



New Plan for Wapato

*Advocates
envision Wellness
Center at site*

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CAREERS Special Edition



Portland Observer

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Committed to Cultural Diversity



PHOTO BY
DANNY PETERSON/
THE PORTLAND
OBSERVER

Civil rights organizers Hector Hinojosa (left) and Lynn Marzette are on a quest to improve police transparency and ensure unbiased law enforcement after an unusually high number of officer-involved shootings involving people of color in Vancouver and Clark County over the past few months.

Shootings Bring Response

Vancouver leaders look for answers

BY DANNY PETERSON
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Two southwest Washington civil rights groups are looking for answers after a string of officer-involved shootings in Clark County.

"The last five shootings in Vancouver have involved mostly people of color, and

a young white man known to be mentally ill," reads a joint statement written by Lynn Marzette, chair of National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Vancouver's Legal Redress committee, and Hector Hinojosa, who is the president of

League of United Latin American Citizens Southwest Washington.

"To ensure the expectation of safety by all citizens of Vancouver, there are still

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Thousands Drawn to Rapper's Legacy



Nipsey Hussle

Nipsey Hussle's life inspired a city, world

(AP) — Nipsey Hussle's legacy as a persistent rapper, community activist, uniter, doting father, protective sibling and a loving son were underscored at his public memorial service on Thursday, with deeply personal testimonies from those closest to the rapper, including his actress-fiancee Lauren London, collaborator and dear friend Snoop Dogg and his mother, who said she was at peace with the death of her

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Following a memorial service that filled the Staples Center in Los Angeles Thursday for the late rapper Nipsey Hussle, thousands more people line Hussle's a 25-mile funeral procession through the streets of south Los Angeles. (AP photo)



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Masters Champion Again

Tiger Woods reacts after winning the Masters golf tournament Sunday in Augusta, Ga. It had been 14 years since Woods last won the Masters, and he had gone nearly 11 years since his last major, the 2008 U.S. Open at Torrey Pines. (AP photo)

Life Sentence in Hate Murder

A man convicted of deliberately running down a black man with his Jeep in Gresham nearly three years ago was given a life sentence by a Multnomah County judge Tuesday.

40-year-old Russell Courtier—a self-professed member of a white supremacist group—had been found guilty last month of murder, hit and run, and sec-

ond-degree intimidation, which functions as a hate crime in Oregon. A 32 year minimum without the possibility of parole was included in his sentence.

Larnell Bruce, 19, was the victim who was killed. Prosecutors argued the attack was racially motivated.

Colleen Hunt, 37, Courtier's then girlfriend, encouraged Court-

ier to hit Bruce while riding passenger, prosecutors said.

Hunt previously agreed to a 10 year sentence when she pleaded guilty to a lesser charge of manslaughter during the trial.

"I refuse to hate a whole race over something that someone like you has done," Bruce's father said in court, speaking directly to Courtier, and condemning his ideology.

Deputy Killed Near Kelso

Justin DeRosier, 29, a Cowlitz County Deputy Sheriff, was fatally shot Saturday night while responding to a disable motor home near Kalama. A suspect was shot the next night in a deadly confrontation with two Kelso police officers. Identified as Brian Butts, 33, he is a brother of Daniel Butts, who killed Rainier Police Chief Ralph Painter in January 2011.

Foster Care Failure Lawsuit

A lawsuit by foster care and disability rights advocates against the Oregon Department of Human Services Tuesday alleges that the state's foster care system has failed to shield children from abuse and further neglect. The agency has struggled to house foster children and places them in

The Week in Review

hotels, homeless shelters and refurbished jail cells.



Notre Dame Cathedral Fire

A catastrophic fire engulfed the iconic Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris on Monday. The fire spread rapidly and took over large parts of the cathedral as disbelieving on-

lookers scrambled to get a view of the unfolding disaster. Notre Dame was completed in the 13th century and is considered a feat of architecture as much as a religious symbol.

Fee for Slave Descendants

Georgetown University could become the first college in the nation to mandate a fee to benefit descendants of slaves sold by the university nearly 200 years ago. By almost a 2-to-1 margin, students approved the measure Thursday, which still must be approved by the university to go into effect.

Blazers in NBA Playoffs

Charles Barkley, the NBA Hall of Famer and TV analyst, doubled down Sunday on his March prediction that Portland will reach the Western Conference Finals.

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LOCAL NEWS



PHOTO BY DANNY PETERSON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Portland Police Chief Danielle Outlaw and actor Russell Hornsby (center) join other community members in a discussion about the interactions between police and communities of color following a film screening of "The Hate You Give"—a fictional film that Hornsby co-stars in about a black youth who is shot and killed by a police officer after a hairbrush he had is mistaken for a weapon. Vancouver Avenue First Baptist Church Pastor J.W. Matt Hennessee and 'No Hate Zone' creator Sam Sachs (pictured in front) helped organize Friday's event.

Emotions Run High

Chief joins screening of 'The Hate You Give'

BY DANNY PETERSON
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Emotions ran high during a discussion with Portland Police Chief Danielle Outlaw, actor Russell Hornsby, and community members of color at Vancouver Ave-

nue First Baptist Church Friday, following a screening of the critically acclaimed 2018 film "The Hate You Give," which Hornsby co-starred in, and delves deep into themes of officer-involved shooting deaths of black Americans, the Black Lives Matter movement, and the sometimes tense relationship between police and communities of color.

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Toran Offers a Plan for Wapato

New proposal for never used jail

BY DANNY PETERSON
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A new vision for the never-used Wapato jail been drafted by Volunteers of America. This time the proposal is to create a 100-bed residential treatment program for addiction and mental health services for men and women.

Kay Toran, a long time leader from Portland's African American community, who has directed Volunteers of American Oregon since 1999, is working on securing funding, going back to government agencies and the private sector with pleas to help make that dream a reality.

Jordan Schnitzer, who purchased Wapato after Multnomah County rejected proposals to remake the jail into a homeless shelter because of the cost and distance from other public services, has reached out to Toran in support of making the north Portland site a resource for the VOA's addiction and mental health services.

Dubbed the Community Wellness Center, it would be "a col-

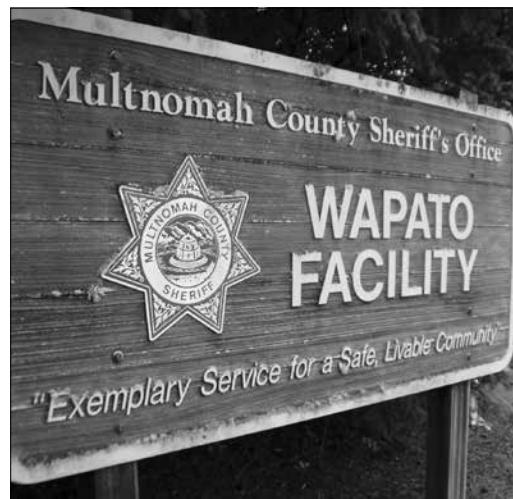


PHOTO BY
DANNY PETERSON/
THE PORTLAND
OBSERVER

Kay Toran, president of Volunteers of America Oregon, has proposed a re-envisioning of the never-used former Wapato jail site in north Portland.

laboration among treatment providers, social service agencies, hospital care providers and universities to provide holistic services to clients who need support in behavioral health, substance use disorder and issues related to homelessness," according to a one page summary of the proposal.

"I believe our vision is very different. We're not talking about trying to use it for the homeless, we aren't talking about trying to use it for a jail, we are talking about providing a resource to a population that we know have high needs in this community," Toran told the Portland Observer.

The facility would not be exclusively for seniors, as has been previously reported, but all adults 18 and up, Toran clarified, with a special focus on those touched by the criminal justice system. It would be similar to two existing residential centers that VOA operates—one for men and one for women—in Portland.

Schnitzer called the idea "fabulous." He acquired the property last spring and has been exploring the idea of repurposing it for a facility that helps the homeless ever since. He's also considered lev-

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Thousands Drawn to Rapper's Legacy

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

"superhero" son.

Beyonce and Jay-Z were among the big-name celebrities who attended the three-hour event in Los Angeles at the Staples Center, where the last celebrity funeral held at the concert arena was Michael Jackson's in 2009.

The arena was packed with more than 21,000 fans and drove home the important impact Hussle — just 33 when he died — had on his city and the rest of the world.

Anthony Hamilton invoked the spirit of a church service when he performed in Hussle's honor. Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan hailed Hussle's ability to bring different factions together. And blogger and media figure Karen Civil read a letter sent by former U.S. President Barack Obama, who wrote that he never met Nipsey but heard of his music through his daughters.

"While most folks look at the Crenshaw neighborhood where he grew up and only see gangs, bullets and despair, Nipsey saw potential. He saw hope. He saw a community that even through its flaws taught him to always keep going. He chose to invest in that community rather than to ignore it," the Obama letter read. "He set an example for young people to follow and is a legacy worth of celebration. I hope his memory inspires more good work in Crenshaw and communities like it. Mi-

chelle and I send our sympathies to Lauren, Emani, Kross and his whole family and to all those who love Nipsey."

Father Thomas Uwal read a scripture in Tigrinya — the native language in Eritrea, the African country where Hussle's father was from. Uwal spoke of Hussle being "proud to be an Eritrean-American," later saying to the late rapper's family: "On behalf of all Eritreans ... we say our condolences to you."

Hussle was slain last month in front of a store that he tried to use to empower his South Los Angeles neighborhood.

The hearse carrying Hussle's coffin went through a 25-mile (40-kilometer) lap through the city, including past the property where Hussle had planned to turn an aging strip mall into new businesses and affordable homes.

Thousands of people crowded the streets, some on bicycles and motorcycles, following and surrounding the vehicle as it slowly wound its way to the funeral home. The silver Cadillac passed the rapper's childhood home in Watts. It came to a halt at times, unable to move in the vast crowd of people.

Eric R. Holder Jr., who has been charged with killing Hussle, has pleaded not guilty. Police have said Holder and Hussle had several interactions the day of the shooting and have described it as being the result of a personal dispute.



PHOTO BY DAVID MAYNE/PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Franklin High School is undergoing a process to find a new mascot and nickname.

Franklin Considers New Mascot

The committee charged with finding a new identity for Franklin High School has come up with a list of six possible mascot names for the school's community to consider and will send their recommendations to Superintendent Guadalupe Guerrero for his review this month. A final Board vote will be in June.

The 19-member Franklin Mascot Identification Committee — which includes students, staff, alumni, family members and com-

munity members — recently identified these possible names:

Ambassadors, Chargers, Falcons, Firs, Lightning and Thunderbolts.

Franklin is undergoing a mascot name change because its current identity, Quakers, has been found to violate district policy that forbids names with a religious affiliation.

Once the new name is determined, changes will be made to update items at the school that display the Quakers name.

Shootings Bring Response

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

too many unanswered questions regarding the facts and circumstances surrounding each of the shootings and we eagerly await completion and publication of the investigative reports," said the leaders.

Some of the requests made to Clark County Prosecutor Tony Golik includes reports on officer training, where officers work and past complaints against officers. The county's three police agencies: Clark County Sheriff, Battle Ground Police, and Vancouver Police, were also sent letters for detailed information.

There have been five officer involved shootings that have occurred within a four month span since late November. The three most recent—which occurred within just a three week span—were fatal.

That includes the death of Carlos Hunter, 43, a person of color who was fatally shot by two Vancouver Police detectives during a traffic stop on March 7. Hunter was said to have reached for a gun just before the shooting during what was reported to be a drug dealing investigation, according to an investigation by the Regional Major Crimes Team; the shooting by Vancouver police of Michael Pierce, 29, a white man who was homeless and known to suffer from schizophrenia, after he was reportedly pointing gun replicas to passersby and to his own head on Feb. 28; and the shooting by Vancouver police Cpl. Roger Evans of Clayton Joseph, 16, a male of Pacific Island descent who was said to be brandishing a knife and refusing to drop it before he was shot on Feb. 19.

"Notwithstanding the question of whether a shooting can be legally justified, our concern is also whether a culture exists within the police departments within Clark County that influences premature,

inappropriate and overly aggressiveness actions through use of deadly force in situations involving minorities and underprivileged citizens," the activists said.

Marzette and Hinojosa also want answers to questions about whether there is sufficient anti-bias and de-escalation training of police officers. Specific questions about the three aforementioned shootings include asking how far away the officers were when they took shots, and whether they tried any non-deadly force options—like rubber bullets, tasers, etc.—before resorting to the use of a gun.

Both Hinojosa and Marzette, who is also a member of the Vancouver Police Chief's Diversity Advisory Team, stressed that they hold no animosity toward local police, but just want more information for clarity and transparency.

"We're not suggesting that Clark County has any mal-intended officers out there acting with evil intent," said Hinojosa, who once opened his home to one of the victims, Pierce, and his then-pregnant girlfriend during a winter when they were homeless a few years ago.

Hinojosa and Marzette agreed that there are improved community relationships that are ongoing, compared to just a few years ago—both from Clark County Sheriff and Vancouver Police Department—such as being able to ask face-to-face questions to law enforcement about their concerns.

A signal that Vancouver Police Department is taking a step in the right direction in regard to community relations is Police Chief James McElvain's stated willingness late last month to seriously consider mandatory body cameras for officers, something that had previously not been considered, Marzette said.

And Hinojosa notes that a joint statement put out back in August

by Golik and Clark County Sheriff Chuck Atkins condemning white supremacy and hate crimes was "definitely well received," though they'll be working toward making sure that declaration is properly implemented.

"I think the bottom line ... when we read or hear about something in our community [related to hate crimes], we wanted the assurance that we, along with the law enforcement community, were taking the position that we were not going to allow that to spread and increase in our area," Marzette said.

Marzette and Hinojosa have also expressed optimism over the recent passage of a statewide law in Washington, Initiative 940, last fall, which makes it easier to bring criminal charges against officers believed to have wrongfully used deadly force, when before a barrier in state law made that almost impossible.

No longer do prosecutors have to prove "evil intent" of officers in situations where they've killed someone when considering whether to file criminal charges, such as manslaughter. Instead, the burden of proof is whether a reasonable officer would have acted the same way under the same circumstances. In addition, the law requires any incident involving deadly force to be independently investigated; requires de-escalation and mental health training

for officers; and requires police to give first aid to a victim of deadly force.

"These are all good things as we progress forward," Hinojosa said.

As to whether a recent basketball tournament-turned-school disturbance on March 15 at Gaiser Middle School in Vancouver, in which 27 students were suspended and nine were arrested, was reflective of community-police tensions, Marzette said they don't have enough information on the matter to make that claim. It was reported that racial slurs were used in the incident that started as

an apparent altercation between students and ended with 33 police officers being called to the scene, according to Clark County Sheriff's Office. Hinojosa added the incident was "very concerning."

Hinojosa said that if the community can come together with police officers to have serious and difficult conversations, it could result in positive change in how the various law enforcement departments interact with the public.

"We're definitely concerned and we're upset and all that. But we're having conversations now. And let's move those forward. I think we'll be in better shape in a year."

NAACP Vancouver and LULAC Southwest Washington's joint letter can be viewed in its entirety at portlandobserver.com.

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Table Set for PCC Job Fair

Tips to help you get prepared

Several of Oregon’s most admired companies will be on hand this year when the Portland Community College Job Fair returns for its 22nd year.

Columbia Sportswear, Oregon Health & Sciences University, Providence Health & Services, and New Seasons Market all rank among the most admired and respected companies in the state and they will be among more than 100 area employers represented at the PCC Job Fair from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Tuesday, April 30, in the college’s Cascade Campus gym, 705 N. Killingsworth St.

Becky Washington, career services coordinator at the Cascade Campus, said with the unemployment rate at or near a historical low, employers are competing for the most qualified candidates.

“It’s a good time to be a job-seeker in Portland,” Washington said. “This is a great chance to put yourself on the market.”

Washington said one of the most appealing aspects of the fair is the opportunity to meet with and speak



The Portland Community College Job Fair will once again bring a who’s who of Portland-area employers to the Cascade Campus gym in north Portland. The annual event is slated for Tuesday, April 30.

to a number of employers in succession. This means a job-seeker is able to compare and contrast the compensation packages available from various employers and industries, and get an idea of how his or her qualifications measure up.

The PCC Job Fair is a who’s who of Portland-area employers such as Amazon, Portland Trail Blazers, and OnPoint Community Credit

Union. In addition, there will be a host of local and regional nonprofits and government agencies participating.

Students in nearly all of PCC’s professional/technical programs can find an employer at the job fair that is related to their degree or certificate. Many job fair employers are offering internship opportunities, as well.

A complete list of participating employers can be found at pcc.edu/cascadejobfair. The web site has tips on how to dress and what to say, including a brief video on developing an “elevator pitch” for employers.

“We encourage people to dress like they’re going to an interview,” Washington said. “And because we attract lots of job-seekers, it’s also a good idea to show up early.”

Emotions Run High

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Based on the 2017 young adult novel of the same name, “The Hate You Give” centers on a black youth who must stand up for what’s right after she witnesses a childhood friend who is shot and killed by a police officer after a hairbrush he had is mistaken for a weapon.

Speaking about the worry she had about her own eldest child once he got his drivers’ license and became more independent, Outlaw recalled speaking with him about the danger he faced in navigating a world wrought with racism and discrimination.

“We still have to recognize and acknowledge that there’s bias in the world and we’re not always aware of it...we know as Portland Police officers that anything that happens anywhere else in this country impacts us here, in the winds of how we do our jobs here.”

Hornsby and Outlaw are longtime friends, having gone to high school together back in Oakland, Calif.



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CALENDAR

April 2019

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
15 Income Tax Day Boston Marathon bombings, 2013 Leonardo Da Vinci born, 1452	16 Garth Williams born, 1912 Aviator Wilbur Wright born, 1867	17 Richard the Lion-Hearted returned to England (1194)	18 Paul Revere's Famous Ride (1775) Great San Francisco Earthquake In 1906 Pet Owner's Day	○ 19 Passover Begins at Sundown Humorous Day Revolutionary War began (1775)	20 Scientists Marie & Pierre Curie isolate radium (1902)	21 Easter Kindergarten Day Barbara Park born, 1947
22 Earth Day established 1970 Girl Scout Leader Appreciation Day National Jelly Bean Day	23 Home Run Day, Hank Aaron hits his first home run in 1954 William Shakespeare born, 1564	24 Admin. Professionals/ Secretaries Day Library of Congress established (1800) Pigs-in-a-Blanket Day	25 Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day Take your Daughter to Work Day World Penguin Day	◐ 26 Arbor Day Hug a Friend Day National Pretzel Day Seismologist Charles Richter born, 1900	27 Tell a Story Day	28 James Monroe born, 1758 (5th President)
29 Zipper Day (patented by Gideon Sundback in 1913)	30 National Honesty Day Anniversary Louisiana Purchase completed (1803)					

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



PHOTO BY KATE SZROM/PORTLAND CENTER STAGE AT THE ARMORY

Chris Murray (from left), Nick Ferruci, Nathalie Standingcloud and Robert Mesa star in 'Crossing Mnisose,' a new world premiere play that weaves together Sacajawea's story with that of current efforts by Native Americans and others to save the Missouri River from the Dakota Access Pipeline.

From Sacajawea's Point of View

Native voices heard in 'Crossing Mnisose'

"Crossing Mnisose" (minne-show-she) tells the story of one of America's first feminists, Sacajawea, and draws a line from a completely original view of Lewis and Clark to the present

day, as descendants of the Dakota and Lakota Nations continue their fight for the Mnisose (or what Europeans named the "Missouri River") and the lands that contain the burials of their ancestors.

The play is from celebrated playwright, activist, and attorney Mary Kathryn Nagle (Cherokee Nation), whose "Manahatta" recently captivated audiences at the

Oregon Shakespeare Festival.

Commissioned by Portland Center Stage at the Armory, Crossing Mnisose began its run with preview performances on Saturday, April 13. Opening night is Friday, April 19 with shows continuing through May 5 on the U.S. Bank Main Stage at The Armory.

Tickets start at \$25. For more information, visit pcs.org.

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Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



Electra Davis, founder of Mysteek Naturals, wearing her hair in Royal Purple.

Hair Trends for Summer

Hair stylist and fashion influencer Electra S. Davis says that royal purple will be the trending hair color for summer.

As the founder of a chemical free line of hair color products called Mysteek Naturals, she pays great attention to statistics and trends and predicts that models, actresses, and fashionistas all over the world will start

jumping on this trend.

In fact, many celebrities and influencers have already been seen with purple hair including Katy Perry, Jordin Sparks, Lupita Nyong'o, Nicole Ritchie, Nicki Minaj, Kelly Osbourne and even Cardi B. The trend can even be seen overseas with several Korean and Japanese superstars.

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PHOTO COURTESY OREGON CONNECTIONS ACADEMY

Oregon Connections Academy seniors Fatimah Us'Sutteri (from left) and Madi Beck and sophomore Camille Fox pause spend a rewarding day of volunteering at the Habitat for Humanity Cully Place Build site in northeast Portland.

Cully Place Build

Students give back for Habitat for Humanity

Rainy weather didn't douse the spirits of a hardy group of student volunteers from Oregon Connections Academy who put in several hours of hard work at Habitat for Humanity's build site in the Cully Neighborhood.

Fifteen new affordable homes are currently under construction at the site located at Northeast 57th and Killingsworth. Oregon Connections Academy is a full-time tuition-free virtual public charter school enrolling thousands of students in grades K-12 across the state.

"It was very interesting to learn about the building process of one of these homes, I feel very privileged to be involved in helping one of these families, whose lives are changing as we speak," said Oregon Connections Academy sophomore Camille Fox from north Portland. Camille brought several construction skills with her to the Habitat for Humanity Build Day earlier this month, having learned them from her carpenter/remodeler father.

According to Melinda Musser, communications director for Habitat for Humanity Portland/Metro East, one duplex is almost finished and two more units are getting prepped for insulation and sheetrock. Volunteers, such as those from Oregon Connections Academy, AmeriCorps, and Habitat construction crews are working on

internal finishes including flooring.

Madi Beck, a senior at Oregon Connections Academy from north Portland, hopes to join AmeriCorps after graduation and she's refurbishing her own vintage trailer.

"I had so much fun at the build!" Madi explained, "Camille and I were working on putting down snap-together floating flooring in one of the houses. It was a really good skill to learn, and I'm going to use the same type of flooring in my trailer when I redo the floor! So not only was it a good time, but it taught me great skills as well."

Fatimah Us'Sutteri, an Oregon Connections Academy senior from the Beaverton area jumped right in on interior painting.

"I ruined my clothes and shoes but I didn't care because at the end of the day I was doing something helpful to the fu-

ture homeowners," said Fatimah. "I was painting so much to the point my arm was aching, but I still kept going because honestly, I was so motivated working alongside one of the future homeowners who also came to do some work. The day was overall great and having a team and leaders who were positive and enthusiastic was amazing."

According to Musser, volunteers have put in a total of more than 2,300 hours so far while building homes at Cully Place. She noted Habitat homebuyers put in 300 hours of sweat equity building their home and completing homeowner education classes. Musser reports seven homes will be completed this summer and the first home dedication is scheduled for mid-June.

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



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Paul Knauls and Jamaal Lane support the annual community supper fundraiser for the North by Northeast Community Health Center, the only medical clinic in Oregon devoted to black health.

Community Dinner for Black Health

N/NE Community Health Center sets fundraiser

North by Northeast Community Health Center has been supporting a healthier Portland community since 2006 when it was founded by the late Pastor Mary Overstreet, a beloved black minister, and Dr. Jill Ginsberg, a family medical doctor and the current medical director. In addition to offering primary care services, the health center partners with neighborhood barbershops to fight high blood pressure and heart disease. Last year, the clinic partnered with Champions Barbering Institute to establish a scholarship as well as a community health curriculum for student barbers.

North by Northeast is the only medical clinic in Oregon devoted to black health and has become a trusted community resource. In 2016 they expanded and relocated to Northeast Seventh and Alberta in the old Coast Janitorial building.

To celebrate their success and

community support, the clinic is holding their annual Community Supper on Saturday, May 18 at the Jantzen Beach Red Lion from 5:30-9:30 pm. Everyone is invited! Join emcee Jamaal Lane, Alonzo Chadwick, Andrew Clay and Just Friends, and North by Northeast staff, board and Patient Wellness Council members for a night of music, dancing, community, and raising money for a great cause.

This year's Community Supper will feature the winners of a community-wide art contest to represent Black Health Matters. The artwork will be raffled off at the event. There will also be a chance to bid on concert tickets for Boyz II Men, Bruno Mars and Lionel Richie. Lots more fun awaits, along with some surprises – don't miss this great party!

Tickets available at nxneclinic.ejoinme.org/CommunitySupper2019.



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Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

Gun Violence Drama – In a world premiere play, a cast of six diverse women bring the story of Brandon, a young man who is always in and out of trouble, until he is shot in the back by a member of his own community. “A Dark Sky Full of Stars,” directed by Portland’s Jocelyn Seid, shows through May 12 at Shoebox Theater, 2110 S.E. 10th Ave. For tickets visit theatrevirtigo.org or call the box office at 503-482-8655.

Teen Party Alcohol-Free – Clark County middle and high school students are invited to join a drug and alcohol free celebration for youth with swimming, basketball, a DJ, video games table games, giveaways and prizes on Friday, April 19 from 8 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. at Vancouver’s Firstenberg Community Center, 700 N.E. 136th. Sponsored by youth educators working to prevent substance abuse among their peers.

PDX Global Eats – Enjoy global cuisine and support refugees and immigrants at the PDX Global Eats fundraiser, Wednesday, April 24, from 6 p.m. – 9 p.m. in the Lagunitas Community Room, 237 N.E. Broadway St. Event tickets need to be purchased in advance at therefugeecenter.org.



Soul’d Out Festival Presents – Trumpeter, composer and arranger Theo Croker, grandson of the legendary trumpeter Doc Cheatham, performs Wednesday, April 17 at the Jack London Revue, downtown. A multi-instrumentalist from Florida, Croker is at home playing standards, swinging post-bop and groove-oriented electric jazz.

standards, swinging post-bop and groove-oriented electric jazz.

Links Masquerade Ball – The Portland chapter of The Links present the Phantom Fantasy Masquerade Ball on Saturday, April 27 at the Adrianna Ballroom, 918 S.W. Yamhill, from 6 p.m.-11 p.m. All proceeds will benefit Portland Links Scholar-

ship Fund and Programs. For tickets, visit online at wrefinc.ejoinme.org/register2019.

Norman Sylvester Band – “Boogie Cat”

Norman Sylvester plays; Friday, April 19 at the Rogue Pub in North Plains; Saturday, April 20 at the Vinyl Tap; Wednesday, April 24 at Billy Blue’s in Vancouver; Friday, April 26 at Clyde’s; and Saturday, April 27 for the Inner City Blues Festival.



Roots-n-Harmony Benefit – Cathedral Park Performing Arts Collective hosts their 3rd annual benefit show and silent auction “Roots-n-Harmony” on Saturday, May 4 at 6 p.m. at the Wayfinding Academy in St. Johns. The all-ages event includes a buffet-style dinner, live music, theatre performances and a silent auction and raffle to benefit the collective’s student scholarship program.

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 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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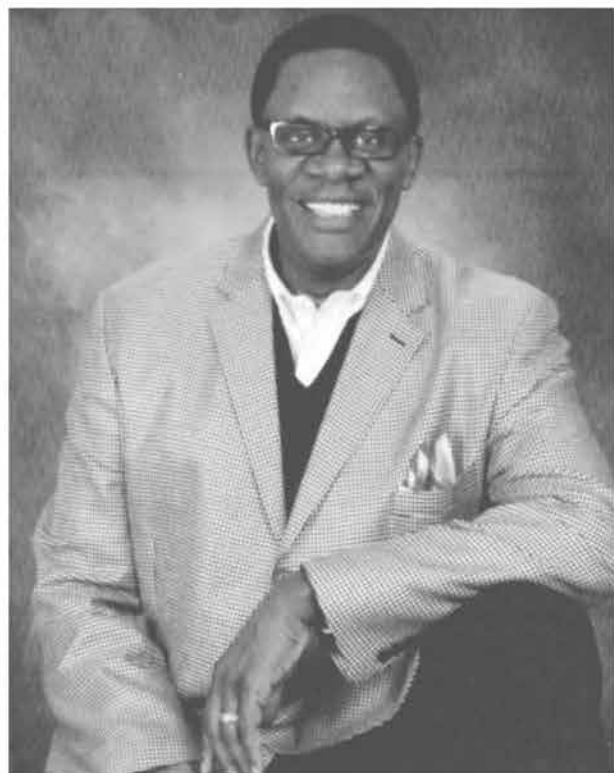
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affect our entire chemistry. Finally, always keep a healthy nervous system. Chiropractic is especially suited for understanding the effect of stress on the nervous system and how to eliminate it. Total fitness can be only a call away and worth so much more than just another pain prescription. Isn’t it time you stepped up to safe effective Chiropractic?

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OPINION

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Abolish the Electoral College, Empower the People

Candidate with most votes should win

BY ROBERT P. ALVAREZ

Senator Elizabeth Warren is hell-bent on dismantling the systems that feed inequality in this country, including the Electoral College.

"Every vote matters," she said at a recent CNN town hall. That's why we should "get rid of the Electoral College" and institute "national voting."

Americans don't directly elect their president — states do. In most cases, states award all of their "electoral votes" to the candidate who wins the popular vote in those states. Whoever gets 270 electoral votes wins the election.

Because electoral votes aren't awarded in perfect proportion to population, small states get more influence over the outcome. Which means you can win the electoral vote even while getting

fewer popular votes than your opponent.



Abolishing the Electoral College would level the playing field. It would ensure that people, not parties or mechanisms, determine who leads the country.

Is that so bad? If you're a Republican, yes.

The Electoral College helped the two most recent Republican presidents — Donald Trump and George W. Bush — win office despite losing the popular vote. Bush lost the popular vote by over half a million, Trump by nearly 3 million.

No wonder Republicans are now up in arms about protecting their advantage. After all, the Electoral College gives disproportionate power to smaller, rural states, which tend to vote for them.

For instance, red Wyoming gets one Electoral College vote per 195,000 people. Blue California gets just one per 712,000 people. In other words, your vote counts nearly 4 times more if you

live in Wyoming.

"Swing states" that don't vote the same way each election also wield disproportionate power, since even a narrow winner will get all of their electoral votes. That's why candidates spend so much time at diners in small-town Iowa and Ohio, rather than New York or Alabama, which vote more predictably for one party.

Seems to me all Senator Warren is calling for is a country that respects its citizens enough to let them choose their own leader — and to do so without some centuries-old electoral mechanism initially designed to inflate the political influence of slaveholders.

Perhaps the most insincere response to Warren's proposal was National Review editor Rich Lowry's.

If the Electoral College "is tantamount to disenfranchisement," he wrote, "California could immediately mitigate the problem by splitting its electoral votes by congressional district the way Nebraska and Maine do... Of

course, California is loath to give up any of its solidly Democratic electoral votes."

I'm sure California would gladly split electoral votes by congressional district the way Nebraska and Maine do, on two conditions.

First, the Supreme Court would have to vanquish partisan gerrymandering to prevent presidential elections from being infected with the same dysfunction currently befalling congressional elections.

And second, the rest of the country would have to agree to divide their electoral votes by the same methodology.

But Lowry doesn't suggest that, because it would spell doom for Republican second place finishers. Were the roles reversed, you can bet your bottom dollar Republicans would be clamoring for an end to this deeply flawed system.

Abolishing the Electoral College is unlikely in the short term. But that doesn't mean Americans have given up on the idea of a direct popular vote.

Fourteen states and D.C. have

joined the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact (NPVIC), agreeing to give their Electoral College votes to whoever wins the national popular vote. Colorado, Delaware, and New Mexico are the latest to join the compact, bringing their collective electoral vote total to 189.

Similar legislation has passed one legislative chamber in eight more states, including Oregon, comprising 72 Electoral College votes, and has been unanimously approved at the committee level in two states, comprising 27 more.

They'll need 270 votes to ensure the winner of the national popular election wins the presidency. Right now that's more likely than a constitutional amendment requiring overwhelming bipartisan support.

Still, there's no getting around the real solution: Abolish the Electoral College so the candidate with the most votes wins.

Robert P. Alvarez works in communications at the Institute for Policy Studies. Distributed by OtherWords.org.

Minimum Wage Hike Would Help 40 Million Workers

It's time for \$15 and a union

BY NEGIN OWLIAEI

Last month, McDonald's announced a dramatic about-face in its political priorities. After years of strikes and protests from labor activists, the burger giant has decided to end its involvement in lobbying campaigns against increasing America's pal-



try \$7.25 federal minimum wage.

It's a big victory for the Fight for \$15.

It's been less than a decade since a few hundred fast-food employees walked off the job to demand a \$15 wage and a union. Now, they're a global movement that's fundamentally changed the conversation on the rights of low-wage workers.

For the most part, federal lawmakers have watched idly while cities and states have boosted

their minimum wages up to \$15. Just last month, Maryland became the sixth state — and the third just this year — to phase in a \$15 minimum wage after lawmakers overrode Republican Gov. Larry Hogan's veto.

But the idea now has more traction in Congress thanks to the recently introduced Raise the Wage Act, which would set a national minimum pay of \$15 an hour by 2024. The legislation would lift pay for almost 40 million workers, the Economic Policy Institute has found.

As the push for higher wages continues to gain steam across the country, the movement promises to keep fighting: Workers greeted the new announcement from Mc-

Donald's with more protests.

It's not enough to decide, they say, that you "wish to advance, not impede" the discussion on a livable wage by simply ending your campaign against an enormously popular policy.

Employees are still calling on the fast food franchise pay \$15 an hour and respect their right to unionize. That's a pretty fair demand, considering their CEO made nearly \$22 million in 2017 — over 3,100 times what the typical McDonald's employee took home that year. They're also continuing their fight to make the company take workplace harassment seriously.

McDonald's is often — and rightfully — portrayed as a villain in the fight for fair wages and workplace protections. But it's also only one player in an economy that continues to tighten its chokehold on anyone who works for a living.

Raising the federal minimum wage is one necessary change we can make to a system that throws endless amounts of money towards the rich while balking at workers' demands to be able to live off their earnings.

How can we begin to imagine the inequity baked into that system?

Take a look at Wall Street's bonus culture to see just how warped our economy has become. Last year, Wall Street employees took home \$27.5 billion in bonuses alone. That pool of money could pay all of the United States' full-time minimum wage workers more than three times over, a new report from the Institute for Policy Studies has found.

Those bonuses mean the average Wall Street employee added \$153,700 to their base pay in 2018 — a truly mind-boggling sum of money that's increased by 1,000 percent since 1985. If the minimum wage had grown at that rate, McDonald's workers would be making over \$33 an hour today.

These staggering numbers go a long way toward illuminating how stark the concentration of wealth and power has become in this country. They also highlight the enormity of the task of remaking our economic system so that it works for everyone, not just CEOs and Wall Street bankers.

But, thanks to Fight for \$15, we've been given a clear place to start: \$15 and a union.

Negin Owliaei is a researcher at the Institute for Policy Studies and a co-editor of *Inequality.org*. Distributed by OtherWords.org.

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OPINION

DIRTY OLD MAN CONTEST:



Standing Up Against the Death Penalty

It should be abolished all across our land

BY MARIAN WRIGHT EDELMAN

California Gov. Gavin Newsom recently took the strong step of declaring a moratorium on the death penalty in California, saying: "Our death penalty system has been, by all measures, a failure. It has discriminated against defendants who are mentally ill, black and brown, or can't afford expensive legal representation. It has provided no public safety benefit or value as a deterrent. It has wasted billions of taxpayer dollars. Most of all, the death penalty is absolute. It's irreversible and irreparable in the event of human error."

California now joins three other states—Oregon, Colorado and Pennsylvania—with gover-

nor-imposed moratoria on the death penalty and the 20 states and the District of Columbia that have already abolished it. I am grateful to Gov. Newsom for being the latest courageous political leader to stand up and reject the death penalty's shameful legacy and continuing toll. It should be abolished all across our land.



The Equal Justice Initiative—led by the Children Defense Fund's extraordinarily gifted board member Bryan Stevenson—continues to be a leading voice against the death penalty and studies the death penalty's historical and ongoing bias.

The group notes how modern death sentences are disproportionately meted out to African Americans accused of crimes against white victims. African Americans make up less than 13 percent of the nation's population but 42 percent of the 2,905 people currently on death

row are black, and 35 percent of those executed since 1976 have been black. The victim was white in over 75 percent of the cases resulting in execution since 1976 although only 50 percent of murder victims nationwide are white." They add: "Prominent researchers have documented a pattern of discrimination in the application of the death penalty based on the race of the victim, race of the defendant, or both, in nearly every state that uses capital punishment."

The Equal Justice Initiative also notes that for every nine people executed in our country one innocent person on death row has been identified and exonerated. They call the death penalty "a failed, expensive policy defined by bias and error" and "a direct descendant of lynching."

They are not the only ones to make this clear connection. One of the Children Defense Fund's much valued colleagues Ndume

Olatushani is a gifted artist and passionate advocate for justice who spent nearly 28 years in prison, 20 of them on death row, before proving he'd been wrongly convicted.

Here is an excerpt from a letter Ndume asked me to send to Gov. Newsom:

"I have been given the privilege of being able to share a part of my story with you, mine is certainly one of hope. But I want to first say that I commend your courage for standing up and doing the right thing and not letting politics determine who lives or dies.

It is we who should thank people like Ndume who share their stories. His 21st century deliverance from condemnation to freedom is a stark reminder of exactly what is at stake today. We need more leaders with the courage to stand up against the death penalty right now.

Marian Wright Edelman is founder and president emerita of the Children's Defense Fund.



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This contract provides for the improvement of * streets within the City of Vancouver including pavement repair, micro-surfacing, milling of roadways, paving of existing roads, minor utility adjustments, striping, *** and other work, all in accordance with the attached Contract Plans, these Contract Provisions, and the Standard Specifications.**

The project shall be physically completed within 25 working days from the Notice to Proceed (NTP) date.

The City of Vancouver in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 78 Stat. 252, 42 U.S.C. 2000d to 2000d-4 and Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, Department of Transportation, subtitle A, Office of the Secretary, Part 21, nondiscrimination in federally assisted programs of the Department of Transportation issued pursuant to such Act, hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises, as defined in 49 CFR part 26, will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, national origin or sex in consideration for an award.

The City of Vancouver is committed to providing equal opportunities to State of Washington certified Minority, Disadvantaged and Women's Business Enterprises in contracting activities. (Section 4 of Chapter 56, Laws of 1975, 1st Ex. Sess., State of Washington).

The contract will require the payment and tracking of federal wages through Davis Bacon and will be subject to regulations of the U.S. Department of Labor. The higher wage rate between the Federal and State rates, at minimum, shall prevail per WAC 296-127-025.

Bidding documents may be examined in Owner's office, Vancouver City Hall, 415 W 6th St, Vancouver Washington. Bidding documents may be obtained from the City of Vancouver Procurement Services website at: <https://vancouver.procurement.com/Bids>. These are available for viewing, downloading and printing on your own equipment, free of charge.

All project-specific questions, requests for clarification, and requests for substitutions must be submitted in writing, via email, by **5:00 PM on APRIL 25, 2019** to Julie Denton, Senior Procurement Specialist, at Julie.Denton@cityofvancouver.us. If required, an addendum will be prepared and issued by the City of Vancouver no later than **APRIL 30, 2019**.

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United Way is hiring a **Chief Development Officer**, responsible for oversight of all aspects of UWCW's resource development strategies and initiatives. This includes maintaining and enhancing current efforts and creating new resource streams through giving campaigns, individual and major donor programs, planned giving, endowment, and in-kind gifts. Hiring range: \$109,293 to \$136,616, DOE. For more info and to apply: www.unitedway-pdx.org/about/careers. Position closes 4/24/19 or when filled. EOE.

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Plan for Wapato

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

eling the site to put up a warehouse for use of his business, Harsch Investment Properties.

If the project doesn't get off the ground soon, Toran believes it would be in jeopardy of never materializing.

According to a summary of the plan, the startup cost includes \$16.4 million to repurpose 85,000 square feet of the site, and a yearly operating cost in excess of \$18 million. Toran has reached out to Multnomah County and the Oregon Legislature to see if they would have any way of providing some of the cost, but hasn't heard back from them yet. She added that once the government funding is secured, she believes local businesses and philanthropists "would be very responsive to the idea."

"What we have said is that if all of the funding streams were to materialize we would have it fully operable by fall of 2020. So that's a fast pace, but I believe it is doable," Toran said.

The renovations would include partitioning some of the open spaces of the facilities, and making the environment more welcoming, family friendly, and

less like a jail, Toran said.

Constructed in 2003 in the far corner of north Portland, the site has never housed a single inmate. Only incidentally has it saw its use for an occasional movie shoot. A 2016 petition to convert the facility to house the homeless drew some support, such as former Multnomah County Commissioner Loretta Smith, but the idea proved unpopular with the other commissioners. In fall 2017, the county sold it to private developer Marty Kehoe for \$10.8 million.

Built by Hoffman Construction, the site already has some amenities that could be used for providing public services, like a medical and dental clinic, and a full kitchen.

Providence Health and Services could possibly co-locate a health clinic there, or set up services for "tele-health," and both University of Portland and Concordia University have expressed interest in extending their respective nursing education programs there, Toran said.

There have also been talks of using it as a general health clinic, in addition to a treatment center, to be used by the estimated 1,700 employees working for different companies in the industrial district of the site's location. Catering for a Cause, VOA's program that teaches job skills through charitable and community catering by enlisting former felons and other people getting back on their feet, could also be expanded there, Toran said.

Toran has known Schnitzer—a prominent philanthropist—for many years, with VOA having given him a DePresit Award for Excellence in 2005. Upon his acceptance of the award, Toran said Schnitzer visited VOA's offices to become more informed of the organization, which in turn, is why he reached out to them for this project, she said.

"I think he has a high level of confidence that if we say something is doable we have reasons to say it," Toran said.

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Getting Ahead with a Degree

Instructor applies life experiences

Usha Ramanujam gets inspired when she talks about her perspective students.

The Portland Community College Business Administration Program instructor knows how an associate degree or short-term certificate from PCC in accounting, can land good positions as payroll specialists, bookkeepers or assistants with accounting responsibilities at law firms, for example.

If they continue their studies at a four-year school, they can become accountants, move up the ranks of management, and earn professional certifications, such as the Certified Public Accountant or Certified Management Accountant.

"They can take these classes and get one step ahead in their education, and it's definitely cheaper," said Ramanujam, who has been at the college since 2005.

At PCC, Ramanujam teaches accounting, which is a core course in the college's business program. In her class, students learn the leading computer application software programs to become proficient in managing accounts and budgets. Once they've completed their studies, they can enter the workforce or transfer to public or private universities like Portland State, Oregon State or



PHOTO COURTESY PORTLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Portland Community College accounting instructor Usha Ramanujam applies life experience to support her students.

Reed College.

Student support is a hallmark of the Business Administration Program, which is offered at all four comprehensive PCC campuses. In addition to teaching, Ramanujam advises students on their academic and professional careers and underscores just how critical it is for students to have the support they need to move through the program and graduate.

"For first-generation college students, feeling supported makes all the difference in the world," she said. "It's time wasted if they get shuffled from one general advisor to another. There are a lot of steps ahead of them, and connecting them to the right people at the right time is crucial."

Ramanujam grew up in the southern state of Tamil Nadu, in India. At the age of 19, she start-


ed working in India while simultaneously earning her first master's degree in business. In 1988, she left India and went on to earn her second master's degree, in accounting, at State University of New York, in Albany.

She found work in IBM's internal audit department, and as an accounting instructor at a New York community college. She moved with her husband to Austin, Texas to work in IBM's microelectronics division before taking time off to raise her children. When they moved again, this time to Portland, she completed the CPA examination.

"With my experience, I definitely know what PCC students are going through," Ramanujam said. "They are working hard to support their families while in college, which I've done myself."



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