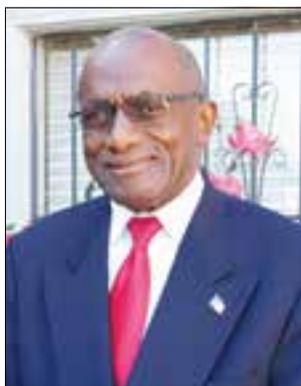




Established in 1970



Running for Mayor

Rev. Willie Banks outlines his priorities

See Local News, page 3

Honoring VETERAN'S DAY



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The Portland Observer



'City of Roses'

www.portlandobserver.com
Wednesday • November 6, 2019

Committed to Cultural Diversity

Volume XLVIII • Number 43



Moses Williams was a highly decorated Buffalo Soldier in the U.S. Army.

Veteran's Day Salute

Buffalo Soldier is buried at Fort Vancouver

Moses Williams (Oct. 10, 1845 – Aug. 23, 1899) was a Buffalo Soldier in the United States Army and a recipient of America's highest military decoration—the Medal of Honor—for actions in the Indian Wars of the western United States.

Williams joined the newly formed 9th Cavalry in October 1866. By Aug. 16, 1881, he was serving in Company I of the 9th Cavalry Regiment when he participated in the Battle of Cuchillo Negro Creek in the Black Range Mountains of New Mexico. For his actions during the fight, Williams was awarded the Medal of Honor 15 years later. His lieutenant, George Ritter Burnett and private Augustus Walley also received the Medal of Honor for their actions in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

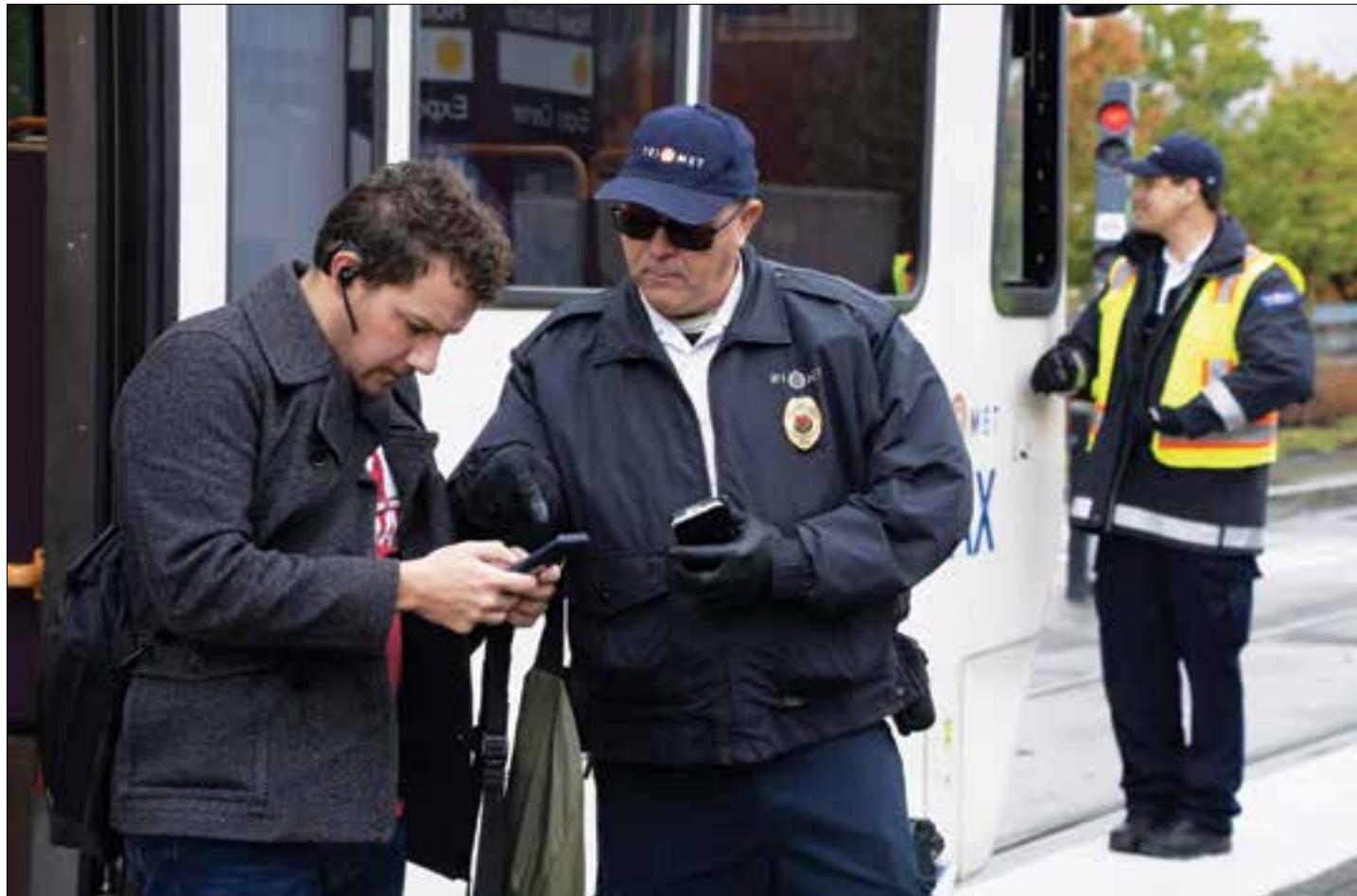


PHOTO COURTESY OF TRIMET

TriMet fare inspectors enforce rules for boarding light rail trains and buses and increase the presence of security on board. But some rider advocates are concerned over plans to hire nine new fare inspectors, saying that will increase unjust stops against poor people and people of color.

TriMet Defends Added Security

Others see fare inspectors as part of the problem

BY BEVERLY CORBELL
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

When TriMet recently announced plans to hire nine more fare inspectors, some activists claimed the move unfairly discriminates against poor people and people of color.

Gabriela Saldana Lopez of Bus Riders Unite, a project of OPAL Environmental Justice, said with increased fare enforcement, TriMet is “spending a lot of money to further criminalize folks.”

Lopez said she believes the public transit agency should lower its fares and even have a fareless system. Last year, Bus Riders Unite played a key role in pushing

TriMet to adopt a new low-income fare program, and its members are now pushing for a completely fareless TriMet system.

“I think they should lower fares and ideally should have a fareless system,” Lopez said.

But that would be impractical, said TriMet spokeswoman Roberta Altstadt, and would result in decreased services. Adding more fare inspectors will actually help riders, she said.

TriMet made its case for more fare inspectors on Twitter last month stating, “We’ve all seen it: somebody not paying their fare. It’s frustrating, especially if you’ve paid yours – complaints about people hoping on board without paying are among the most common we get.”

But more than 900 responses almost unanimously tweeted back that that’s not the case, and agreed with the transit advocates.

“I ride TriMet seven days a week,” stated one tweet. “I can state without a doubt that most frustrating thing I have experienced is fare inspectors harassing people of color and unhoused folks. I mind my own business in re fares, which should be free anyway. I suggest Nosy Nellies do the same.”

Many of the tweets responding to TriMet said much the same thing.

“This does not make me feel any more comfortable or safe,” another post read. “Your fare inspectors constantly target people of color more than anyone else. I have watched your fare inspectors ask people of color for proof of fare and ignore me because I’m white.”

Altstadt pushed back, saying anyone can post something on Twitter, and pointing out that comments from Twitter are not

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

The Portland Observer

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Seraw Musical Tribute Coming

New work a push back against hate

The classical music nonprofit Fear No Music reflects on the first 30 years since the murder of Ethiopian student Mulugeta Seraw on the streets of southeast Portland with an extraordinary multimedia performance coming two days prior to the anniversary of his horrific hate crime death.

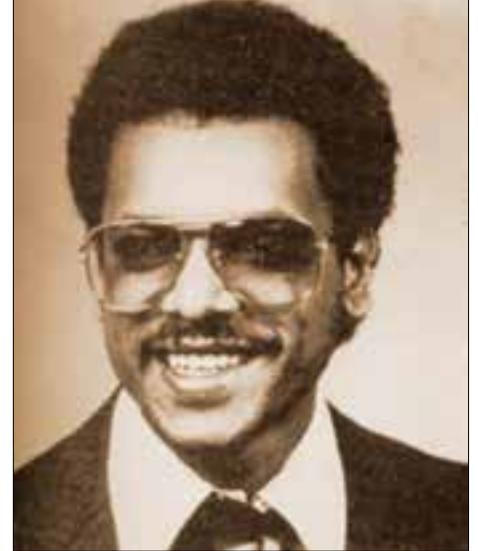
Coming to The Old Church, downtown, on Monday, Nov. 11 at 7:30 p.m., the concert will feature Portland-born, Egyptian-American composer Ryan Francis' new work "Nightwalk," highlighted by a film and performances on clarinet, string quartet, piano and percussion.

The visual component takes you on a walk from Southeast 31st and Pine, the site of Seraw's murder, to the doors of The Old Church, reinforcing the proximity within which we all live to ongoing



Ryan Francis

divisions within our community. Francis created the film component in collaboration with his sister Tracy Cameron Francis, the artistic director of Boom Arts and the festival director for the Cascade Festival of African Films.



Mulugeta Seraw

The concert also is in conjunction with a display of The F Word exhibit, a touring exhibit from The Forgiveness Project, a UK-based organization that uses storytelling to promote personal and community healing and restorative justice.

Health Care Marketplace Opens

Open enrollment for Affordable Care Act health insurance coverage in 2020 started on Nov. 1 and runs through Dec. 15. Residents can sign up for a health insurance plan at healthcare.gov.

The marketplace provides access to private insurance for residents who

don't have health insurance through their employer and also provides access to the Oregon Health Plan — the state's version of Medicaid — to families and individuals that meet certain income requirements.

According to the state website [\[care.oregon.gov\]\(http://care.oregon.gov\), the Oregon Health Plan provides free coverage to people who meet income and residency requirements as well as factors such as age and disability status. Coverage includes doctor visits, hospital care, mental health services, dental and some vision care.](http://health-</p>
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The Week in Review

Sportswear Matriarch Dies



Gert Boyle, the longtime Portland resident and chairwoman of Columbia Sportswear, and a national icon for her image as "one tough mother" in advertising the multi-brand company, has died at age 95, the company announced Monday. Boyle was a pioneer for women in what was a male-dominated industry.

Twitter to Reject Political Ads

Reacting to growing concern about misinformation spread on social media, Twitter announced last week that it is banning all political advertising from its service. Its move sets it apart from Facebook, which continues to defend running paid political ads, even false ones, as a free speech priority.

Sentenced 10 Years for Attack

A Portland man, Jerry Desources, 40, was sentenced to 10 years in prison last week for kidnapping and sexually abusing a yoga studio business owner in downtown Portland last year. Prosecutors called the attack particularly heinous with the victim having to fight for her life.



Impeachment Inquiry Approved

A bitterly divided House of Representatives with Democrats on one side and Republicans on the other voted on Thursday

to endorse the impeachment inquiry into President Trump, setting up a critical new public phase. It was only the third time in modern history that the House had taken a vote on an impeachment inquiry into a sitting president.

Fund for Slave Descendants

Georgetown University announced last week will create a fund that could generate close to \$400,000 a year to benefit the descendants of slaves once sold by the university, the latest in the school's efforts to address the historical legacy of slavery. In 1838, the university sold 272 slaves to pay off debts and ultimately keep the school open.

Diplomat Now Admits Quid Pro Quo

In a significant reversal, top US diplomat and former Portland hotelier Gordon Sondland revised his testimony to impeachment investigators Monday to admit there was a quid pro quo linking US aid to Ukraine with an investigation into President Donald Trump's political rivals.

Blues Scene Voice Dies

Steve Pringle, long a key voice in the Portland blues scene, died Sunday at age 56, of cancer. A message posted to a GoFundMe page dedicated to helping raise money for costs associated with his care said that Pringle died "surrounded by friends and family in the comfort of his own home." Pringle spent years hosting blues shows on KINK-FM and KGON-FM.



FREE COMMUNITY EVENT

SAFE HOMES! HEALTHY HOMES!

Friday, November 8th, 2019
2:00 - 5:00PM | 714 NE Alberta St.

- ▲ Free produce (while supplies last)
- ▲ Holiday crafts
- ▲ Sharps/needle & medication disposal
- ▲ Indoor air quality tips
- ▲ Tour the inside of an actual ambulance
- ▲ Insurance enrollment assistance
- ▲ Free flu shots
- ▲ Immunization info
- ▲ GREAT PRIZES and FOOD!

For more information, call 503.946.5680 or stop by North by Northeast Community Health Center.

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FACEBOOK: PROTECTING THE FREEDOM TO LIE AND DECEIVE



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LOCAL NEWS



PHOTO BY BEVERLY CORBELL/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Rev. Willie Banks, a long time African American community advocate, has announced plans to run for mayor of Portland in the May 2020 Primary.

Running for Mayor

Rev. Willie Banks outlines his priorities

BY BEVERLY CORBELL
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Rev. Willie Banks has long been active in supporting Portland's African American community, but he's fed up with local government, so he's running for mayor of Portland in 2020.

"What got me is the city has used people of color as a token, and only call us when they want us to do something," he said. "When they did the reconstruction in northeast Portland and pushed black folks out, they have used people of color to gain their wealth and used people of color to pay taxes, and that's all they really care about."

Banks recently lost his wife

Earnestine, but said that he's running in her memory.

"She was such a sweet wife to me, and every time I see her picture, it motivates me," he said.

Banks' top priority as mayor would be to reduce poverty in Portland. Over a decade and more, he established a foundation and resource for legal help in Portland to help the disadvantaged and named both efforts in honor of civil rights icon Rosa Parks, work he said has saved people \$3.5 million in real estate foreclosures and rental assistance since 2000. He said the public service mission has also generated holiday food baskets for poor families and supported educational programs.

The most evident sign of poverty is all the homeless people sleeping on Portland streets, Banks said, and he's disgusted that not more is being done.

"We need to stop beating

around the bush and do what we can for these people and get them back into the neighborhoods," he said. "We've got empty buildings all over the city. We seem to push homeless people around like we're pushing a buggy. We need to realize that they are human beings too."

Banks says he gained experience looking out for other people when he was president of the National Federation of Federal Employees for 20 years.

"I dealt with grievances and firings and prepared a bargaining agreement with management to make sure everything affecting working people was addressed," he said.

Banks, who is also pastor at the New Beginnings Church of God in Christ, said he is also unhappy about the cost of having a

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Free Flu Shots at Legacy

Free flu shots are available to the community this month while supplies last at three Portland Legacy locations: From 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at Legacy Emanuel Medical Center; from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesdays, Thursdays (except Thanksgiving) and Saturdays at Randall Children's Hospital at Legacy Emanuel; and from 11

a.m. to 3 p.m. Sundays and Tuesdays at the Legacy Holladay Park campus.

No payment or insurance required. Those under 15 years old require a guardian present. Vaccine options will meet every need: Egg-free, high-dose, preservative-free, latex-free and 4-strain.

Health officials say they have started to see cases of flu in Ore-

gon. They recommend everyone 6 months and older get a flu vaccine.

People who get vaccinated not only protect themselves but may also protect those around them. People at higher risk of severe illness include babies and young children, adults older than 65, pregnant women, and those with chronic medical conditions or weak immune systems.

Free Admission Veterans Day!
Sponsored by Wells Fargo
ohs.org/righttofight

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On exhibit at the Oregon Historical Society through January 12, 2020

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LOCALLY PRESENTED BY: **CULTURAL TRUST PARTNER Oregon Community Foundation KGW8 OPB**

Veteran's Day Salute

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

this battle.

Williams became one of the first African-American Ordnance Sergeants in 1886, and starting in 1895, served at Fort Stevens on the Oregon Coast, where he was charged with the care of large coastal gun emplacements. He retired in May 1898 and died the next year at the age of 53. At the time, he had nine books, a pipe, a cigar holder, some stamps, a pen, pen points, his bed, some

chairs, some neckties, and \$23 to his name. He was buried in Fort Vancouver Military Cemetery in Vancouver.

The story of Moses Williams is from the Buffalo Soldiers of the Pacific Northwest Documentary, a soon-to-be-released production produced and directed by local filmmaker Dru Holley about the historical all-black cavalry and infantry regiments and their influence on U.S. military history and how that legacy is being kept alive today.

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Need health insurance?

CareOregon's goMobile Team makes it easy for you to get dental, mental and physical health care under the Oregon Health Plan (OHP). Our community partners host us on these dates, where we can check your eligibility for OHP, enroll you in Medicaid/OHP and make your doctor appointments!

CLACKAMAS COUNTY

- Beavercreek Clinic Free Food Market**
110 Beavercreek Rd, Oregon City
November 5 ... 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
- Clackamas Service Center**
8800 SE 80th Ave, Portland
November 12 .. 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
- Mulino Child Develop Coalition**
13700 S Freeman Rd, Mulino
November 19 .. 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
- Orchid Health Center**
535 NE 6th Ave, Estacada
November 15 .. 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

WASHINGTON COUNTY

- Beaverton City Library**
12375 SW 5th St, Beaverton
November 13 1-3 p.m.

MULTNOMAH COUNTY

- Department of Human Services: Alberta Office**
30 N Webster St, Suite A, Portland
November 5 ... 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
- Department of Human Services: East County**
11826 NE Glisan St, Portland
November 1 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
- Department of Human Services: SE Malden**
8129 SE Malden St, Portland
November 12 1-3 p.m.
- OHSU Health Equity Fair**
Director's Park, 815 SW Park Ave, Portland
November 16 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Open Hours at CareOregon**
315 SW 5th Ave, Portland
November 4 9-11 a.m.
November 11 9-11 a.m.
November 18 9-11 a.m.
November 25 9-11 a.m.
- Portland Rescue Mission: Burnside Shelter**
111 W Burnside, Portland
November 14 8-10 a.m.
- PSU Free Food Market**
1914 SW Park Ave, Portland
In front of Shattuck Hall
November 18 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
- Rosehaven**
627 NW 18th Ave, Portland
November 4 2-3:30 p.m.
- Transition Projects Laurelwood Center**
6130 SE Foster Rd, Portland
November 21 1-3 p.m.
- Union Gospel Mission**
3 NW 3rd Ave, Portland
November 26 2-4 p.m.



SNAP assistance available at ALL locations

Sunday, Nov. 10
6:00-8:00 p.m.
at Augustana Lutheran Church

Benefit Jazz/Gospel Concert with the

Ezra Weiss 18-member Big Band, featuring Marilyn Keller

All proceeds to benefit Immigrant Families Together

Suggested donation \$20
All are welcome with any size donation.

The Augustana Jazz Quartet will also play.
Doors at 5:00 p.m.

Augustana Lutheran Church
2710 NE 14th Ave
Rev. Dr. W. J. Mark Knutson

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careoregon.org/gomobile



TriMet Defends Added Security

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

balanced.

"We do hear from people who say they're paying their fair share and playing by the rules but they want more security," she said. "They just want to be able to take transit to and from their jobs and do so without being disruptive."

Lopez argues that instead of adding more fare inspectors, TriMet should redefine those jobs.

"Instead of fare enforcers, what we would want to see them do is advocate for riders," she said. "We want to push those nine folks to become better rider advocates to provide resources, support and de-escalate situations. We would like to redefine those jobs."

But Altstadt said the new fare inspectors plan to do many of those things.

"These teams out there on a daily basis enforcing TriMet code and for an added presence of security on board. We have complaints where (riders) don't see people they could reach out for help," she said. "We are also making sure everybody is following the rules for a more friendly environment to ride in. Teams will work in specific areas so get to know the riders and riders get to know them and



PHOTO COURTESY OF TriMET

TriMet is making the case for more fare inspectors. Teams will work in specific areas to enforce TriMet code and for an added presence of security on board.

they can help riders with directions and more," she said.

According to TriMet's most recent rider phone survey of 807 people, 44 percent strongly agreed that TriMet should enforce fares, but just 2 percent were concerned about the lack of enforcement.

Altstadt said TriMet's fare evasion rate of 18 percent is higher than the national average and it's a misconception that those who skip on fares can't afford them.

"Some concern has been raised that this is supposedly targeting those that have trouble affording transit. It's not," she said. "We do

a fare evasion survey where we ask those who didn't pay why, and only 2.3 percent say couldn't afford it. They say they were just chancing it."

For those who are struggling financially, TriMet offers discount or "honored citizen" fares for the elderly, disabled, those on

Medicare or Medicaid, or who make up to 200 percent of federal poverty levels, Altstadt said.

The fare citation process has also been eased in that people have 90 days to go through TriMet to pay a fine and avoid going to court, and if they qualify for the discounted fare, the ticket is voided.

"We had to go to the state legislature to change the citation process to bring the punishment more in line with the violation and brought citations in-house," she said.

Another issue is "a lack of vision and oversight" at TriMet, according to a report from the rider advocates in light of a private memo from TriMet's Bernie Bottomly that TriMet objects to service enhancement dollars coming from a 2020 Metro funding package.

"This, despite ongoing community outcry for enhanced transit service to fill gaps, reach all schools and underserved neighborhoods in the region, and the clear need to reverse declining ridership," the report states.

The rider advocates also state that TriMet plans to increase fares in the future, which Lopez said will negatively impact ridership.

"Some at TriMet foresee a future where ridership declines and fares go up," she said. "Bus Riders Unite sees just the opposite. We want fares to go down."



At the **Oregon Department of Transportation**, we want to take time this Veterans Day to acknowledge the sacrifices of our past and present service members. Among these sacrifices is the economic loss suffered by those who have served our country. ODOT recruitment recognizes this sacrifice through the state's veterans' preference program.

Veterans' preference is a way for us to give back to veterans, and it is an opportunity for us to welcome the valuable experience of veterans and develop an outstanding ODOT workforce. Eligible veterans who meet the qualifications for a position will benefit from veterans preference. As an ODOT employee, you will have the opportunity every day to pursue our mission of providing a safe and reliable transportation system that connects Oregon's people and communities, and helps our economy thrive. We are an award-winning organization more than 4,700 employees strong. There are ways to support this mission in locations across our state. Bring your skills and develop new ones through a variety of opportunities from program and administrative support to engineering and highway maintenance. In any of these roles, you will continue to make a difference to your fellow citizens.

All this work is guided by our core values of integrity, safety, equity, excellence and unity. These values have helped us achieve national recognition, and guide us as we provide outstanding customer service to Oregonians and use innovative program design and technologies to solve transportation problems.

We invite members of all diverse communities to join us as we endeavor to best serve Oregonians from every background. ODOT values diversity and inclusion because they are good for Oregon. We believe that by welcoming differences, encouraging new ideas and views, listening to and learning from each other, and providing opportunities for professional enrichment we are better able to serve those around us.

On this Veterans Day, we want to thank all service members and their families for their sacrifice. We also invite you to start a new journey at odotjobs.com.



Wall of Honor Unveiling

A Medal of Honor Wall will be unveiled Saturday, Nov. 8 at 10 a.m. during a public Veterans Day weekend dedication ceremony at the Portland, Oregon Military Entrance Processing Station, 7545 N.E. Ambassador Place. The memorial will recognize 15 Medal of Honor recipients from Oregon and bring a new focal point to remember all those who have processed into the military from Oregon and their bravery.



Traditions to Honor Veterans

In honor of Veteran's Day, you're invited to join the Historic Trust and city of Vancouver for the 33rd Annual Lough Legacy Veterans' Parade, Saturday, Nov. 9 at 11 a.m. at Fort Vancouver National Site and proceeding to downtown Vancouver. Over 100 groups plan

to participate to recognize and honor our veterans in the parade.

Also on Saturday, the Community Military Appreciation Committee invites the public to honor veterans at an open house from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Hudson's Bay High School, 1601 E. McLoughlin Blvd., showcasing businesses and organizations that employ or support veterans. There will be interactive and static exhibits, free hot dogs, chips, ice cream and coffee. C-Tran will be offering shuttle service between downtown Vancouver and Hudson's Bay High School every 15 minutes.

A Vancouver tradition is the city's annual Veterans Parade. This year's festivities are held on Saturday, Nov. 9 starting at 11 a.m. from the Fort Vancouver National Site and proceeding to downtown Vancouver.

ZooLights

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Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



PHOTO COURTESY JEREMY JEZIORSKI/PORTLAND'S

A new holiday tradition in Portland brings back 'The Hip Hop Nutcracker,' performed by a super-charged cast of a dozen all-star dancers and MC Kurtis Blow, one of hip hop's founding fathers who opens the show with a short set.

The Hip Hop Nutcracker

"The Hip Hop Nutcracker" returns to Portland and for a better than ever show.

The contemporary dance spectacle set to Tchaikovsky's timeless music is performed by a cast of a dozen all-star dancers, a DJ, a violinist, and MC Kurtis Blow, one

of hip hop's founding fathers, who opens the show with a short set.

The dynamic show takes you on a journey that celebrates love, community and the magic of the holiday season through the modern, self-expressive gaze of hip hop culture.

Two performances will take place at Keller Auditorium, downtown, Tuesday, Nov. 12 and Wednesday, Nov. 13. Tickets are on sale now at portland5.com, the Portland's Centers for the Arts box office at 1111 S.W. Broadway, and by phone: 800-273-1530.



Shoppers are drawn to the diverse and multicultural 'My People's Market,' a rotating series of pop up retail events to advance new market opportunities for business owners of color. The next 'My People's Market' is coming this weekend to Self Enhancement, Inc. at 3920 N. Kerby Ave.

Tables set for 'My People's Market'

Business owners of color present the next installment of "My People's Market," a pop up wholesale product and lifestyle trade show coming this weekend to Self Enhancement, Inc., 3920 N. Kerby Ave.

You can avoid the crowds during a preview party to include happy hour offers and a \$10 admission on Friday, Nov.

8 from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. The next day, Saturday, Nov. 9 the full day market opens as a free event, from noon to 7 p.m.

The market will feature more than 50 Portland area businesses of color, makers, crafters and culinary wizards. Featured categories include packaged food and beverage products, health and beauty, home goods, stationery,

children's products, and jewelry.

Launched in November 2017 and organized by Travel Portland and Prosper Portland, the city's economic development agency, My People's Market grew from a desire to create pathways for entrepreneurs of color to connect with the travel industry and new market opportunities.

THE SPINA COLUMN™

An ongoing series of questions and answers about America's natural healing profession.

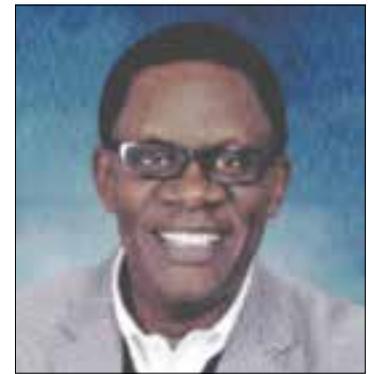
Part 15

Back Pain:

Why "oh, my aching back" has become such a popular phrase.

Q: I always know when my back hurts. But I rarely know why.

A: Statistics tell us 80% of all men, women, and children will experience back pain in their lives. Chiropractors can also tell you why. There are, for example, several mechanical malfunctions that cause back pain. Among them are: Direct pinching on the nerve. This is the reason many people give for their back pain, but in fact, "pinched nerves" only account for about 10% of it. Edema (swelling) This occurs from inflammation due to simple strain or subluxation. Fixation. This is yet another component of what 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.



Dr. Billy R. Flowers

By eliminating the components of the subluxation complex and allowing the central nervous system to function the way nature intended, we Chiropractors not only relieve your back pain symptoms, we remove the cause. Without drugs. Without surgery. Without doubt.

TCall 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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Jennifer Lanier (left) and Brittany K. Allen in "Redwood" at Portland Center Stage The Armory.

Photo by Russell J. Young/Portland Center Stage

Race and Truths Unfold in 'Redwood'

OPINIONATED JUDGE

BY
DARLEEN ORTEGA



There are some deep questions hidden in plain sight for Americans about how each of us is connected to everyone else. For white people especially, it's not polite to ask those questions, so they have little practice doing it. For those of us who are black, indigenous and people of color, the answers can also be dangerous. The world premiere of "Redwood," which just opened at Portland Center Stage at the Armory, aims to surface some of those questions with a lightly comic look at what happens when the genealogy search undertaken by a black woman's curious uncle reveals that her white boyfriend's ancestors enslaved her ancestors and that the two lovers are,

in ways they would never have imagined, *related*.

Playwright and star Brittany K. Allen means to surface a lot that even the most "woke" among us are not accustomed to grappling with. In the Portland Center Stage's world premiere production, it both works and doesn't work that some of the cast members seem to be struggling to hold their pieces of the story; at moments I couldn't tell how much of that was intentional and how much were having trouble holding the discomfort of their characters' journeys. Conversations between Meg (Allen) and her mom (Jennifer Lanier) and between Meg and

her boyfriend Drew (Nick Ferrucci) sometimes had a distractingly awkward rhythm.

The cast members who hold the rhythm of this story best, as it turns out, are four who move between multiple roles, functioning as a kind of chorus in the end, and often are on stage only to move. One of Allen's smartest choices in crafting the play is to punctuate the dramatic action with interludes of hip-hop dancing; four cast members enter the action to dance or do yoga, and are fully in their bodies and in connected, powerful rhythm. Meg's uncle Stevie (Tyrone Mitchell Henderson, funny and facile), whose ancestry search sets the play's events in motion, sometimes joins them, often awkwardly and a bit out of step. Henderson adroitly captures the challenge of entering the flow of the truth of shared connections.

American life as we have conceived it does not prepare us to me-

tabolize and embody much of what is true, as Allen's play reveals. At best, we can talk around the edges, including among our closest relatives. Even before Stevie uncovers the difficult connections between Drew and Meg's family, Meg and her mother react differently to the prospect of exploring the past; mom doesn't see the point and evinces familiar (if somewhat unexamined) signs of lifelong discomfort with holding a family history of enslavement. Meg is not, perhaps, as afraid as she should be; a millennial whose reactions evince familiarity with anti-racist, anti-colonization concepts, she little expects to learn anything that will challenge her own sense of agency.

But challenged she is, and so is Drew, whose white family has good progressive credentials. He fumbles for the right words to say when Stevie confronts him with their shared family history and calls his own father to inquire

about his familiarity with their legacy as enslavers. Dad (Orion Bradshaw, on point as dad and also dancing hip-hop) classically dodges the question as one that is not polite to ask. Case closed.

And yet, dad also evinces some health problems, including gout—not like what homeless people get, he is at pains to point out. Gout is apparently caused by an excess of acid in the blood; my read would be that dad's body is evincing some signs of struggle with the family's unmetabolized history. His Korean-American wife Hattie, whose energy is clearly absorbed with caring for him ("I have to cream your dad's foot," she interjects more than once), is able to hold more curiosity, even if it's not as focused as it could be. As played by Ashley Mellinger (another of the dancers), her facility evinces some practice at navigat-

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OPINION



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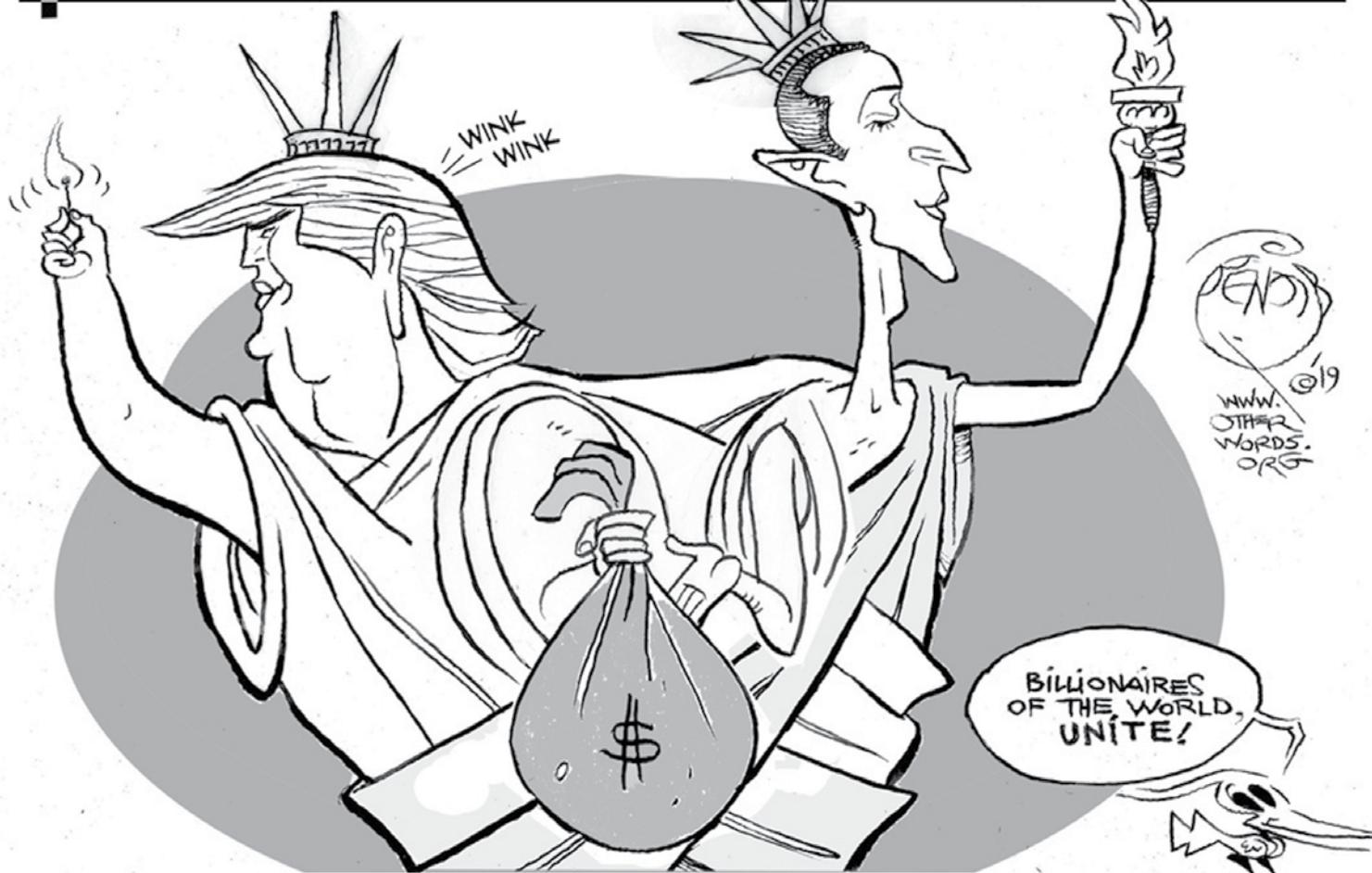
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Don't Call the Police, Call Your Neighbors

Finding new ways to handle crisis situations

BY GLORIA OLADIPO

Here is a hard truth: Police do not keep communities safe.

This year alone has produced numerous stories of officers causing distress, damage, or death in communities they're sworn to protect. As this epidemic worsens, communities need to find new ways to handle crisis situations without police intervention.

Modern U.S. police forces evolved from watch systems developed in the early colonies, which were gradually professionalized after the emergence of cities — and the rise of slavery. In the South, these forces were used as “slave patrols,” tasked with catching runaway slaves and squashing uprisings.

The role of police has greatly expanded since then, with officers intervening in everything from mental health crises to routine schoolyard incidents. With police now receiving military-grade weapons and often legally insulated from accountability, citizens



are at the mercy of choices officers make — decisions that may be made under extreme distress or tainted with bias.

Black Americans are most at risk. Compared to other demographics, we face a significantly higher risk of being killed by police. Just this year black Americans have been killed sitting unarmed in their homes, playing video games with family members, and engaging in other everyday activities.

But we aren't alone. In rural communities, fatal encounters with police officers are also increasing, yet widely unreported. That's one reason Western states like New Mexico, Oklahoma, Arizona, Alaska, and Wyoming, as well as other largely rural states like West Virginia, are among the top in the country for officer-involved shootings.

Jack Yantis, a white, 62-year-old Idaho rancher, was shot to death in 2015 after arriving to put down a wounded bull that had been struck by a car. It was the police themselves who'd called Yantis to the scene, yet they shot him 12 times after he arrived with his rifle.

Meanwhile, the opioid crisis is leading to a greater police presence in rural communities, which

has had serious consequences. In many places, police are using military-style SWAT teams to investigate people merely suspected of drug crimes, resulting in serious injuries and deaths.

Indigenous and Latinix people also face higher risks of police misconduct and abuse. And across all racial communities, people with mental illness and low-income people are at risk.

This affects everyone. That's why communities — all of us — need to come together to investigate alternatives to police intervention.

It's not as strange an idea as it sounds. Several community organizations have already created guides empowering communities to solve problems without contacting law enforcement.

The May Day Collective, which describes itself as “a group of local organizers from different communities, projects, and political tendencies,” has developed a guide identifying “strong communities” as a replacement for police intervention.

Their guidelines encourage community members, before contacting law enforcement, to:

1) Analyze the actual threat in a given situation. If someone is committing a minor public nuisance like urinating, for example,

does that pose a serious physical, emotional or mental threat to you or someone else?

2) Recognize and call out biases. Is your impulse to call the police based on the situation, or is it something based on the person's identity?

3) Seek out other available resources — like hotlines, community centers, etc. — that you can call instead during emergency situations.

The guidelines also call on neighbors to get to know each other prior to conflicts in an effort to increase direct communication, instead of using armed police as mediators.

Obviously, in some situations, calling police may still occur. But by understanding the often dire consequences of calling them in, we can be a lot more mindful about whether circumstances truly demand it.

Even better, we can develop the relationships and skills necessary to solve problems with one another, helping to build safe and accountable communities for everyone.

Gloria Oladipo is a student at Cornell University and a permanent resident of Chicago. She can be found writing and fighting @gaoladipo on Twitter. Distributed by OtherWords.org

CLASSIFIED/BIDS

SUB BIDS REQUESTED

Portland International Airport (PDX) Parking Additions and Consolidated Rental Car Facility (PACR)

Bid Package 12 – Interior Finishes and Site Improvements

JE Dunn Construction invites written Bids from qualified Trade Partners to provide construction services for the following scopes of work on the PACR project:

- Overhead Doors and Grilles
- Acoustic Baffle Ceilings and Wall Panels
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Bidding Documents may be viewed and/or obtained electronically on SmartBid through a Bid Invitation issued by the Contractor.

To be issued a Bid Invitation, contact Robert Means at:
Robert.Means@jedunn.com.

Bids due 2:00pm PST November 15th, 2019

Bids may be delivered by email to Robert.Means@jedunn.com. Any Bid received after the specified date and time will not be considered.

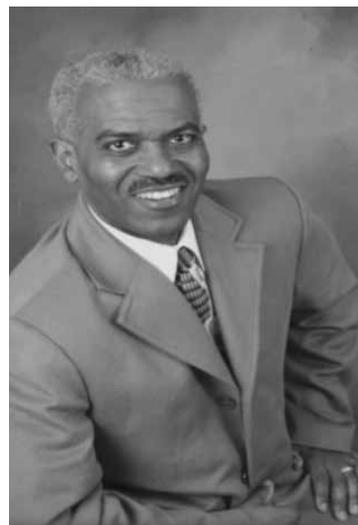
PACR has MWVESB participation goals of 10% for design and 15% for construction.

A non-mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be located at Portland International Airport Conference Center, located at 7000 NE Airport Way, Portland, OR 97218 in the Multnomah Conference Room on **Wednesday, October 30th, at 1:00pm** for the purpose of answering any questions from prospective Bidders. Attendance is strongly encouraged. No other Pre-Bid Conference will be held.



JE Dunn Construction reserves the right to select the best value response, negotiate with multiple bidders, or reject all responses. This is an Equal Opportunity and encourages Minority, Woman, Veteran, and Emerging Small Business participation.

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Running for Mayor

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

car towed in Portland, which can reach hundreds of dollars and disproportionately affects senior citizens and people of color.

"I would encourage the city not

to tow people's cars," he said. "It needs to come to a stop. They can give them a ticket but leave the car. The city is not fair."

Banks plans to go door-to-door during his campaign, but he also plans to get more homeless peo-

ple and senior citizens registered to vote.

"You rich people look out," he said. "If I can get seniors and homeless people to support me, I will win this race."

For more information or to reach Banks, you can email Rosaparkslegalclinic@gmail.com or call 971-276-6437.

Race and Truths Unfold

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

ing the complex waters that connect her truth with her husband's.

Allen wisely doesn't attempt to solve the dilemmas her play serves up. If we think about it in the way she clearly hopes we do, we will realize that even if we don't find this direct a connection in an ancestry search, a courageous investigation of our shared history will uncover truth just this painful and awkward. As Allen has expressed,

"a major goal of the play is to acknowledge the hugeness of any family's tree and show how we are all of us in America tangled up in one another." She clearly means to leave us with reason to hope, but she has also captured how even facility with language and analysis around race doesn't prepare us to hold the truth in our bodies. The cast members who dance in this production (including Andrea Vernae, whose other roles include the black family's matriarch, Al-

ameda, and Charles Grant) hold it best; this play is offering clues about the challenge of embodying the truth of our shared connections.

"Redwood" is now playing at Portland Center Stage at the Armory through Nov. 17.

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

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PHOTO BY ROY LEWIS/TRICE EDNEY NEWS

Museum Expansion

A recent groundbreaking in the nation's capital shows the prototype for a new giant statue of Abraham Lincoln signing the Emancipation Proclamation to sit outside a renovated and expanded African American Civil War Museum, an institution recognizing the contributions of African-American soldiers ending slavery and keeping America united under one flag. Pictured are D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser (left) and Dr. Frank Smith, executive director of the museum.

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