must work without pay. In Sanchez, who represents parts of Oregon, that's nearly 10,000 federal employees who are either furloughed or working without pay, according to the Oregon Employment Department.

Brian Florence, who works at the federal prison in Sheridan, told the Portland Observer it's been a struggle for him and other employees at the prison to pay rent, provide food for their families and cover medical costs.

Florence, 49, said that although his family has managed to stay afloat so far through limited secondary income from his wife and chez, who is a social worker and receiving help from food pantries has worked in the domestic vioat Oregon Food Bank and Salva- lence filed, later compared Trump tion Army, it's been daunting not going without a paycheck.

"I have two beautiful kids and they need special attention medically. So we have additional costs that are coming in right now and we're having trouble to figure it out. Like, do we pay our medical bills or do we hold back for gas? Or do we pay our rent? What are we going to do? We have to figure it out," he said.

ing to organize for food pantries to lives." come to the prison to drop off food ence for his service.

director of Snowcap, the largest for three years--two programs for

ence, who lives in Salem, will again which is unacceptable and in total, not see a check for the second pay- do not represent a good faith efday in a row this week. He's try- fort to restore certainty to people's

for him and his co-workers. Sen. deportation protection for some Wyden personally thanked Flor- Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals recipients and Tempo-Kirsten Wageman, executive rary Protected Status recipients office.

ture investments at ports of entry, advanced technology to scan for drugs, weapons, and contraband, 3,000 more border patrol agents. and more immigrant judges.

Democrats plan to pass its own Trump proposed to restore package of six bills agreed to by House and Senate negotiators to re-open the government this week, according to the website of Pelosi's

On Friday, some of the 615,000



PHOTO BY DANNY PETERSON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

State Rep. Tawna Sanchez, director of family services at the Native American Youth and Family Center in northeast Portland highlights some of the impacts of the government shutdown on people of color, including Native American tribes who depend on federal funds for health, food and social services. She was joined at the press conference on Friday at the Oregon Food Bank with furloughed and unpaid federal workers and other Democratic members of Oregon's Congressional delegation.

services for the first time.

Democratic State Rep. Tawna inner northeast and north Portland and is the director of family services at the Native American Youth and Family Center, highlighted the communities of color that are deeply impacted by the government shutdown, including Native American tribes who depend on federal funds for health, food, and social services.

"United States Government has a trust responsibility to the tribes. This is written in treaty," Sanchez said. "This is a responsibility, it's not a gift, it's not a given." Santo an abuser. "Abusers only think about themselves, they don't think about everybody else," she said.

On Saturday, Trump made an offer to temporarily restore protections he took away from some undocumented immigrants in exchange for the \$5.7 billion border wall funding. That was an offer Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, speaking for Democrats, called "a compilation of several previ-If the shutdown continues, Flor- ously rejected initiatives, each of

ed in east Portland near Gresham, year. Pelosi's statement criticized plemental Nutrition Assistance said their organization is seeing the fact that the deal did not include Program (SNAP), AKA food an increase in either furloughed or permanent solutions for those re- stamps, were issued February benworking-without-pay federal em- cipients, and its lack of "smart, efits early to last through the end ployees who are using safety net effective border security solu- of next month. The supplemental mane.org.

food pantry in the state and locat- immigrants that he rescinded last Oregonians participating in Sup-

tions." like increased infrastruc- nutrition program for Women. Infant and Children (WIC) will also be funded through February, and school meal funding is secured through March, according to Oregon Food Bank.

> At airports, longer wait times at security checkpoints may occur, but TSA officials said most operations are running normally.

> Though the US Coast Guard have been working without pay during the shutdown, most other military isn't affected, and the Department of Veterans Affairs is fully funded for the 2019 fiscal year and will continue normal operation during the shutdown.

> Mail, tax refunds, and social security should remain unaffected. National parks may be closed, or be only partially staffed, and Smithsonian museums and the National Zoo are now closed.

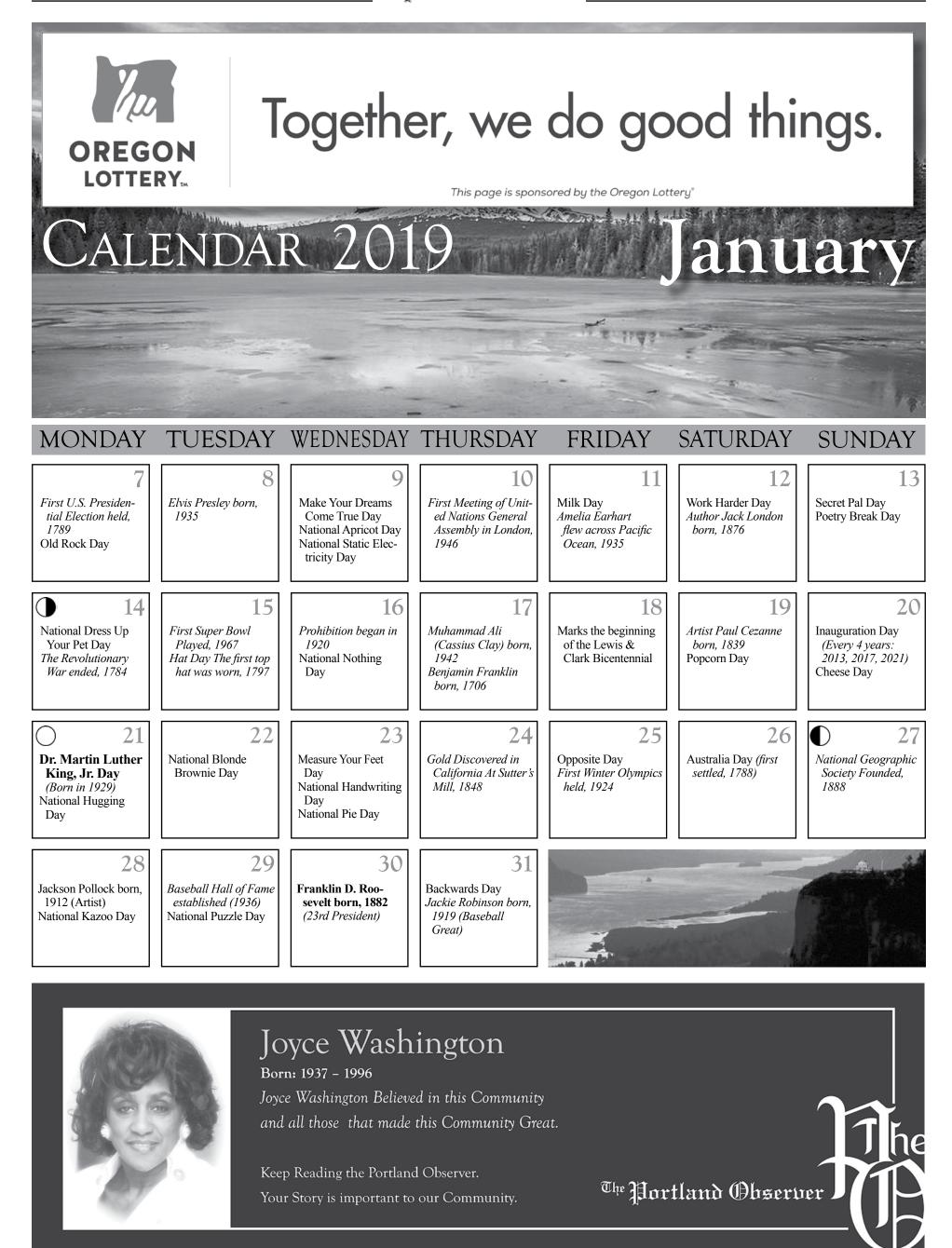
> Oregon Food Bank distributes food through a statewide network of 21 regional food banks and approximately 1,200 food assistance sites serving all of Oregon and Clark County, Washington. People seeking food assistance should visit oregonfoodbank.com/ findfood.

> Portland Police Bureau's charity organization, Sunshine Division, will extend service qualifiers to include federal employees not receiving pay by providing food box services in partnership with labor organizations. More information can be found at sunshinedivision. org

> Oregon Humane Society has also scheduled free pet food banks to furloughed or work-without-pay federal employees. More information can be found at oregonhu-



3pm - 7pm





JaMartae Brown (center) returns to his roots at Portland's Self Enhancement, Inc. to announce his signing of a contract to play professional football for the Bismark Bucks in the Indoor Football League.

# SEI Alum to Play Pro Football

### Returns home for signing ceremony

A former Jefferson High School athlete and student at Self Enhancement, Inc., was welcomed back to his roots in north Portland to announce his signing of a contract to play professional football.

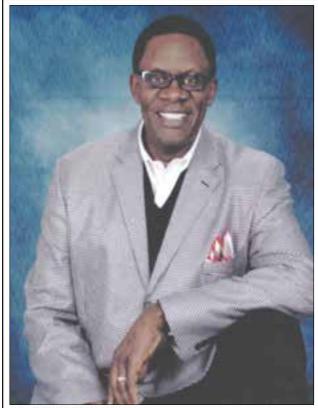
JaMartae Brown will play for the Bismark Bucks from North Dakota in the Indoor Football League. The contract offer follows his senior year at Peru State in Nebraska.

Brown was joined by his friends and family and SEI students and administrators for last week's signing ceremony.

He said he at first struggled to find a good fit in college because his grades were not good coming out of high school, landing at Phoenix College, a junior college program for two years before earning a scholarship to Mayville State University in North Dakota. But when his coach got fired he transferred to Peru State in Nebraska where he finished his senior year while also studying English and Journalism.

Brown said the key for him was never giving in.

"It took hard work, Never giving up when it got tough. God, family, community and unity to get where I'm at right now. It's just the beginning of something special," he said.



Dr. Billy R. Flowers



ГНЕ

### Part 15. Back Pain: Why "oh, my aching back" has become such a popular phrase.

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: I always know when my simple strain or subluxation. Fixation. system to function the way nature back hurts. But I rarely know why. This is yet another component of what intended, we Chiropractors not only we call the vertebrae are not moving the way nature intended. Other factors include muscle spasm and disc herniation. Of course, in addition to knowing you have back pain, chiropractors also know how to make it go away. By eliminating the components of the subluxation complex and allowing the central nervous

relieve your back pain symptoms, we remove the cause. Without drugs. Without surgery. Without doubt. Call our office for an appointment today to find out how Chiropractic can help your "aching back." Or if you have any questions about your health, just call us at the number below.

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Antonía Darlene, Malia Tippets, Dan Murphy, Laura McCulloch and Danielle Valentine in "Nunsense" at Tigard's Broadway Rose Theatre Company, Jan. 24 - Feb. 24.

### Habit Forming Musical

You're invited to join the Little emergency funds for the convent. Sisters of Hoboken for a hysterical-

The Rose Theatre Company ly haphazard variety show to raise opens its new season of musicals

with "Nunsense" at the Broadway Rose New Stage in Tigard, located at 12850 S.W. Grant Ave. With hilarious talent acts,

tongue-in-cheek musical numbers, and help from the audience, Nunsense has blessed theatregoers worldwide for over 30 years and is the second longest-running Off-Broadway show in history.

A preview performance is Thursday, Jan. 24 with opening night on Friday, Jan. 25, and performances continuing through Feb. 24.

For tickets, visit broadwayrose. org, call 503-620-5262, or visit the box office.



## Following Your Own Bliss

Oregon Children's Theater presents a play that exposes the truth about being yourself and wearing it well. The 'Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed: The Rock Experience' tells the story of Wilbur who was just like all the other naked mole rats – naked – until the day an ordinary hat falls into his tunnel. Wilbur dares to try it on and his life changes forever. Shows continue through Feb. 17 at the Newmark Theater, downtown. For tickets, call 503-288-9571, visit octc.org or the box office at 1111 S.W. Broadway.



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Quigley Provost-Landrum (left) and Trish Egan perform as two women, one black and one white, who meet in a memoir writing class where they critique each other's work and come to understand and learn from each other .

Hazardous Beauty Making friends with people who are different

"Hazardous Beauty," a play about two women, one black and one white, who meet in a memoir writing class and come to understand and learn from one another, makes its world premiere this month at the Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center in north Portland.

Written by Bonnie Ratner, a Portland writer, producer, director, actor and educator, and performed by Portland's African-American theater producing company, PassinArts, the new production debuts as part of Portland's annual Fertile Ground Festival of new works.

Hazardous Beauty is a provocative, often very funny guide to making friends with people who are different from us.

The characters Chloe, played by Quigley Provost-Landrum, and Leah, played by Trish Egan share stories and experiences about their sometimes painful, at times joyful and often humorous lives. The women, although from different backgrounds, try to make sense of love, work, art and aging while exploring what all this means at the intersection of gender, race and class. During the 2016 Fertile Ground Festival reading of Hazardous Beauty, audiences called this play "wonderfully provocative, witty, complex and brilliant." The story has been revised and updated with new surprises for this fully produced world premiere.

"Hazardous Beauty" opens Friday, Jan. 25 and plays through Feb. 17 at the Interstate Firehouse, located at 5340 N. Interstate Ave. Showtimes are Friday and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 3 p.m. Audience talkbacks will follow the Sunday matinees on Feb. 3 and Feb.10.

Individual tickets are \$20 and \$15 for seniors and students and available online at passinart.org or visiting JP's Framing & Gallery, 418 N.E. Killingsworth.

PassinArt: A Theatre Company was founded in 1982 and is the longest-producing African-American theatre company in Oregon. The group's mission is to entertain, educate, and inspire artists and diverse audiences while addressing critical issues facing our community; and to celebrate our history and culture.







Exploring the intersections of race, gender and national origin, Shareen Jacobs and Sampson Syharath star in 'Here on this Bridge: The —Ism Project,' one of the original new works featured during Portland's Fertile Ground festival. The production plays Jan. 24-27 and Feb. 7-10 at Boiler Room Theater in Lincoln Hall at Portland State University.

# Festival of New Works

# 120 acts of creation celebrated citywide

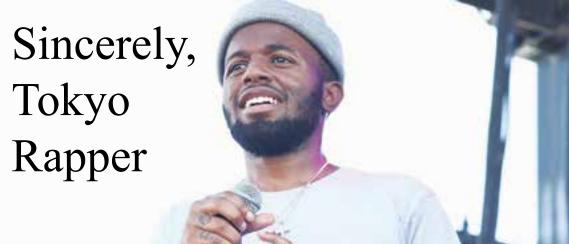
The Portland-grown Fertile Ground Citywide Festival of New Works kicks off its 10th anniversary this week, bringing to stage the first of 75 events and 120 acts of creation from prolific playwrights, abundant actors, innovative dancers, talented designers and adventuresome producers.

Fertile Ground is an incubator for new artistic works in all forms and stages of creation, offering

theatre and dance, workshops, staged readings and multidisciplinary events – for 11 days, at all times of the day, from Thursday, Jan. 24 to Sunday, Feb. 3.

"Fertile Ground is a celebration of Portland's artistic community that gives artists the platform to take chances, share their artistic impulses and cultivate some producing skills, while getting introduced to new audiences," said Nicole Lane, Fertile Ground festival director.

Patrons can purchase individual tickets to each show or buy a \$50 all-access festival pass. For details and a full list of Fertile Ground 2019 events, visit fertilegroundpdx.com.



Malcolm Jamaal Davis, a rapper and songwriter from Atlanta, better known by his stage name MadeinTYO (Made in Tokyo), performs from his debut album 'Sincerely, Tokyo' at Portland's Hawthorne Theater on Saturday, Jan. 26. Davis grew up as a military brat moving around and finished high school in Japan. His debut single was "Uber Everywhere" from his mixtape You Are Forgiven.

### The Portland Observer



Sense & Sensibility -- Danea C. Osseni (The Color Purple) returns to Portland Center Stage as Elinor Dashwood in Sense & Sensibility. Bursting with humor and bold theatricality, the classic romantic comedy is now playing through Feb. 10. Tickets can be purchased by calling the box office at 503-445-3700 or visiting t pcs.org.



Journalism and Democracy -- A provocative onstage con-

versation about journalism and justice will feature Kimberly A. C. Wilson, a former black journalist and Pulitzer Prize winner, and two other renowned writers. Sponsored by Oregon Humanities, the Think & Drink event takes place at the Alberta Rose Theatre, 3000 N.E. Alberta St., from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. General-admission tickets are \$10.

Life under Nazi Rule -- The Portland Art Museum and Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education jointly present two exhibitions this fall and winter featuring photographs by the late Polish-Jewish photojournalist Henry Ross offering an extraordinary rare glimpse of life under Nazi rule. Both facilities are offering offer a full slate of



exhibit-related programming

The Discovery of King Tut -- A compelling reproduction of the burial treasure from King Tut's tomb, discovered 95

years ago in the Egyptian Valley of the Kings, is presented in the traveling exhibit 'The Discovery of King Tut,' now showing through Sunday, Jan. 27 at OMSI. For tickets and more information, visit omsi.edu or



call the box office at 503-797-4000

Norman Sylvester Band -- "Boogie Cat" Norman Sylvester plays Friday, Jan. 25 at Clyde's; Saturday, Feb. 2 at Catfish Lou's; Saturday, Feb. 9 at the Spare Room; Friday, Feb. 15 at Wilf's; Saturday, Feb. 16 at the Vinyl Tap; Friday, Feb. 22 at Clyde's; and Saturday, Feb. 23 at the Half Penny in Salem.

New Chinatown Museum -- "Made in Chinatown, USA: Portland," a photo exhibit capturing the cultural pride of Portland's Asian community marks the opening of a new Portland Chinatown Museum at 127 N.W. Third Ave. Admissions is a suggested \$5 and free on First Thursdays from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Dial M for Murder -- Lakewood Theatre Company pres-

ents "Dial M for Murder," a bone-chilling thriller about a marriage gone wrong. Now playing through Feb. 10 at Lakewood Center for the Arts in Lake Oswego. For tickets and more information. call the box office at 503-635-3901 or visit lakewood-center.org. Zoo for All -- The Oregon Zoo has



launched "Zoo for All," a discount program that provides \$5 admission for low income individuals and families. Visitors may purchase up to six of the \$5 tickets by brining 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.

FUNERAL HOME

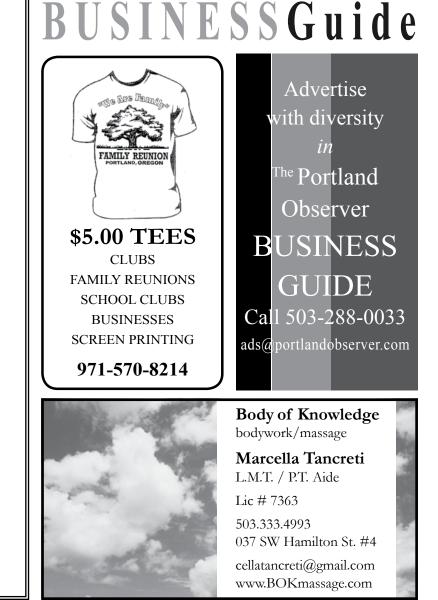
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# OPINION A Droom D

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# A Dream Deferred: Economic Justice

# Racial wealth divide actually

### grows worse

#### **by Jessicah Pierre**

Jan. 15th marked what would've been Dr. Martin Luther King's 90th birthday.

Most known for his fa-

mous "I Have Dream Speech," King envisioned a future in which deep racial inequalities — including deep economic inequality — was eradicated. He worked tirelessly towards that mission.

Over 50 years after his assassination, sensational media stories have focused heavily on the black unemployment rate, which has reached historic lows.

President Trump was quick to claim credit for this improvement last year, tweeting: "Somebody please inform Jay-Z that because of my policies, Black Unemployment has just been reported to be at the LOWEST RATE



EVER RECORDED!" (The rapper had recently criticized the president for a racist statement about African countries.)

> These headlines (and boasts) don't tell the whole story, though. Most importantly, they exclude data on overall wealth — a critical measure of financial security. Wealth buffers families from the ups and downs of income changes and economic

cycles, and allows households to take advantage of opportunities.

A new report by the Institute for Policy Studies takes a more holistic look at where the country is in terms of racial economic parity. It reveals deep, pervasive, and ongoing racial economic division.

The study shows that wealth is concentrating into fewer and fewer hands over time. And though working white people also struggle, the hands at the very top are overwhelmingly white. Far from closing, America's polarizing racial wealth divide is continuing to grow between white households

and households of color.

Over the past three decades, the report notes, "the median black family saw their wealth drop by a whopping 50 percent, compared to a 33 percent increase for the median white household."

King foreshadowed that if we maintain our exploitive economic and political systems, then we'd get not only racial apartheid, but economic apartheid as well.

And unfortunately, that is exactly where we're heading without systemic change. While one in five Americans of any race have zero or even negative wealth, in the last 30 years we've seen the number of households with \$10 million or more skyrocket by 856 percent.

The widening of the racial wealth divide has coincided with the extreme concentration of U.S. wealth. We're currently living in an economy where the Forbes 400 own more wealth than all black households, plus a quarter of Latino households, combined.

As much as we cite the vision that

MLK laid out for America, decades later we've not moved in the right direction.

This dynamic is the result of public policies that favor the wealthy, not the "invisible hand" of the market. This has implications for the racial wealth divide, as well as the entire economy. As the U.S. diversifies, these inequalities are actually driving down America's total median wealth — and giving the already rich that much more of a leg up over everyone else.

As the mid-20th century civil rights movement recognized, a major shift in economic policy is needed to end the racial inequality of the past and create a new nation with opportunity for all. Inaction — or worse, repeating the same mistakes that led to this situation — will simply widen the divide and create greater economic instability for the country at large. And I'll be writing this same piece again next year.

Jessicah Pierre is the inequality media specialist at the Institute for Policy Studies. Distributed by Other-Words.org.

# Disruptions Create Chilling Effect on People

### A few white men think everything is about them

### BY JO ANN HARDESTY

As I start my third week on the Portland City Council, I am concerned about how privilege and, specifically white male privilege, is lim-



iting the public's access to City Hall. These disruptions create a chilling effect on people who are unaccustomed to coming to our City Hall to have their voices heard. People are afraid to bring their children to our important civic meetings.

These disruptions seem to be caused largely by a small group of white men who use their privilege to act disruptive, act disrespectful and act self-centered.

This behavior limits access to those entering this building for the very first time or for those who are new to the political process. This is not the spirit of speaking up for civic change that is the heart of activism.

I ran my campaign on a platform of creating One Portland. I promised a Portland where regardless of race, income, sexual orientation, or country of origin you will have a respectful interaction and reception when you on today.

Many of the disruptors are people that I know personally and I respect their desire to be heard. I share their concerns and I, too, am passionate about many of the issues that they care about. However, their issues and concerns shouldn't

Many of the disruptors are people that I know personally and I respect their desire to be heard. I share their concerns and I, too, am passionate about many of the issues that they care about. However, their issues and concerns shouldn't drownout the voices of others who come to this building seeking the same access and opportunity.

enter City Hall and from city officials. We fail in our job when we don't make access equal, accessible, and fair to all who seek a voice in our processes. We live in a state built on white supremacy and the legacies of that history linger drown-out the voices of others who come to this building seeking the same access and opportunity.

As someone who has spent time a lot of time on the other side of this podium demanding accountability, I find it chilling and disrespectful that there are a few white men who think that everything this council does is about them. It isn't.

I want to engage people from all walks of life in their local government, but I am very concerned about how they will experience their local government if their first, second or third experience at City Council consists of constant disruption.

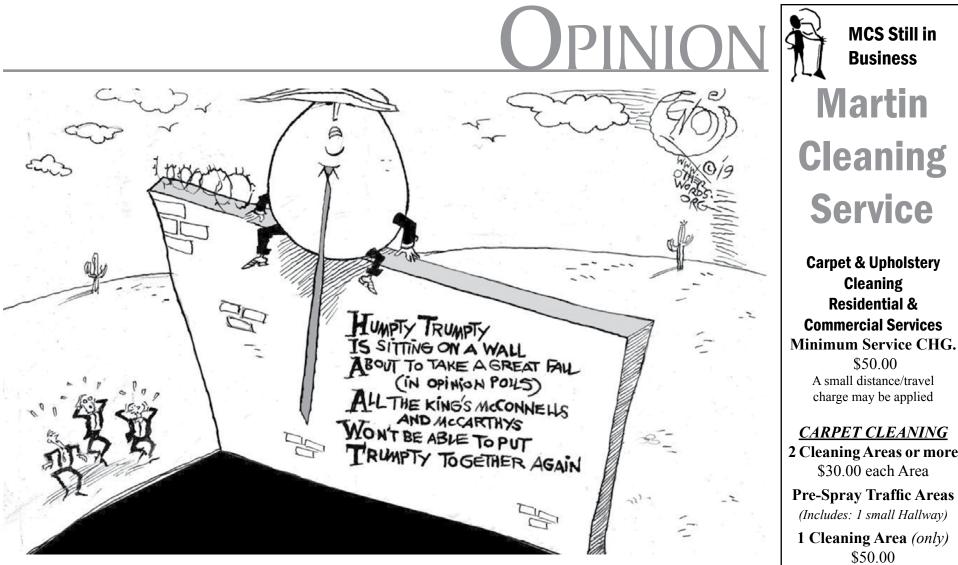
My open message to those who seek to disrupt this process is this:

If you have a proposal to improve the outcomes for people in the city of Portland, you will find a welcoming ear and my office is ready to assist you. However, if this is simply about having footage for your YouTube channel or Facebook page, you should be aware that using your privilege in this way cannot continue. You have a right to have your voice heard, but not at the expense of other people.

I am encouraging other white men and women to check the behavior of those who seek to drown out the voices of others. Civic discourse cannot thrive if it is not coupled with civility and respect for all others.

Jo Ann Hardesty is a Portland City Commissioner.

### The Portland Observer



## The Wall Already Exists In Hearts and Minds

### A barrier to seeing immigrants as people

BY MATTHEW JOHNSON My favorite album of all time is Pink Floyd's The Wall. It should be re-released given the current (manufactured)

crisis. I'm not surprised that Roger Waters is planning a show on the border to protest Trump's continued government shutdown over funding for an ill-defined barrier that has come to represent everything wrong with his presidency: Lies, false promises, fear, racism and simplistic solutions.

It's important to emphasize that the wall is more symbol than reality. Setting aside the fact that the nearly-2,000-mile border is already teeming with armed men and barriers of various kinds, a Trumpian "wall" already exists: the (abstract) wall that blocks many Americans from seeing migrants from Central America and Mexico as people just like them.

While Trump was rightly condemned for misappropriating the Game of Thrones slogan "Winter Is Coming" by taking the font and changing it to "The Wall Is Coming," the underlying analogy is eerily correct. Although — spoiler alert — the (mythical) wall is destroyed by undead invaders (who only advance during winter) at the end of the show's last season, for thousands of years it served to separate the living not only from the undead but also from each oth-

er. In a reversal of reality, those living south of the wall disparaged the northerners as "wildlings," portraying them as amoral, violent, and uncivilized, while the northerners denounced their southern brethren for their cloistered arrogance. Sound familiar?

The silver lining from Game of Thrones is that the north and south eventually (sort of) united against the undead, and, in return for their help in the war to come, the "wildlings" were permitted to settle

the same feelings, needs, and aspirations that they themselves possess.

Meanwhile, it remains lost on many Israelis and American supporters of Israel (not to mention Trump) that the so-called "security fence" that illegally snakes through Palestinian land is not only hideous (I've seen it up close) but far more of a barrier to peace than to terrorism.

Walls have been built for millennia, most notably the Great Wall of China and the Berlin Wall, with discouraging results.

Somehow it remains lost to millions of (especially) white Americans — even in the 21st century with all its forward-thinking innovations and popular culture — that their southern neighbors are not dangerous invaders but people with largely the same feelings, needs, and aspirations that they themselves possess.

south of the wall for safety. It remains to force will prevail, but the mythical universe has nevertheless solved a timeless problem that those of us stuck here in reality are still struggling with: xenophobic nativism.

Somehow it remains lost to millions of (especially) white Americans — even in the 21st century with all its forward-thinking innovations and popular culture ---that their southern neighbors are not dangerous invaders but people with largely

To conclude that this (still) nonexistent be seen (in season 8) whether this united wall that Mexico will surely not pay for will be any different is just as absurd as concluding that the ascension of an unqualified, hate- and fear-mongering narcissist to the highest office in the land would be a reason to celebrate. It is as if we have learned nothing from history and have forgotten how to think critically.

If a television show can get it right, then why can't we?

Matt Johnson, syndicated by PeaceVoice, is co-author of Trumpism.



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### Information Technology Strategic Plan Bid Date: February 14, 2019 by 2:00 PM

Metro, a metropolitan service district organized under the laws of the State of Oregon and the Metro Charter, located at 600 NE Grand Avenue, Portland, OR 97232-2736, is requesting proposals for Information Technology Strategic Plan services.

Metro, is inviting proposals from qualified service providers to deliver an overall five (5) year Strategic Plan to guide the Information Services (IS) Department in planning, procuring, implementing and managing current and future technology investments and resources.

Sealed submissions are due no later than 2:00 PM, February 14, 2019 in Metro's business offices at 600 NE Grand Avenue, Portland, OR 97232-2736, Attention: Riko Tannenbaum, Procurement Analyst, RFP 3613.

Solicitation documents can be viewed and downloaded from the Oregon Procurement Information Network (ORPIN) at http://orpin. oregon.gov/open.dll/

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

Metro extends equal opportunity to all persons and specifically encourages minority, women-owned and emerging small businesses to access and participate in this and all Metro projects programs and services.

Metro and its contractors will not discriminate against any person(s), employee or applicant for employment based on race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, religion, disability, political affiliation or marital status. Metro fully complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes and regulations in all programs and activities. For more information, or to obtain a Title VI Complaint Form, see <u>www.oregonmetro.gov</u>.

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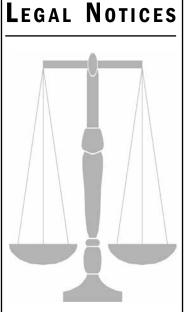


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Gladys Knight will sing the National Anthem for the Super Bowl on Feb. 3 in her hometown of Atlanta.

## Knight to Sing Anthem

year's Super Bowl.

The seven-time Grammy hometown of Atlanta.

Roll Hall of Fame in 1996. Her on Feb. 3.

Gladys Knight will sing "The hits include "Midnight Train Star-Spangled Banner" at this to Georgia" and "That's What Friends Are For."

Maroon 5 will be joined by Award-winner says she's proud Big Boi, Atlanta-based rapper to use her voice to "unite and from Outkast, and Travis Scott represent our country" in her during the halftime performance.

CBS broadcasts this year's The 74-year-old and the Pips Super Bowl from Merwere inducted into the Rock and cedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta



## **Embracing His Cultural Roots**

Hawaiian and LGBTQ recording artist and Grammy nominee Kalani Pe'a creates music that embraces a strong foundation of Hawaiian cultural values and practices. A winner and twice nominated for "Best Regional Roots Album," he will perform Friday, Jan. 25 at 8 p.m. at the Alberta Rose Theatre.

# All New Chevy PORTLAND OBSERVER AutoReview Silverado

Chevrolet's popular Silverado truck is back for 2019 with a standard vehicle price of \$ 42,600 and scoring an 18 mpg combined city and highway for fuel efficiency.

The all new Silverado comes with a 6-speaker audio system, scan and digital clock, including Bluetooth streaming audio for music and select phones; USB ports; auxiliary jack; and voice-activated technology for radio and phone.

The truck's amenities include active aero shutters, front and rear chrome-trimmed front and rear bumpers and mirrors, a deep-tinted Grille surround, a remote locking tailgate, 17 inch wheels, and a full size spare.

The interior includes air conditioning, power door locks and windows, remote Keyless entry with 2 transmitters, tilt-wheel steering, a theft-deterrent locking feature and cruise controls.

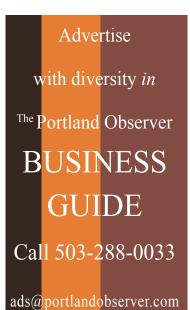
The Silverado comes with a basic 3 year/36,000 mile warranty and includes extended coverage for corrosion and the drive train. Roadside assistance is good for five years or 60,000 miles.



# GM Loyalty Tops 1 Million

more than one million Chevrolet, GMC, Buick and Cadillac of thanking loyal customers and and again," said Steve Hill, GM drivers have signed upfor My making sure they have a great vice president of sales, service GM Rewards, the automotive ownership experience, so they and marketing. industry's first comprehensive loyalty rewards program.

The program, launched in April of last year, allows customers to earn and redeem points on eligible new purchases including new vehicles, dealer services, accessories and connected services. It's also open to non-GM drivers who want to have their vehicles serviced at GM dealer-



GM announced last week that ships and make other purchases. come back to Chevrolet, GMC, "My GM Rewards is our way Buick and Cadillac dealers again



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