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## Humanity Shines in "Sweat"

*A timely insight into today's economic woes*

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# The Portland Observer

Volume XLVIV • Number 4



'City of Roses'

www.portlandobserver.com  
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Committed to Cultural Diversity

## Putting Kids and Families First



PHOTO BY BEVERLY CORBELL/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Bahia Overton, the new executive director of Portland's Black Parent Initiative, has only been on the job since Jan. 3, but has big plans for the nonprofit.

### Bahia Overton is the new leader for Black Parent Initiative

BY BEVERLY CORBELL  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A frequent problem facing teachers, social workers and others providing resources to African-American children and their families is a lack of cultural awareness, since most of them — in the whitest major city in America — are white, which

can lead to unintentionally missing cultural clues.

Bahia Overton, the new executive director of Portland's Black Parent Initiative, has been on the job for less than a month, but her direction is clear: To improve the cultural awareness social workers and others have in providing resources to the black community and grow support for programs the group sponsors to help black kids and black families become successful.

The Black Parent Initiative has been helping families attain educational success for their children while also helping the en-

tire family achieve financial, educational and spiritual growth since its founding in 2006.

Programs start at birth, with BPI's Sacred Roots Doula program, where trained professionals help families through the entire birthing process, from pre-natal counseling to home visits after the baby is born.

The agency also offers breastfeeding and lactation education and support, including home visits. The idea is for African American women to have the best possible circumstances for bringing babies into the world, and then to prepare them for edu-

cating their children to eventually become self-sufficient adults.

Overton, whose first name is pronounced Ba-HEE-ah, said BPI also offers employment and financial counseling and even provides help with in setting up bank accounts including a nest egg to help people get started.

"We try to help families with employment instability to become stabilized through coaching, and we partner with Worksystems Inc., Portland Public Schools,

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PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/PORTLAND OBSERVER

## Annual MLK Protest Fills Street

*Hundreds of people take to the street on Martin Luther King Day Monday to fight racism, gun violence and discrimination in an annual Reclaim MLK protest sponsored by the local civil rights organization Don't Shoot. No permits were sought and traffic was temporarily blocked. The protesters carried signs, including ones that said, "Black Lives Matter" and "Justice for Quanice Hayes."*



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## The Week in Review

### Impeachment Trial Begins

The Senate impeachment trial of President Donald Trump got into full swing on Tuesday with senators mapping out how to conduct the proceeding before hearing opening arguments. Minority Leader Chuck Schumer said in a statement the "real test" will be if Republicans allow witnesses and documents.

### Poll on Racism and Trump

More than eight in 10 African Americans believe President Donald Trump is racist and that he has contributed to making racism a bigger problem in the U.S, according to a new Washington Post-Ipsos poll. The survey, released Friday, also finds that nine in 10 black Americans say they disapprove of Trump's job performance.

### Aircraft Carrier Named for Sailor

The U.S. Navy announced Sunday that it's naming an aircraft carrier after World War II hero Doris Miller, making him the first African-American to have an aircraft carrier named in his or her honor. Miller is noted for his heroics during the 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor.



### Fire Bureau Official Attacked

Police said an off-duty Portland Fire & Rescue lieutenant was assaulted with a knife in an unprovoked attack while at the Kingston restaurant in southwest Portland Sunday. The suspect was lat-

er identified from surveillance cameras as Carroll McClendon, 30.



### Memorial for Children Killed

A large crowd packed the auditorium at Vestal Elementary in the Montavilla neighborhood Thursday to remember Lola and William Stiles, the two Portland children who died Jan. 11 after being swept away by a high tide wave while on an outing with their family on the Oregon Coast.

### Kids' Climate Suit Dismissed

A federal appeals court on Friday threw out a heavily promoted but long-shot lawsuit by an Oregon-based group of children and teenagers trying to force the federal government to take action to address the climate crisis. The 2-1 ruling says the children must look to the political branches -- Congress and the executive branch -- for action, rather than the courts.

### Sued over Food Stamps Cuts

Oregon joined 15 states and New York City last week in a lawsuit to stop the Trump administration from eliminating food assistance for nearly 700,000 Americans. The lawsuit challenges a rule that would limit states' ability to extend food stamp benefits in places where jobs are scarce.



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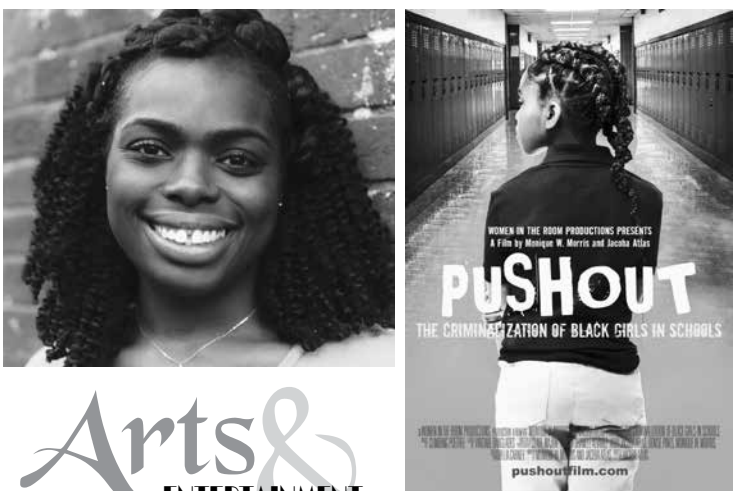


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# LOCAL NEWS



An artist's rendering shows proposed caps over I-5 in the Rose Quarter area that could only support a park or plaza. The Oregon Department of Transportation will now consider making the caps suitable to hold buildings after complaints by advocates for the African American community who want buildable lots to restore historic displacement going back decades.

## Back to the Drawing Board

ODOT to consider buildable lots over I-5

BY BEVERLY CORBELL  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The proposed widening of I-5 in the Rose Quarter area to include new access roads and freeway caps has received a lot of press lately, as state and local governments and community leaders de-



Winta Yohannes

bate how to help heal the destruction of much of the old Albina neighborhood more than 50 years ago. The estimated cost of adding a 1.7-mile-long lane in both directions already has risen dramatically, adding about \$295 million to the 2017 estimate of \$500 million, but could go higher if buildable caps are added to the plans.

The caps or covers are meant to reconnect the community that was destroyed when hundreds of Albina neighborhood homes and

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**

## 'Squad' Progressive to Talk Housing

U.S. Rep. Rashida Tlaib, a voice for the most progressive wing of the Democratic Party and one of three new African American members of Congress who have gained notice for being members of 'The Squad,' will be in Portland Saturday to address housing justice.

Rep. Earl Blumenauer, Portland's representative in Congress, is bringing Tlaib to Jefferson High School in north Portland to hold an open forum to discuss solutions for the country's most vexing housing challenges. It will begin at 1:30 p.m., Jan. 25 in the Jeffer-



U.S. Rep. Rashida Tlaib

son High School auditorium.

As a progressive champion for social justice, Tlaib uses her po-

sition on the Financial Services Committee to advocate for fair housing policies, and Blumenauer has long been an advocate for affordable housing, addressing homelessness and ending housing discrimination.

The two representatives have partnered on legislation along with other progressive members of Congress to address the government's failed federal housing policy, which provides housing for some at the expense of others.

The forum is open to the public, but registration is requested at blumenauer.house.gov.



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# Back to the Drawing Board

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businesses were bulldozed for the new interstate in 1962 and the construction of Veterans Memorial Coliseum. Just what form the caps will take -- whether they will just be open space or suitable for building -- is still on the drawing board and local advocates, such as the Albina Vision Trust, are calling for more community input.

Winta Yohannes was recently appointed as the managing director of Albina Vision Trust, which has the mission of "Honoring the neighborhood's past by transforming what exists today into a socially and economically inclusive

community of residents, businesses, artists, makers and visitors."

Above all, Albina Vision Trust wants transparency in the planning process, Yohannes said, and Gov. Kate Brown has called for a delay in the process to explore tolls for the new roads to offset costs and to hire a consultant to evaluate the cap proposals.

"The Albina Vision team is committed to working with ODOT and other stakeholders to see the right project through to completion in a timely manner," Yohannes said. "The Albina/Rose Quarter Improvement Project represents an opportunity to support a transformative vision -- not just

for reconnecting the neighborhood -- but for how major public investments can facilitate tangible racial, economic and environmental outcomes that set us on the path to designing the communities we deserve."

Rukaiyah Adams, board chair of Albina Vision Trust, agrees that the project deserves more attention.

"The project requires a fresh look and a new approach," Adams wrote in a letter to Brown in December. "It is an opportunity for significant transportation investment dollars to serve as a down-payment on a comprehensive, long-range strategy to rebuild

a community that values children, affordable housing, public spaces and community wealth-building."

In the meantime, ODOT Commission chair Bob Van Brocklin took the advice in Brown's letter and made a formal proposal to put off a full environmental impact study until March, to hire a consultant on caps, look at tolling and create advisory committees to include community members.

The ODOT Commission will meet this Thursday in Lake Oswego to consider, among other agenda items, a presentation from ODOT experts "on the Interstate 5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project cost estimate and request approval to submit the Cost to Complete Report to the Oregon Legislature.

## Remembering Aaron Campbell: Stop the Violence



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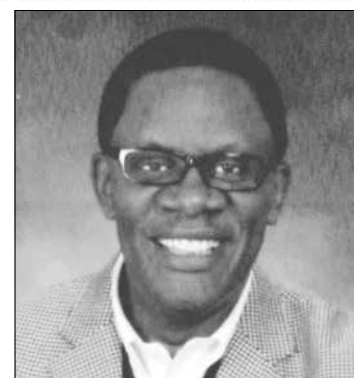
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# Putting Kids and Families First

## CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Multnomah County Health Department” and other community organizations, she said.

“We are uniquely at the beginning of the development continuum,” she said. “We have this kind of ‘born to learn’ program and what we are doing with parents and mothers – before they give birth – to help prepare them for educating their children.”

That’s just the beginning, she said, and after home visits are complete, BPI steers parents toward educational programs such as Albina Head Start and KairosPDX, a public charter school and nonprofit with the goal of closing the education achievement gap for black children.

“Those are very culturally specific and affirming organizations that serve a large population of our community members – African and African American and African American bi-racial families,” she said. “We just want to make sure that we’re strong on the front end of that continuum, making sure that all the services that we offer have sustainable funding streams, that people understand how they’re all connected to learning, and

how learning is very much connected to being able to be stable and also support social and emotional wellbeing. Those are all things that are very critical to this community.”

Overton said that BPI has seven full-time staff members, two student interns, a student with a bachelor of social work, and will soon have several students getting their master’s in social work.

The agency is outgrowing its space at 2915 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., and will soon be looking for a new home, she said.

“We’re going to hire a new director of maternal health and some more home visiting people,” she said.

As with most nonprofits, BPI relies on donations and will have a big fundraising gala in May, when Overton will introduce herself to funders. In the meantime, she said she will continue to focus on increasing awareness of BPI, including a book drive with Barnes and Noble in February.

Before getting into administration, Overton was a social worker and child and family therapist for 16 years, then worked for about four years for the Chalkboard Project, working with school superintendents and teacher leaders



“to center equity not only in their cultural centers, but in their practices and strategies.”

Overton is close to completing her doctorate in social work, focusing on black girls in foster care, and she gave one example of how missing cultural clues can have deleterious effects.

“I had a girl getting into fights and they said she was defiant with schizoid tendencies, she’s depressed — all those things,” she said. “But I discovered she was in a home with parents who were not African American who did not know how to care for her hair, so she was going to school getting teased by black and white

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PHOTO BY BEVERLY CORBELL/  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER  
Bahia Overton, the new executive director of Portland’s Black Parent Initiative, puts her focus on improving the cultural awareness social workers and others have in providing resources to the black community and growing support for BPI programs to help black kids and black families become successful.

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# Humanity Shines in 'Sweat'

## OPINIONATED JUDGE

BY  
DARLEEN  
ORTEGA



### A timely insight into today's economic woes

Portland folks have the opportunity to see Profile Theater's first-rate production of Lynn Nottage's Pulitzer Prize-winning play "Sweat" through Feb. 2 at Imago Theater. The play's insights could not be more timely, or more resonant.

To prepare to write the play, Lynn Nottage spent many months listening to the people of Reading, Penn., a formerly thriving industrial city which, by 2011, had been identified as one of the poorest cities in America. She was drawn there because the city, with its diverse population, is a prime example of the decline of American industry. The play first opened in 2015 at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, a year before Trump's election--and by the time it opened on Broadway in 2017, the Trump election had happened, and it seemed like Nottage, an African American, had noticed things that everyone else had missed.

And yet it still appears that people may be missing what Nottage noticed. The narrative about Trump's election was (and, to some degree, continues to be) that "working class" people had been left behind and lashed out, seeing Trump as the answer to their economic woes. But "working class" is generally taken to mean white people; the effects of the economy on black, indigenous, and people of color does not evoke the same collective curiosity and attention, limited though that collective curiosity and attention may be.

But Nottage listened well--and this production invites us to listen well too. The play, which jumps back and forth in time between 2000 and 2008, tells the story of a group of steelworker friends who regularly gather in a bar run by Stan (Duffy Epstein), whose own career as a steelworker was cut short by a disabling accident. Tracey (Linda Hayden), Jessie (Alissa Jessup), and Cynthia (Cycerli Ash) all have been at the work long enough by 2000 that they



PHOTO BY DAVID KINDER/COURTESY IMAGO THEATER

Cynthia (Cycerli Ash) struggles with the loss of good paying factory jobs and the effects of company management decisions in 'Sweat,' a Pulitzer-Prize winning play by African-American playwright Lynn Nottage, now playing through Feb. 2 at Imago Theater, 17 S.E. Eighth Ave.

are feeling it in their middle-aged bodies; Jason (Jim Vadala) and Chris (La'Tevin Alexander), the sons of Tracey and Cynthia respectively, are just starting out, and factory work seems the most obvious and really only option for a comfortable life.

By 2008 (when the play's opening scenes are set), it's clear that things have unraveled, and Jason and Chris have been released from prison. Most of the action takes place eight years earlier, as the characters experience the unraveling of the livelihood they had all counted on and we come to learn about a final violent conflict that changed all their lives.

As envisioned by Nottage, expertly re-

alized by director Christopher Acebo, and beautifully played by this excellent cast, the decline of these characters feels both emblematic and very specific. All the characters have union jobs, yet the white characters, particularly Tracey and Jason, speak from a sense of entitlement that the black characters don't quite share; Tracey and Jason carry a sense of legacy, and speak of the generations that their family members toiled in this industry as though it creates a sort of compact. A good union wage and benefits is simply their due, what they are owed for decades of work and sacrifice.

The black characters (Cynthia and Chris) are union members too, but they

speak as later entrants to the club; it doesn't occur to their white friends to wonder why they lack the same legacy of generations of union toil. Cynthia and Chris are still aspiring, looking for ways to climb, even exploring other options. It is Cynthia who first decides to apply for an open management job; Tracey only considers it when Cynthia encourages her to apply.

Once Cynthia is awarded the job, their friendship begins to fracture. Tracey resents her, and she and Jessie quickly blame Cynthia for failing to prevent increasingly harsh measures imposed by management.

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# Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

## Bad Boys for Life

Action thriller brings another round of battles

by Dwight Brown

They first teamed up for *Bad Boys* in 1995, to great box office success. There was an encore in 2003, *Bad Boys II*, which was distinguished by incredible stunts. Now, Will Smith and Martin Lawrence go back to the same well one more time. Is there any water left?

Two new young directors guided the series into the 2020s. Moroccan-born Belgian filmmakers Adil El Arbi and Bilal Fallah (*Black, Gangsta*) put their own spin on the footage aided by cinematographer Robrecht Heyvaert (*Black, Gangsta*). What's on view looks like an ultra-hip extended music video that captures your eyeballs and takes them hostage.

A sporty looking, deep blue 992-Generation Porsche speeds through the streets of sunny Miami. If a reckless twentysomething was behind the wheel, you'd call the car a chick magnet. Instead it's 51-year-old

Detective Mike Lowrey (Smith) steering the vehicle with his lead foot on the accelerator. In his hands the sports car is more a middle-ager's last grasp at youth. Lowrey's 54-year-old partner Detective Marcus Burnett (Lawrence) sits petrified in the passenger seat, holding on for dear life and nauseated by the hyper-dangerous ride.

Burnett: "I'm about to throw up." Lowrey: "You better not. That's hand-stitched Italian leather. You better drink that s—t!" And so, it begins. Edge of your seat action scenes, perfectly shot. Thrills and chills. Two old friends: One, a swinger, clearly still in the game. The other, a family man a whisper away from retirement with an accountant's nervous stomach and no love left for a cop's perilous life.

Subtly and brazenly, in humor and family drama, the script rips into the ages of the two protagonists like someone pouring salt on an open wound. The "boys" have lost a few steps and added gray hairs that industrial strength Grecian Formula can't fix. And the contrasts between the veterans and the new justice league gets played for laughs persistently.

But strong is the chemistry between the



PHOTO COURTESY SONY PICTURES

*The Bad Boys Mike Lowrey (Will Smith) and Marcus Burnett (Martin Lawrence) are back together for another ride in the highly anticipated Bad Boys for Life.*

two leads. Twenty-five years later, their bromance is as fresh as the day they met. Smith, as the mercurial, perpetual bachelor exhibits his best swagger in years. His Mike is like an old club goer who hasn't realized the crowd around him is young enough to be his children. Lawrence's curmudgeon and sensitive character plays perfectly against Smith's brash attitude. He's

hysterical in ways only true comedians can be. The characters' bond is easy to like and has been cherished by filmgoers who will likely follow them into old age even as these bad boys start to solve crimes in nursing homes.

*Dwight Brown is a film critic for the National Newspapers Publishers Association, the Black Press USA.*

### ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

**Hedwig and the Angry Inch** – Portland Center Stage at The Armory is kicking off the New Year with "Hedwig and the Angry Inch," starring Portland's Delphon "DJ" Curtis Jr. as Hedwig and Ithica Tell as Yitzhak. Part rock concert, part cabaret, part stand-up comedy routine, show plays through Feb. 23 in the Ellyn Bye Studio at The Armory. For tickets, visit pcs.org, by phone at 503-445-3700 or in-person from the box office.

**Fix-It-Fair** – Learn simple ways to save money and be healthy with all-day exhibits, workshops, health tests, financial consulting, a free lunch and more when the city of Portland and other governmental agencies sponsor a free community Fix It Fair, Saturday, Jan. 25 from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Ockley Green Middle School, 6031 N. Montana and Ainsworth St.

**Chinese New Year** – Lan Su Chinese Garden, downtown, celebrates Chinese New Year — the most colorful, sensational and joyous of all Chinese festivals. The celebration roars with lion dances, glows with lanterns and entertains with cultural activities, dances and demonstrations from Sunday, Jan. 25 through Feb. 9. A Chinese New Year parade begins at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 25 at 315 N.W. Davis and concludes with a performance at the Oregon Historical Society.

**Everybody Reads** – Multnomah County Library invites the community to participate in Everybody Reads 2020, featuring Tommy Orange's debut novel about the urban Native experience, "There There." Free copies are available at library locations or download the e-book or audiobook from the library catalog.

**Black Experience on Canvas** – Portland artist Arvie Smith, a renowned painter of the black experience, will showcase some of his new work in a solo exhibit '2 Up and 2 Back,' now showing through Feb. 2 at the Disjecta Contemporary Arts Center, 8371 N. Interstate Ave.

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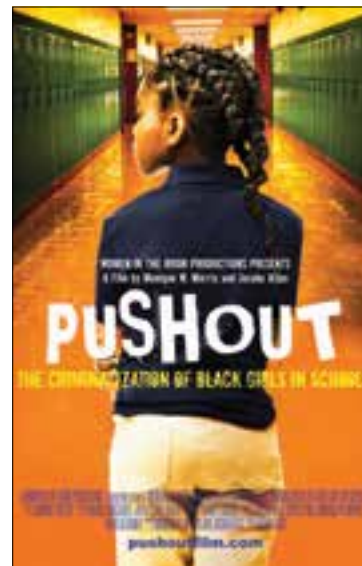
# Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

## Film Screens with Call to Action

Community focus on unjust discipline of black girls

The community is invited to see the injustice and consider the solutions behind a new trend making African American girls the fastest-growing population in the criminal justice system when Warner Pacific University hosts a screening of the documentary "Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in School," on Monday, Feb. 3 from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Pushout is a new film that shows African American girls are the only group of girls disproportionately experiencing harsh dis-



cipline at every grade level. The screening is hosted by HOLLA and Bars to Bridges in partnership with Warner Pacific and On-Point Community Credit Union. Refreshments will be offered be-

fore and during the screening and youth from both HOLLA and Bars to Bridges will share their personal stories immediately following the film.

"This documentary is an opportunity for the black community and beyond to finally see that this is not a niche issue and can become a vicious cycle if we do nothing," said Monique W. Morris, executive producer of the film and author of the book.

By recounting the stories of black girls around America, Pushout reveals alarming disparities in the education and justice system in America. While mass incarceration and its effects on young black males have been widely covered, black girls have been left without a space at the table. The documentary tackles this issue by sharing their stories.



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Andrea Vernae (left) stars as Paulina, the queen bee and mean girl, and Morgan Walker as Ericka, the newcomer who threatens her reign, in 'School Girls' or 'The African Mean Girls,' by award winning Ghanaian-American playwright Jocelyn Bioh.

## Beauty Explored in 'African Mean Girls Play'

Comedy tackles teen challenges

The breakout hit comedy "School Girls" or "The African Mean Girls Play" by Ghanaian-American playwright Jocelyn Bioh explores the challenges facing teenage girls across the globe and cautions that while beauty may be only skin deep, its pursuit can cut much deeper.

A historic first time co-production between Artists Repertory Theatre and Portland Center Stage at the Armory, the play was inspired in part by Bioh's mother's time in a boarding school in

Ghana and the author's own experience at a boarding school in Pennsylvania.

School Girls tells the story of Paulina, the reigning Queen Bee of her exclusive private school, who has her sights set on the Miss Ghana pageant. But the arrival of a new student with undeniable talent, beauty and light skin captures the attention of the pageant recruiter and nearly topples the social order of Paulina's friends.

"Oftentimes, the stories about Africa that are being served up are usually tales of extreme poverty, struggle, strife, disease, and war," said Bioh. "This narrative is a dangerous and calculated one, and it has always

been my goal to present the Africa I know and love so dearly. School girls was my first produced play, and I'm so thrilled at the reception."

Preview shows began over the weekend at Portland Center Stage at the Armory, downtown. Opening night is Friday, Jan. 24 and the show closes on Feb. 16

Various community events will be held surrounding the show, including a pre-show reception with the Ghana Association of Oregon, a dramaturgy class taught by cast member Kisha Jarrett, and discussions with cast, crew, and community guests. For tickets and more information, visit [pcs.org/school-girls](http://pcs.org/school-girls) or call 503-445-3700.

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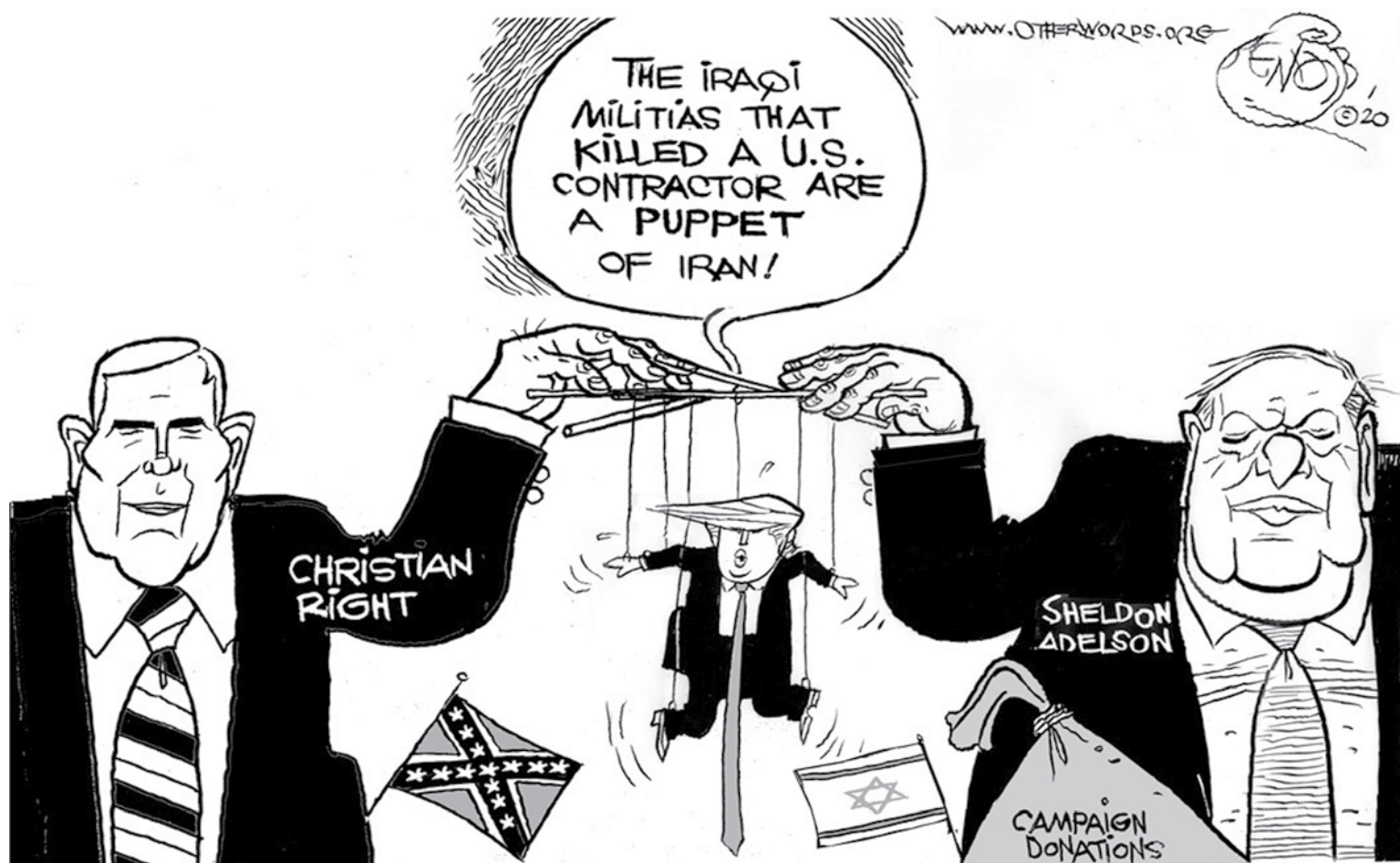
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# OPINION



## Unifying Working People of All Ages

### Learning from King's last campaign

BY JESSICAH PIERRE

As we celebrate the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr., it's natural to remember his courageous advocacy for racial equity. But before he was assassinated, King had also begun to broaden his efforts to unify the around economic justice.

That's worth remembering today.

In December 1967, King, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and other conveners laid out their vision for the first Poor People's Campaign. Seeing how poverty cut across race and geography, these leaders built the campaign into a multiracial effort including African Americans, white Americans, Asian Americans, Hispanic Americans, and Native Americans aimed at alleviating poverty for all.

The goal was to lead a massive protest in Washington D.C. demanding that Congress prioritize a massive anti-poverty package that included, among other things, a commitment to full employment, a guaranteed annual income, and more low-income housing. And they wanted to pay for it by ending the Vietnam War.

"We believe the highest patri-

otism demands the ending of the war," King said, "and the opening of a bloodless war to final victory over racism and poverty." Assassinated in Memphis on April 4, 1968 while organizing black sanitation workers, King never made it to the Poor People's March, but thousands did protest in Washington to honor King's memory and to pursue his

King's memory and to pursue his

ter for American Progress found that 52 percent of American voters across party lines reported experiencing a serious economic problem in the past year. This tracks with other research, including the Federal Reserve Board's finding that 40 percent of Americans don't have the money to cover a \$400 emergency.

The same CAP survey shows that strong majorities — including 9 in 10 Democrats, 7 in 10 inde-

to federal nutrition assistance programs.

King and the Poor People's Campaign promoted a vision of unity. But it wasn't a unity that avoided conflict — it was one where poor and low-income overcame their divisions to fight for economic justice together.

To revive that vision, a new Poor People's Campaign has emerged to confront the interlocking evils of systemic racism, poverty, ecological devastation, and militarism — and what they're calling "the distorted moral narrative of religious nationalism." Over the past two years, this campaign has organized communities from all over the country to build lasting power for poor and impacted people.

"Poor and low-wealth people are seeing the need to galvanize themselves around an agenda, not a party, not a person, but an agenda," said Rev. William Barber, one of the new campaign's leaders. "What happens if a movement is able to help people see how they're being played against each other? You could reset the entire political calculus."

As we head deeper into a divisive election season — and as we remember Dr. King — it's worth remembering that our real enemy is injustice, not each other.

Jessica Pierre is the inequality media specialist at the Institute for Policy Studies. Distributed by OtherWords.org.

*That vision remains to be realized. Today, 140 million Americans — over 40 percent of us — remain poor or low-income. As in King's day, black and brown Americans are especially impacted, but so are millions of poor whites.*

vision.

That vision remains to be realized. Today, 140 million Americans — over 40 percent of us — remain poor or low-income. As in King's day, black and brown Americans are especially impacted, but so are millions of poor whites.

Our country may be polarized by party. But the truth is, we have more in common to fight for than what divides us.

A December survey by the Cen-

pendents, and 6 in 10 Republicans — support government action to "reduce poverty by ensuring that all families have access to basic living standards like health care, food, and housing if their wages are too low or they can't make ends meet."

Even at a time of stark partisan polarization, a majority of Americans support policies like raising the minimum wage — while opposing things like the Trump administration's draconian cuts



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# CLASSIFIED/BIDS

## REQUEST FOR BIDS

### Oregon State University – Operations Building Corvallis, Oregon

**Proposals Due: 2/6/2020 at 2:00pm**

Pence Construction is requesting proposals for the following scope of work:

#### Package #2 – Concrete Foundations

Remaining project scopes will be bid out at later date.

Proposal documents can be accessed at <https://www.pence.net>. Click on "Subcontractor's" link then scroll down to see the list of available public projects.

Proposal Documents are also available at the following locations:

Eugene Builders Exchange; Salem Contractor's Exchange; Oregon Contractor Plan Center; SW Washington Contractor's Association; Oregon Association of Minority Entrepreneurs; DJC

Bidders shall comply with State of Oregon Bureau of Labor & Industries prevailing wage rates, please refer to the specs for additional information.

Subcontractor can find current BOLI wage rates dated 10/01/2019 by following: <https://www.oregon.gov/boli/WHDD/PWR/Pages/PWR-Rate-Publications---2019.aspx>

**Anticipated Construction Start: March 2020**

A non-mandatory pre-bid walk will be held at 10:00 AM Monday January 27th, 2020 at the project site.

Please send questions and bid proposals via email to Owen Blakesley Estimator at [owenb@pence.net](mailto:owenb@pence.net) or fax 503-256-3684.

There will be no public bid opening

Pence is an equal opportunity employer and requests sub-bids from all interested firms including disadvantaged, minority, women, disabled veterans and emerging small business enterprises

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## SUB BIDS REQUESTED

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

#### Bid Package 13 – Joint Sealants & Pavement Markings

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

- Joint Sealants
- Pavement Markings

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](mailto:Robert.Means@jedunn.com).

**Bids due 2:00pm PST February 06th, 2020**

Bids may be delivered by email to [Robert.Means@jedunn.com](mailto: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.

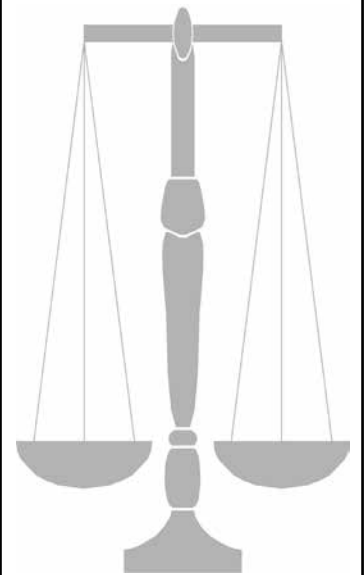
No Pre-Bid Conference will be held for this Bid Package.



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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## SUB-BIDS REQUESTED

### OregonStateUniversity–CascadesCampus(OSU-C), Academic Building 2 (AB2)

#### Early Award Packages #1

**Bend, OR**

**BIDS DUE: February 4, 2020 at 2:00PM**

The OSU-C AB2 project is a new 50,000sf Academic Building. This early award package includes the following scopes of work: Earthwork, Concrete Reinforcing, CIP Concrete, Steel Stairs, Subgrade Waterproofing, Elevators, and Fire Suppression. The Mechanical, Electrical, and Plumbing scopes have already been awarded. Bid documents, bid forms, instructions, and scope packages can be accessed at the following link: <https://securecc.smartinsight.co/#/PublicBidProject/490934>



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## NOTICE OF INVITATION TO BID

### Portland Community College Juniper Network Equipment, Software, and 5 Year Support

**Bids Due by February 5, 2020 -  
2:00PM (Pacific)**

Portland Community College ("PCC") is soliciting bids from qualified suppliers to provide Juniper Network Equipment, Software Licenses, and 5 year support services.

Complete minimum specifications and required bid documents are in the Invitation to Bid (ITB) document. The ITB can be obtained from the Oregon Procurement Information Network (ORPIN) system. Prospective bidders must register with ORPIN at: <https://orpin.oregon.gov/> to obtain the ITB documents.

Sealed bids must be delivered to the following office, and addressed as cited below, no later than 2:00PM (Pacific) on February 5, 2020:

Portland Community College  
ITB – Juniper Network Equipment, Software, and Support  
Attn.: James Lasseter  
9700 SW Capitol Highway – Suite 260  
Portland OR 97219

Late bids, FAXed, or e-Mailed bids will not be considered.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the PCC Planning and Capital Construction office, located at: 9700 SW Capitol Highway – Suite 260 Portland OR 97219 commencing at 2:15PM (Pacific Time) on February 5, 2020. Any interested party is invited to attend the public bid opening.

Bids may be rejected for not complying with all prescribed public bidding procedures or for good cause on a finding by PCC that it is in the public interest to do so. PCC reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive irregularities.

This Notice is dated this 17th Day of January 2020.

s/ James Lasseter, PCC Buyer and Contract Specialist

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PHOTO BY DAVID KINDER/COURTESY IMAGO THEATER

Victor Mack (left) and La'Tevin Alexander star in 'Sweat,' a Pulitzer-Prize winning play that gives insight to the struggles of workers who fall into despair when they lose their jobs in the face of industrial decline.

## Humanity Shines in 'Sweat'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

Cynthia begins to wonder if she was chosen for the management job so that she could absorb just this sort of blame, even while the agency to impose these decisions actually resides with company leaders who don't engage with line workers at all. And none of them notice that Oscar (Chris Ramirez), the American-born son of Colombian parents who cleans up after them at the bar, can't break into the union no matter how hard he tries.

As the world of the union workers begins to crumble, we see how easily they can be pitted against each other. Their anger and powerlessness quickly becomes anger at one another; with no agency and no access to the real decision makers, they blame each other for betrayals that are varying degrees of real and imagined. Yet their humanity shines through even in their worst moments; they are good people struggling against extreme pressure. Their anger and fear is understandable and, even when their responses to one another are far from heroic.

Under Acebo's direction, this production puts us in proximity to folks for whom options are far more limited than most of us sitting in theater seats have imagined; the characters go from being able to save for a very nice vacation to working multiple menial jobs in order to pay the rent in a slum or falling into addiction or homelessness. The uniformly ex-

cellent cast (which also includes Victor Mack as Cynthia's husband and Chris's father, Brucie, who lost his union job more than a year before the other characters and is a living prophecy of what lies ahead for all) portrays these characters with complexity and humanity, and conveys a sense of how quickly and cataclysmically their worlds are shifting--showing up to work to find that the machines have been sold; lockouts that last for endless months; contract offers involving paycuts as high as 60 percent; the pressures that lead a person to cross a union picket line.

In the end, the characters--like so many Americans in the face of industrial decline--turn on each other because that is the only direction they can find to focus their anger. They have, to varying degrees, believed in the American dream of prosperity, and when that dream crumbles, they blame who they have been primed to blame: whoever is beneath them in the hierarchy. The actions of those who really decide what happens are protected from scrutiny.

Profile Theater's production of "Sweat" plays through Feb. 2 at Imago Theater, 17 S.E. Eighth Ave.

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

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# Putting Kids and Families First

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

kids, and so she was fighting.”

So the root cause of the girl’s problems was not internal, but external, Overton said.

“All of her therapists were white, all of her social workers were white, and she didn’t have anyone to voice that issue to, so they all decided it was an intrinsic deficit in her when really it was completely environmental.”

Overton said she started working with the girl, but she couldn’t even begin their sessions until she agreed to do her hair.

“My direct supervisor said, ‘Why are you taking so long with this client?’ and I said, ‘I’m doing an intervention.’ It was her hair. I had to do her hair before we could even talk.”

Once word got out among the black

kids that there was an African American social worker, they all asked for Overton, which became overwhelming to the point that she started a group called Naime, her daughter’s name, which means peace, tranquility, healing and gifts.

“So I would tell my (white) colleagues, ‘You deal with their regular diagnosis, as you have it on paper, and then refer to my group where we’ll address the cultural issues,’” she said. “Because I can’t have kids waiting (for her) and lacking service, but at the same time, I realized the need for meeting that cultural piece.”

That realization inspired Overton to go a step further by writing a book about black girls’ experiences that can be used by her white colleagues, called “Aminah Brown Breaks it Down.”

“It’s about a girl in foster care in a very white city and how she navigates the sys-

tem,” she said, and it’s based on – and with the permission of – a former client who’s now 26 and whom Overton first met when the girl was 12 years old

She writes about real life situations in the book so others can better understand the experiences of young black girls and the difficulties faced by African American girls in foster care.

Overton said she often stays in touch with her clients, not to continue treatment, but as a referral source.

“With a lot of my clients, I’ll say we’re closing your case, you’ve met all your treatment objectives, but I know you don’t have someone around the corner who can give you resources,” she said. “So if you need resource, call me.”

Overton expects to finish her book in the near future. She hopes it will help white therapists expand their cultural

awareness.

The current model for social work practices is “very Eurocentric,” she said, which can sometimes be harmful to communities of color. If a white therapist is not prepared to work with kids of color, it can be awkward, she said.

“If they’re not prepared, they feel uncomfortable and turn all kinds of shades and they (the kids) see that,” she said. “But if they read the book along with the girls, it’s easy for a white therapist to say, ‘Have you ever felt like that in this situation?’ That gives them a foundational way to engage them without trying to pry and without them having to. It gives the therapist some insights, or maybe to get them someone to support them in this area, or find them a mentor. It might be eye opening for the therapist, but it might be affirming for the client.”

To learn more about Black Parent Initiative or to make a donation to its efforts, log onto [www.thebpi.org](http://www.thebpi.org).

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