



## Brisk and Funny 'Mean Girls'

*Play puts focus on  
living female inside  
of dark skin*

See Opinionated Judge, page 5



## From the African Perspective

*30th Cascade  
Festival brings  
30 feature films*

See Metro, page 6

Established in 1970



PO QR code

# The Portland Observer

Volume XLVIV • Number 5



'City  
of  
Roses'

www.portlandobserver.com  
Wednesday • January 29, 2020

Committed to Cultural Diversity

# Kobe's Death Stuns World

## Tears shed, joyful times recalled

(AP) — Thousands of fans, many wearing Kobe Bryant jerseys and chanting his name, gathered outside the Staples Center in downtown Los Angeles Monday in an outpouring of grief and shock over the sudden loss of the all-time basketball great who spent his entire 20-year career with the Los Angeles Lakers.

The 41-year-old Bryant, who perished Sunday in a helicopter crash with his 13-year-old daughter, Gianna, and seven other people, including members of a family with Oregon ties, was one of the game's most popular players, an 18-time All-Star who helped lead the Lakers to five NBA championships.

The Lakers had a game scheduled Tuesday night against the LA Clippers at the Staples Center but the NBA postponed it "out of respect" for the Lakers. The next Lakers home game is Friday night against Portland.

The accident generated an outpouring of grief and shock around the world.

"Words can't describe the pain I am feeling. I loved

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Kobe Bryant and his daughter Gianna watch a NCAA college basketball game in this March 2, 2019 photo from AP. Bryant, an 18-time NBA All-star, was killed along with his daughter and 7 other people in a helicopter crash Sunday in Los Angeles.



PHOTO BY BEVERLY CORBELL/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Johnell Bell (left) and Julia Cannell oversee a free aviation and aeronautics training program for young people of color and low income students at the Airway Science for Kids, now located in the former Albina Youth Opportunity School. Pictured at right is McKinzie Ried, one of the school's aviation students, working on a project.

## Expanding Opportunities in Aviation

Program offers free  
training for young people

BY BEVERLY CORBELL  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Airway Science for Kids, a nonprofit giving free aviation training to young people of color and low-income students, has a new home and new leadership.

Julia Cannell, an aviation expert and educator, is the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11



# All Set for Super Bowl Sunday

The San Francisco 49ers will face the Kansas City Chiefs in the Super Bowl on Sunday.

The NFL Championship game will be played at Hard Rock Stadium in Miami Gardens, Fla. with kickoff scheduled for approximately 3:30 p.m. The game's live broadcast will be carried on the Fox entertainment network, carried locally by KPTV Channel 12.

San Francisco reached the final game by pounding Green Bay in the NFC championship and Kansas City handled Tennessee in the AFC title game.

Each team's offensive and defensive line has played above average this season, with the 49ers defensive line being credited for their greatest strength and the Chiefs offensive line as their most powerful asset.

Singers Jennifer Lopez and Shakira will provide the halftime entertainment and Demi Lovato will sing the national anthem. Lovato is a Grammy-nominated singer, songwriter, actress, advocate, philanthropist and business woman.



Sunday's 2020 Super Bowl matches up quarterbacks Patrick Mahomes of the Kansas City Chiefs (left) and Jimmy Garoppolo of the San Francisco 49ers.

## The Portland Observer

Established 1970 USPS 959 680  
4747 NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.,  
Portland, OR 97211

The Portland Observer welcomes freelance submissions. Manuscripts and photographs should be clearly labeled and will be returned if accompanied by a self addressed envelope. All created design display ads become the sole property of the newspaper and cannot be used in other publications or personal usage without the written consent of the general manager, unless the client has purchased the composition of such ad. © 2008 THE PORTLAND OBSERVER. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. REPRODUCTION IN WHOLE OR IN PART WITHOUT PERMISSION IS PROHIBITED. The Portland Observer--Oregon's Oldest Multicultural Publication--is a member of the National Newspaper Association--Founded in 1885, and The National Advertising Representative Amalgamated Publishers, Inc, New York, NY, and The West Coast Black Publishers Association



PO QR code

PUBLISHER: *Mark Washington, Sr.*

EDITOR: *Michael Leighton*

ADVERTISING MANAGER: *Leonard Latin*

Office Manager/Classifieds:  
*Lucinda Baldwin*

CREATIVE DIRECTOR: *Paul Neufeldt*

REPORTER/WEB EDITOR: *Beverly Corbell*

PUBLIC RELATIONS: *Mark Washington Jr.*

OFFICE ASSISTANT/SALES:  
*Shawntell Washington*

CALL 503-288-0033

FAX 503-288-0015

*news@portlandobserver.com*

*ads@portlandobserver.com*

*subscription@portlandobserver.com*

**Postmaster: Send address changes to  
Portland Observer, PO Box 3137,  
Portland, OR 97208**

## Kobe's Death Stuns World

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Kobe — he was like a little brother to me,” retired NBA great Michael Jordan said. “We used to talk often, and I will miss those conversations very much. He was a fierce competitor, one of the greats of the game and a creative force.”

Thousands of mourners gathered Monday outside the glistering steel-and-glass edifice of the Staples Center where the Los Angeles Lakers legend made so much basketball history.

“The memories that he gave us as a family were great mem-

ories,” said Lawrence Perez or North Hollywood, who arrived with his wife, Maureen, and 15-year-old daughter, Desiree. “We could have been at home, but we wanted to be with other people who are kind of going through the same thing.”

Bryant retired in 2016 as the third-leading scorer in NBA history, finishing two decades with the Lakers as a prolific shot-maker with a sublime all-around game and a relentless competitive drive. He held that spot in the league scoring ranks until Saturday night, when the Lakers' LeBron James passed him for third place during a

game in Philadelphia, Bryant's hometown.

He was the league MVP in 2008 and a two-time NBA scoring champion. He teamed with Shaquille O'Neal in a combustible partnership to lead the Lakers to consecutive NBA titles in 2000, 2001 and 2002. He went on to win two more titles in 2009 and 2010.

His Lakers tenure was marred by scandal when in 2003, Bryant was accused of raping a 19-year-old employee at a Colorado resort. He said the two had consensual sex, and prosecutors later dropped the sexual assault charge at the request of

the accuser. The woman filed a civil suit against Bryant that was settled out of court.

Among those killed in the crash were John Altobelli, 56, longtime head coach of Southern California's Orange Coast College baseball team and father of a former University of Oregon student-athlete; his wife, Keri; and daughter, Alyssa, who played on the same basketball team as Bryant's daughter, said Altobelli's brother, Tony, sports information director at the school.

Costa Mesa, Calif. Mayor Katrina Foley tweeted that the dead also included Christina Mauser, a girls basketball coach at a nearby elementary school.

### Bolton Shades Trump Defense

President Trump's defense finished its final arguments in the Senate impeachment trial Tuesday, but the focus of senators turned to a battle coming later this week over whether to call former

## The Week in Review

National Security Advisor John Bolton or other witnesses to testify. In a new book Bolton directly links Trump to politically motivated investigations.

### ODOT to Study I-5 Impacts

Oregon's top transportation decision makers on Thursday agreed to delay until March a key vote on what to do with a \$715 million project on Interstate 5 through the Rose Quarter. Officials will now look at past and future impacts on black neighborhoods and to further study how proposals respond to the historic displacement and if building covers spanning the highway could accommodate buildings.

### Fire Station Calendar Rebuttle

Portland Fire Chief Sara Boone and JoAnn Hardesty, the city commissioner overseeing the Fire Bureau, admonished firefighters

at Station 7 in east Portland last week for featuring a calendar of homeless camp photos seen as disparaging to homeless people.

### Better Graduation Rates

More than 80% of Portland Public Schools students graduated in the 2018-19 school year, the best graduation rates since a new model to support students was adopted by the school district in 2011. The graduation rates for African-American, multi-racial and Latino students increased to between 72.3% and 72.6%.

### Grammy for Audiobook

Former first lady Michelle Obama Sunday snagged her first Grammy win for the audiobook version of her best-sell-

ing memoir “Becoming.” It's the third Grammy win for the Obama household. Obama's husband won for the audiobook recordings of his memoirs “Dreams of My Father” and “The Audacity of Hope” in 2006 and 2008.

### High Capacity Buses Funded

TriMet on Thursday celebrated the imminent start of construction on the \$175 million Division Transit Project. The 15-mile stretch of improvements will bring high-capacity buses to a key street in Portland and Gresham, as well as more than 40 new stations.

### Gun Printer Rule Challenged

Oregon Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum joined a group of 21 Attorneys General in a lawsuit filed last week challenging the Trump administration's latest rule allowing 3D-printed gun files to be released on the internet. The rule would effectively enable anyone to access 3D-print files online and make unregistered, untraceable firearms.



### Sweet Street Food Cart

Seasonal  
Specials

Located at 15th and Alberta

call 503-995-6150 to place order

Monday - Friday, 11:00am - 7:00pm • Saturday & Sunday Closed.

Wednesday Special: 3 Wings \$3.00

Friday Special: Rib Sandwich, Beef or Pork, \$5.00



# The INSIDE

The Week in Review

page 2



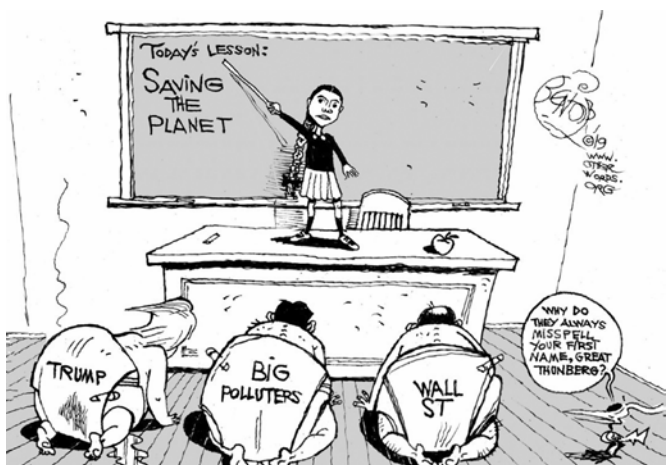
METRO

page 6



Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

page 7-8



OPINION

pages 9

CLASSIFIED/BIDS

pages 10

# LOCAL NEWS

## Max Murders Trial Begins

The trial of Jeremy Christian, the Portland man accused of stabbing two men to death after they came to the defense of two girls on a Tri-Met Max train in 2017, started Tuesday following jury selection and is expected to take a month, officials said.

Christian faces two counts of first-degree murder, one count of attempted first-degree murder, two counts of assault, three counts of menacing and three counts of second-degree intimidation.

The whole city was shocked to learn about the violent deaths



Jeremy Christian

of Taliesin Mryddin Namkai-Meche and Ricky Best, and the life-threatening injury of Micah Fletcher on the light-rail train near the Hollywood station in northeast Portland.

According to court documents, the three men were passengers on the train when Christian began yelling anti-Muslim rants at two high school students, one wearing a hijab and the other an African-American.

Portland police have called the case the biggest in the last decade. Christian is claiming self-defense.



Eugene Gora, 85, a metal fabricator and neighbor who resided at his shop on Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard was murdered in 2018.

## Accomplice Charged in Fabricator's Death

### Woman arrested; other suspect at large

An arrest has been made in the 2018 murder of metal fabricator Eugene Gora, 85, but an accomplice is still at large.

Multnomah County District Attorney Rod Underhill announced last week that Amanda Marin, 38, was arrested in Oregon City and faces charges of second degree murder, burglary and robbery.

Underhill reported that another person, who has not been identified or arrested, "unlawfully caused the death of Mr. Gora."

For many years, Gora ran Gora's Welding and Fabrication at the corner of Skidmore and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, where his work ranged from barbecues to elaborate artwork that added a unique flavor to surrounding north and northeast neighborhoods and busi-

nesses.

In the months leading up to his death, Gora was trying to sell his property and possessions, family members said. He was a regular at the Miracles Club and A Heavenly Taste Café next door, where his friends and neighbors are relieved that the case has at least been partially solved.

Pastor Dwight Minnieweather told KPTV that Gora was remembered for his kindness and storytelling.

"He would tell us stories and say things that we couldn't even begin to remember because he was way older than we were and he was just a nice, sweet guy," he said.

A friend found Gora's body on May 10, 2018, but no one has forgotten him, Minnieweather said.

"For the detectives and all, thanks, thanks," he said. "A lot of pain is still in our community, 'cause we didn't know what happened."



# Subscribe! 503-288-0033

Fill Out & Send To:

**The Portland Observer**

Attn: Subscriptions, PO Box 3137, Portland OR 97208  
\$45.00 for 3 months • \$80.00 for 6 mo. • \$125.00 for 1 year  
(please include check with this subscription form)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

or email [subscriptions@portlandobserver.com](mailto:subscriptions@portlandobserver.com)

## Excellence Exists Because Of You

### Basking In Black Excellence

Trayla Mack Presents a different flavors of the city

**February 15 • Saturday • 1-4 PM**  
**Self Enhancement Inc**

Enjoying one another over Food,  
Performances, Networking and Fun!

503 457-2025 Lomax.trayla89@gmail.com

# Recruiting for Diane Wade House Board

Multnomah County is seeking community members for the Diane Wade House Community Advisory Board. The Diane Wade House is a transitional housing program for justice-involved women of color with a focus on black women.

To learn more, Leniece Rice, community engagement specialist

for the Multnomah County Public Safety Coordinating Council, will host an informational meeting on how the board will operate on Friday, Jan. 31 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Rockwood Library, 17917 S.E. Stark St.

The main purpose of the board will be to monitor and evaluate the housing program's policies and



Leniece Rice

programs, giving voice to the residents' concerns and suggestions, serving as a sounding board for programming ideas, and to make recommendations that assist in measuring the program's effectiveness.

For more information, call Rice at 503-314-4712 or email [rice@multco.us](mailto:rice@multco.us)



## Good Day Reader -- GOOD NEWS HERE

**The Multi-Trillion dollar Travel Industry is looking to get YOU the "greatest savings" on your Travel, Hotel/Condos accommodations. Travel that will SAVE & MAKE you/your Family cash to travel on/pay-off Bills/etc. You can access this travel biz membership for \$1, \$20 or \$100. You decide.**



Start today for \$1 or \$20 at

[Income4u.my1dollarbusiness.com](http://Income4u.my1dollarbusiness.com). Refer



**50/100 to get started for either amount within the next 25 days, Then upgrade to the \$20/\$100 membership. If they All do, you and your family will earn a monthly "Residual Income" of \$250-\$2500 per month.**



**PLUS you can WIN/EARN a \$3000 5-star vacation, get airfare and travel spending cash too. For more info ph coach John at 503-358-9655.**

**Note: We have a special for Non-Profits fundraisers.**



**The Portland Observer**  
**50th Anniversary Celebration**  
**Friday, Oct. 23rd 2020**

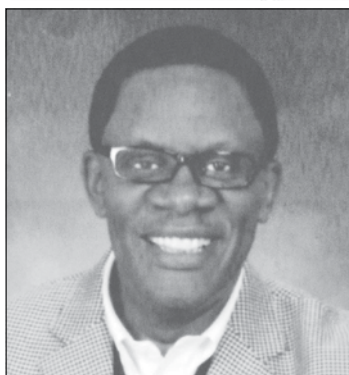
## THE SPINA COLUMN™

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

### Part 25 Chiropractic and Fitness: *The way to wellness in the eighties*

**Q:** I continue to hear that diet and exercising are helpful in maintaining a strong body. But where do I begin? There is so much literature and when I ask my doctor he seems unconcerned. How can I get started?

**A:** A good way to begin is with the basics. Since 1895 Chiropractic has been the leader in teaching the basics of health to our society. Good health must include proper nutrition. A general rule of thumb is that foods high in fiber are best for you. Limit your meats and refined foods as well as alcohol. Get plenty of exercise. For most people it only takes an hour or so a week to stay fit. Walking at a brisk pace with good arm swing is excellent. Rest is paramount. Everyone feels better after a good nights sleep. In Chiropractic, we will often recommend relaxation exercises as well. Have a joyful spirit. Scientists know now that our attitudes actually affect our entire chemistry. Finally, always keep a healthy nervous



Dr. Billy R. Flowers

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?

To find out how Chiropractic might be able to help you or for answers to any questions you might have about your health, please feel free to call us at the phone number shown below.

**Flowers' Chiropractic Office**  
2027 Lloyd Center Mall,  
Portland Oregon 97232  
**Phone: (503) 287-5504**



*Funerals ~ Memorial Services ~ Cremation ~ Preplanning*



**"Dedicated to providing  
excellent service and  
superior care of your  
loved one"**

*Funeral Home staff  
available 24 hours*

**503-249-1788**

**Terry Family Funeral Home**  
2337 N Williams Ave, Portland, Or 97227  
**[www.terryfamilyfuneralhome.com](http://www.terryfamilyfuneralhome.com)**



# Brisk and Funny ‘Mean Girls’ Tackles Skin Color

## OPINIONATED JUDGE

BY  
DARLEEN ORTEGA



What makes teenagers so exasperating to live with, and such fascinating story subjects, is that they reflect back to us what we least like to see in ourselves. For teenagers--perhaps particularly teenage girls--the stakes of each interaction feel heightened, and they haven't yet learned how (and see no reason) to hide or dress up or tone down their worst impulses.

In “School Girls: or, The African Mean Girls Play,” now on stage at the Armory in a co-production of Portland Center Stage and Artists Repertory Theater, teenage girls at a boarding school in Ghana fight to the death over who is prettiest and most worldly and who has the best shot as a contestant in the Miss Ghana pageant. The stakes are high--and white supremacy makes them more surmountable, even for a group of African girls.

Playwright Jocelyn Bioh plays this context for broad laughs, and teenage girls the world over are indeed funny; for these African teenagers in 1986, “The Baby-Sitters Club” can be “really powerful

stuff” and one can dream of visiting an American White Castle (“a castle with food!”). In other hands, this material would feel exploitive, but it helps that Bioh’s own parents immigrated to the U.S. from Ghana in 1968, and that she is motivated in part by a clear intention around presenting African stories that move us beyond the crude poverty porn that characterizes most of our collective image of the African continent. The laughs here are affectionate, and reflect some important insider understanding about what it is like to live female inside of dark skin.

The story revolves around a pack of girls who jockey for in-group status at a Ghanaian boarding school. The leader of the pack is, unmistakably, Paulina (Andrea Vernae, taut with furious energy), who relentlessly asserts her dominance with endless corrections of the girls who vie for her approval. There is no question in anyone’s mind that she has the only real shot at winning the pageant -- with

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12




PHOTO BY RUSSELL J. YOUNG/PORTLAND CENTER STAGE AT THE ARMORY

Paulina’s (Andrea Vernae, right) dreams of winning a teenage beauty pageant in Ghana is threatened by the arrival of Ericka (Morgan Walker) a new student with undeniable talent, beauty... and lighter skin in ‘School Girls’ or, The African Mean Girls Play,’ now playing through Feb. 16 at Portland Center Stage at the Armory.

OREGON LOTTERY

**SCORE BOARD**



**PLACE YOUR BETS FOR THE BIG GAME**

**DOWNLOAD THE APP**

Lottery games should not be played for investment purposes.





The acclaimed film 'The Burial of Kojo' screens on the opening night of the Cascade Festival of African Films, Friday, Jan. 31 at the historic Hollywood Theatre in northeast Portland. The night will include live music and attendance by the film's director Blitz Bazawule who is also a popular Brooklyn, N.Y.-based Ghanaian hip-hop artist.

# From the African Perspective

## 30th Cascade Festival brings 30 feature films

The Cascade Festival of African Films is celebrating its 30th anniversary as the longest-running African film festival in the United States.

From Friday, Jan. 31 through Feb. 29, free screenings will showcase 30 feature films, documentaries and short films from more than 20 nations. The films are shown Wednesdays through Saturdays each week at either the Moriarty Auditorium on the Portland Community College Cascade Campus, 705 N. Killingsworth St., or the Hollywood Theatre, 4122 S.E. Sandy Blvd.

The festival arose from humble beginnings when four PCC faculty members came together over a shared love of Africa and African cinema. In 1991, the event drew approximately 400 film lovers. Today, sustained by a small staff and an army of dedicated volunteers, the festival attracts more than 5,000 attendees every year.

"We are a city hungry for perspectives and experiences that broaden our understanding of the wider world and bring into focus our place in it," said PCC President Mark Mitsui in a news release to kick off

the event. "That the festival has endured for three decades is a testament to the diversity and vitality of African cinema, and to the hearts and minds of a city committed to honoring the ties that bind all of us together."

Opening night is Friday, Jan. 31 at the historic Hollywood Theatre with live music and back-to-back screenings of the acclaimed film "Burial of Kojo" (Ghana). The film's director Blitz Bazawule, who also is popular Brooklyn, N.Y.-based Ghanaian hip-hop artist, will be in attendance to discuss his work. The screenings

are 6:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.

Since its inception, the Cascade Festival of African Films has evolved to encompass more than just films from Africa. Attendees can enjoy "Saturday Socials," which are held between the afternoon and evening screenings on Saturdays, and features food, local vendors, live music, and more.

This year, the festival is partnering with Boom Arts to bring a live theatrical production of "How to Have Fun in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12



# Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



Portland writer, author and playwright S. Renee Mitchell's "Three by Ten & More" a series of readings that tell powerful stories about love, history and bullying. The Portland African American theater group PassinArt presents the new works on Friday, Jan. 31 through Feb. 9 at Self Enhancement, Inc., 3029 N. Kerby Ave. as part of Fertile Ground A City-Wide Festival of New Works.

## On Love, History and Bullying

### PassinArt presents Mitchell readings

PassinArt: A Theatre Company grounded in Portland's African American community presents "Three by Ten & More," three short theatrical readings that focus on love, history and bullying by local writer, author, and playwright S. Renee Mitchell.

The first presentation, "Love Me Right," is Mitchell's poetic story of a Valentine's Day encounter that helps a single woman and a married couple recognize that the heart is never safe when it is lured out to play like it doesn't mind the risk of falling in love.

"Blood is Thicker Than Color," the second reading, is a story of a Native American family during

America's dark days of chattel slavery learn that family's blood is more meaningful than one's color.

"Shaping of An Avalanche," the third selection is about the memory of a bullied high school girl whose suicide begins a series of events that turn the tables on her bullying classmates, leading to an unexpected and surprising ending.

"Three by Ten & More" opens Friday, Jan. 31 and plays through Feb. 9 at Self Enhancement, Inc., 3920 N. Kerby Ave., as part of the Festival Ground A City-Wide Festival of New Works. Shows on Friday and Saturday are at 7 p.m. and Sunday shows are at 3 p.m. Bonus performances and audience discussion will follow the staged readings.

Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at [passinart.org](http://passinart.org)

## Fertile Ground for Original Works

The Portland-grown Fertile Ground City-Wide Festival of New Works kicks off Thursday, Jan. 30 and continues through Sunday, Feb. 9, bringing 75 events and 120 acts of creation to multiple local venues in theater, dance, poetry, circus, music, animation and multidisciplinary acts. Fertile Ground is an annual celebration of the prolific playwrights, abundant actors, innovative dancers, talented designers



and adventuresome producers who live and work right here in the Rose City. An incubator for new work in all forms and stages of creation, Fertile Ground offers theater and dance, workshops, staged readings and multidisciplinary events for 11 days and at all times of the day and at venues across the city. The festival is an astonishing breadth of creative work with seasoned theater and dance companies alongside new art-creators of every ilk. Since the inaugural festival in 2009 more than 70 Fertile Ground-originated works have gone on to further productions, locally, naturally and in festivals worldwide. "Each year, I'm like a kid in a candy store as I look through the project listings for the first time, awash with delight at the inventive, thoughtful, diverse array of creative impulses they comprise," said Nicole Lane, Fertile Ground festival director. "This year is no different and maybe even more exciting than some years." For a full list of this year's offerings, visit [fertilegroundpdx.org](http://fertilegroundpdx.org).

### YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD, YOUR VOICE

**AFFORDABLE RENTAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY**

APPLY ONLINE JAN 6 - FEB 21

[www.portlandoregon.gov/phb/preference](http://www.portlandoregon.gov/phb/preference)

Three new apartment buildings offering affordable rental housing are opening throughout North/Northeast Portland in 2020. Those interested in one of these new affordable housing opportunities must apply through the North/Northeast Preference Policy application between Jan 6th - Feb 21st.

**CONTACT US**

Monday, Wednesday, Friday from 9-11AM and 1-5PM  
Email: [phbwaitlist@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:phbwaitlist@portlandoregon.gov) | Phone: (503) 823-4147

**KING + PARKS** **RENAISSANCE COMMONS** **SONGBIRD**

**APPLICANTS MUST INCOME QUALIFY TO BE ELIGIBLE**

## LoribyDesygn

**Lori A. Martin**  
Custom Memorial Keepsakes  
971.888.4099  
Memorial Folders  
Video Presentations  
Web Designs  
[www.loribydesygn.com](http://www.loribydesygn.com)



# Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

## 'Oh Freedom' Drama at WSU-Vancouver

The Washington State University Vancouver campus is celebrating Black History Month in February by creating space to honor the achievements, contributions and lived experiences of peoples of the African and Black diaspora.

The public is invited to join the campus community for a dramatic performance of "Oh Freedom: Commemorating the Spiritual and the Underground Railroad" on Tuesday, Feb. 5 at 4 p.m. in the Firstenburg Student Commons, Room 105. This event is free. RSVP at [vancouver.wsu.edu/events](http://vancouver.wsu.edu/events).

"Oh Freedom" commemorates the powerful connection of the spiritual and the Underground Railroad through five dramatic movements. Carefully selected prose narratives



Wesley Williams II



H. L. Wright II

from historical scholars, poems from specific time periods and spirituals that align with the text will give you the opportunity to commemorate the fusion of narrative

and song to describe the evil, ugliness and authentic beauty of this significant time in U.S. and world history.

Wesley Williams II is the creator and producer of "Oh Freedom." He performs with H.L. Wright II.

WSU Vancouver is located at 14204 N.E. Salmon Creek Ave., east of the 134th Street exit from either I-5 or I-205.



New York-based rapper Homeboy Sandman will perform Sunday, Feb. 2 at Mississippi Studios.

## Homeboy Sandman on Tour

New York-based rapper Homeboy Sandman has embarked on a West Coast tour supported by Quelle Chris and will be performing at Mississippi Studios in north Portland on Sunday, Feb. 2.

Sandman recently released "Dusty," a collection of 15

soul-assessing confessionals that shows his lyrical wordsmith is as strong as ever. His work has been featured at numerous media outlets including The Guardian, Pitchfork, NPR, Rolling Stone, Stereogum, XXL and more.

Providing Insurance and Financial Services  
Home Office, Bloomington, Illinois 61710

**Ernest J. Hill, Jr.** Agent

311 NE Killingsworth St,  
Portland, OR 97211  
503 286 1103 Fax 503 286 1146  
[ernie.hill.h5mb@statefarm.com](mailto:ernie.hill.h5mb@statefarm.com)  
24 Hour Good Neighbor Service®



State Farm®



**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](http://pcs.org), by phone at 503-445-3700 or in-person from the box office.

**Sweat** – Profile Theater presents the Portland premiere of African American playwright Lynn Nottage's Pulitzer Prize winning play Sweat, a story that captures global capitalism's impacts on the lives of a diverse group of workers through a wincing story of people losing their livelihood, becoming desperate and lashing out at themselves and each other. Now playing through Feb. 2 at Imago Theater, 17 S.E. Eighth Ave.

**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.

## ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE



**Chinese New Year**

– Lan Su Chinese Garden, downtown, celebrates Chinese New Year with special events through Feb. 9, including lion dances, lighted lantern parades and other cultural activities.

**Reel Music Festival** – The 37th edition of Portland's beloved Reel Music Festival features a line-up of cutting-edge films focused on some of today's—and yesteryear's—most thrilling musicians. Runs through Feb. 16 at the Whitsell Auditorium at the Portland Art Museum. Admission is \$10 and \$8 for students and seniors. Visit [nwfilm.org](http://nwfilm.org).

**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 Sunday, Feb. 2 at the Disjecta Contemporary Arts Center, 8371 N. Interstate Ave.

**Norman Sylvester Band** – "Boogie Cat" Norman Sylvester and his band plays Saturday, Feb. 1 at Catfish Lou's in Beaverton; Friday, Feb. 7 at Wilf's at Union Station; and Saturday, Feb. 8 at the Spare Room.

**Film Screens with Call to Action** – 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, HOLLA and Bars to Bridges host a public 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.



5010 NE 9th Ave  
Portland, Or 97211  
Phone: 503 284-2989

*We specialize in a variety of cuts for men and women, hot towel razor shaves, braiding, hair extension, Shampoo, blow dryer and Platinum fade.*

**Call Today or Walk in !!!**

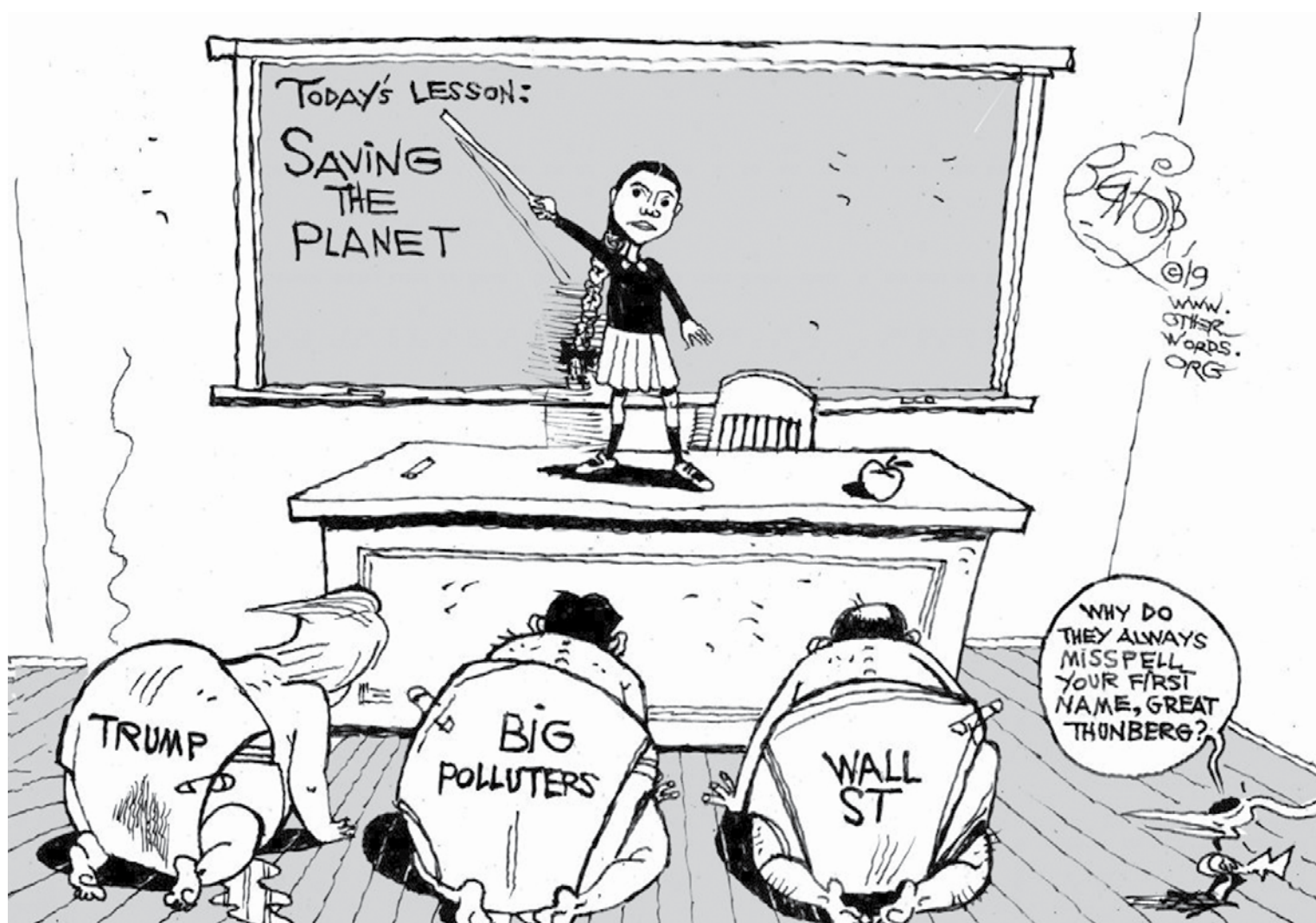
**The Portland Observer**  
50th Anniversary Celebration  
Friday, Oct. 23rd 2020





Opinion articles do not necessarily represent the views of the Portland Observer. We welcome reader essays, photos and story ideas. Submit to [news@portlandobserver.com](mailto:news@portlandobserver.com).

# OPINION



## Rollbacks are Textbook Institutional Racism

### Environmental law attacks sow division



BY LESLIE D. GREGORY  
AND TOM H. HASTINGS

Did Trump say out loud, "I'm going to gut the original environmental law of the US and it will affect everyone's health negatively but the health of black and brown people the most?"

Of course not. But that is exactly what is afoot with his intention to roll back major portions of the 1969 germinal environmental law—the National Environmental Protection Act—the original law upon which all such important protections are built. The Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, Endangered Species Act, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act—all these protections, and more, of our public health will be weakened and, in some cases, rendered virtually moot, when Trump finishes.

Big oil will profit. Huge corporations will skip previously required steps to pass assess-

ments and protection measures, increasing profits for all manner of developers and increasing incidence of lung disease, heart disease and cancers associated with reckless release of toxic and hazardous material that speeds extraction, quickens construction and jacks up mortalities. Industry benefits, people lose.

It's not like environmental laws are perfect, but they need improvement, not evisceration.

According to a report in The Hill, the EPA found black Americans are subjected to higher levels of air pollution than whites. Another study found that communities of color and low-income populations are disproportionately exposed to chemical releases. Others have found that minority and low income communities were more likely to be near hazardous waste sites. Advocates often collectively refer to these towns as environmental justice communities.

So there is already a lethal bias against poor people and people of color in many respects—as if that means that middle-class white people are immune from these public health threats. It does not.

But it does mean that institutional racism will be claiming even more victims—little children, innocent of anything other

than being African American or Latinx or Native American/Pacific Islander, will be statistically more likely to suffer asthma, nascent heart damage and a wide range of chemically/toxically related cancers.

When a little girl whose parents can only afford housing near some project or facility that is releasing unhealthy atmospheric elements or polluting the local drinking water, when that child gets sick, that isn't a statistic, that is a little girl. Donald Trump should not be allowed to hurt her.

From caging children to poisoning them, this impeached guardian of corporate profits should not be permitted to get away with this and other crimes against humanity.

Racism is not primarily, or even much, about an ignorant white person calling a black person the n-word, nor about Trump calling refugees "animals." It is far more common, far more deadly, when it's baked in the cake of our laws, our governance, our education, our healthcare system, and our economy.

The hypocrisy of Trump labeling other countries, even some of those with universal healthcare and decent environmental law enforcement, as "sh-

-hole" while we descend to new lows ourselves, is truly abysmal. Our leadership in the world is being dragged down by one unfit to lead in any worthy sense.

The diseases associated with proximity to toxicity are insidious, atypical in many cases, and deceptively chronic, all highly associated with resultant compromised self-concept, and other mental health risks. It is often hard to pinpoint a proven origin, but common sense epidemiology shows it clearly. Of course, access to the health care required is negatively associated with the populations most directly affected, thus exacerbating all these causal and correlative factors.

Our work, if we are serious about making America great, is to repair racial disparities, not worsen them. Please sign the MoveOn petition to fight institutional racism as a threat to public health and let your federal representative know that you care, that you oppose this attack on our basic environmental laws.

Leslie Gregory is a certified physician assistant focusing on preventive cardiology and is executive director of Right to Health. Tom H. Hastings is PeaceVoice Director and on occasion an expert witness for the defense in court.



**MCS Still in Business**

## Martin Cleaning Service

**Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning  
Residential & Commercial Services  
Minimum Service CHG. \$50.00**

A small distance/travel charge may be applied

**CARPET CLEANING**  
2 Cleaning Areas or more  
\$30.00 each Area

**Pre-Spray Traffic Areas**  
(Includes: 1 small Hallway)

**1 Cleaning Area (only)**  
\$50.00  
Includes Pre-Spray Traffic Area and Hallway

**Stairs (12-16 stairs - With Other Services): \$30.00**

**Heavily Soiled Area:**  
\$10.00 each area  
(Requiring Pre-Spray)

### Area/Oriental Rug Cleaning

**Regular Area Rugs**  
\$25.00 Minimum

**Wool Oriental Rugs**  
\$40.00 Minimum

### UPHOLSTERY CLEANING

Sofa: \$70.00

Loveseat: \$50.00

Sectional: \$110 - \$140

Chair or Recliner:

\$25.00 - \$50.00

Throw Pillows (With Other Services): \$5.00

### ADDITIONAL SERVICES

- Auto/Boat/RV Cleaning
- Deodorizing & Pet Odor Treatment
- Spot & Stain Removal Service
- Scotchguard Protection
- Minor Water Damage Services

**Call for Appointment**  
**(503) 281-3949**



# 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/WH/DPWR/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

OR CCB #153167

## 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 MWESB 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.

License Number: 109192

## LEGAL NOTICES



Need to publish a court document or notice? Need an affidavit of publication quickly and efficiently? Please fax or e-mail your notice for a free price quote!

Fax: 503-288-0015

e-mail: [classifieds@portlandobserver.com](mailto:classifieds@portlandobserver.com)  
The Portland Observer



PHOTO COURTESY PORTLAND PARKS AND RECREATION

High school students from Portland served this past summer as golf caddies for hourly wages and school credit as part of a Portland Parks and Recreation scholarship program. Pictured (from left) are Amy Mendez, Lilly Varner, Valeria Corales Badilla, Ava Arias, Michelle Nguyen and Angelina Granados. Not pictured, Tommy Nguyen and Lisa Chen.



**north by  
northeast**  
COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

North by Northeast Community Health Center is the only clinic in Oregon focused on African American health. We provide welcoming, high quality health care to adults who have Oregon Health Plan. Since 2006, our priority

has been to serve the local African American community and to reduce the deadly effects of high blood pressure and diabetes. We are accepting new patients, and if you're uninsured, we can help you get covered!

To make an appointment or learn about our services, contact us:

**(503) 287-4932 | [www.nxneclinic.org](http://www.nxneclinic.org)**

714 NE Alberta St., Portland Oregon 97211

## Golf Program Applications

Portland-area high school freshman are encouraged to earn wages and school credit this summer by participating in the Eagle Caddie Program, a cooperative venture between Portland Parks and Recreation, the Western Golf Association Evans Scholars Foundation, and local public and private high schools.

Experience in the game of golf is not required. Qualified students are paid an hourly wage as golf caddies on Portland Parks Golf courses. EAGLE caddies receive work credit hours with mentors to monitor students' progress.

"The EAGLE program is a wonderful way for young people to gain work experience, learn about golf, and to see firsthand the wonderful opportunities available with Portland Parks & Recreation," says PP&R Director Adena Long. "I encourage all qualified high school students to apply and get valuable job experience. Portland Parks Golf is making the lifelong game more accessible to all players."

The deadline for EAGLE applications is May 1. For more information on the program, contact PP&R's Carolyn Lee at [carolyn.lee@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:carolyn.lee@portlandoregon.gov) or 503-823-5076.

# JESUS Coming Again SOON!!



**"Dear G-d, Please forgive ALL my sins. I accept Jesus into my heart as my Lord and Savior, Amen"**

[JesusIsComingAgain@usa.com](mailto:JesusIsComingAgain@usa.com)  
PO Box 231023, Tigard OR 97281



# Expanding Opportunities in Aviation

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

new executive director of the program, located in the former the Albina Youth Opportunity School on North Mississippi Avenue. The instruction young people get about airplanes is geared to give them opportunities for success in the aviation field.

Cannell's father is a good example, she said. He came from humble beginnings, but a ride in an airplane changed his life and sparked his interest in flying. He learned to fly and was a pilot for Northwest Airlines for 30 years.

Cannell wants more kids to get exposure to flying as well.

"My hope is that kids find their passion through aerospace," she said. "There are incredible opportunities in this field, and the goal is to reach as many kids as we can through our community partners, encouraging kids to learn what they can about aviation and aerospace and to try things out."

Aviation is the art or science of making and flying aircraft, while aeronautics is the design, construction, mathematics and mechanics of aircraft and other flying objects.

Both pursuits require a background in science, technology, engineering and math, known as STEM, Cannell said, subject areas that are taught with hands-on opportunities at Airway Science for Kids. Thanks to charitable donations, the classes are free to students.

ASK was founded in 1991 by Bob Strickland, a retired Air Force auditor, Cannell said.

"He had a love and passion for aviation and cared deeply about kids of color," she said. "He knew a lot our young people were falling through the cracks, with gangs and other distraction, and he wanted to make a positive impact by sparking an interest in STEM through aviation."

You don't have to be a pilot to get a good job in aviation. Other jobs in the field include aerospace engineer, air traffic controller, aircraft maintenance, aviation management, aviation safety, aviation transport, flight instructors, civil and military aviation, and even cabin crew.

At least 2,000 kids have been through the ASK program over the years, Cannell. Sixty percent were kids of color, she said, and at least 20 percent were girls.

"We don't turn any young person away and our focus is on kids of color and girls," she said.

STEM is the fastest growing field in the state and it's also one of the most lucrative fields for future careers, but there is a disparity because of the relatively small number of women and



PHOTO BY BEVERLY CORBELL/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

McKenzie Reid, 18, a senior at Lincoln High, said the Airway Science for Kids program is helping her prepare for a career as an aerospace engineer.

people of color pursuing math and science based vocations.

So the goal is not necessarily for the students to become pilots, although many do, Cannell said, "Our hope and passion is that they explore learning in STEM-related fields and go on to have careers that are both professional and lucrative for them."

The mission at ASK is to not only offer aviation and aeronautics training, but to convince local youth that it's not outside their reach and they can do anything they set their minds to.

"As Bob Strickland used to say, 'Your attitude determines your altitude,'" she said. "So many young people are reinforced that they can't do certain things. We attempt to deconstruct all of that and teach them that if you can learn to set a course for the Aurora Airport – whether it's on a simulator or in a real airplane – if you can build a drone and fly a drone, if you can build an airplane, then nothing can stop you from realizing your potential."

Learning to build drones and pilot them is a great job opportunity, Cannell said, and the biggest drone companies in the U.S., Northwest UAV, is located in McMinnville.

The ASK building, which the nonprofit has leased for two years and now owns, needs much work to make the space more ef-

ficient and useful, Cannell said.

ASK acquired the building, through a loan from a donor, from the Northwest Health Foundation, which bought the building when the Albina Youth school was going defunct, she said.

"They wanted to make sure it stayed in the community and the property did not get redeveloped into high rises, and they deserve a lot of credit."

But a lot of work still needs to be done and ASK is going to kick off a capital campaign soon to remake the school into it a modern educational facility and repay the loan. The building needs to be thoroughly cleaned, old furniture removed, classrooms renovated and much more.

Renovations will probably take a couple of years, Cannell said, and she's hoping to form partnerships with developers and foundations.

"We're hoping to get the community excited because it's right on Mississippi, the heart of the black community," she said. "What better homage to those who came before us to making sure we have a permanent home for our young people to get exposed to STEM and CTE (career and technical education) right there on Mississippi."

ASK is asking for in-kind support from builders and developers in the short term and financial partners for the long term "so we

can have something the community is proud of," she said.

"We're hoping to have a community center where people can gather and maybe put affordable housing on top," she said. "And we could have programs downstairs where little black and brown kids are learning how to fly airplanes, how to build drones and really get excited about math and science."

But it can't happen without community support, she said.

"Our program has been going on for almost 30 years and we want to continue for another 30 years," she said. "But in order to do so, it will take the community, the whole community, rallying behind us."

Cannell grew up in north and northeast Portland, she said, and graduated from Benson High School.

"What this is about, to me, is giving back to the community that has given me so much."

A celebration of the work of ASK, "ASK Wings to Soar Celebration," will be held at OMSI, the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry, at 6 p.m. on April 8 for a reception and dinner with a program emceed by current and former students and followed by a dance party.

To learn more about Airway Science for Kids, and to register for the "Ask Wings to Soar Celebration," go to the ASK website at [wpl.airwayscience.org](http://wpl.airwayscience.org).



**\$5.00 TEES**

CLUBS

FAMILY REUNIONS

SCHOOL CLUBS

BUSINESSES

SCREEN PRINTING

**971-570-8214**

**PETER CLARKE**



Broker Licensed in Oregon

503-333-5809

[peter@livingroomre.com](mailto:peter@livingroomre.com)



**LIVING ROOM  
REALTY**

**YOU CALL, WE HAUL**



Johnny Huff  
(owner/operator)



Scrapping Metal  
& Landscape Maintenance

Cell: (971) 263-5516

**Cason's**  
FINE MEATS

Theotis Cason

503-287-0855

5015 NE MLK Blvd.  
Portland, OR 97211

**Catering Available**





# Brisk and Funny 'Mean Girls' Tackles Skin Color

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

its rumored promise of a potential date with Bobby Brown! -- until a new girl, Ericka (a lovely Morgan Walker) arrives from the U.S. She is kind, eager to make friends, and well-endowed with American beauty products, knowledge of American culture, and light skin that is naturally hers and not just a sign of better whitening products. ("Wow! You really are blessed!" one of the girls exclaims, to Paulina's evident horror.)

Even the two adults in the picture--the school's beleaguered headmistress, Frances (Kisha Jarrett), and her own former rival, the visiting pageant representative Eloise (Sara Williams), who finds a way to mention in nearly every sentence that she was Miss Ghana 1966--embody the essential conflict that these women carry in their bodies. Although Frances urges all the girls to audition for the pageant, to Frances, Paulina is the only real contender; she is driven, deserving, and embodies a truly Ghanaian standard of beauty. As Paulina gloats to the girls, "Headmistress likes to make everyone feel like they have a fair chance, but we all know I'm the best." But once the ambitious and practical Eloise lays eyes on Eric-



PHOTO BY RUSSELL J. YOUNG/PORTLAND CENTER STAGE AT THE ARMORY

Tonea Lolin, Kayla Kelly and Andrea Vernae perform as teenage girls who fight over who is prettiest, most worldly and who has the best shot as a contestant in the Miss Ghana pageant in 'School Girls' or, *The African Mean Girls Play*."

ka, she sees the promise of a real shot; Ericka, with her pale skin and more European features, is what the judges like to see: "girls who have a more universal and

commercial look."

In this brisk and funny play, it's a small but powerful point: even in Ghana, one's proximity to whiteness is what determines

one's value. And even though the play isn't subtle and packages its truth in buoyant humor, the point, which too few audience members will have even begun to inter-

rogate, is well made. Colorism operates relentlessly no matter where you are.

This production benefits from a uniformly solid cast that lives the jokes and nervous energy and hints of underlying sorrow in their bodies. These women know the power of this material and carry it in every muscle and pore. Each is funny and beautiful in her own way, and each (including Taylor) fails to measure up to the impossible standard of whiteness. And the show is buoyed by Wanda Walden's spot-on costumes, which comically express the inherent humor in African girls aspiring to 1980s American pop culture, which is itself somehow inherently and comically aspirational.

Bioh's play feels too short; I wish she had carried her very good idea a bit deeper. But spending a brisk 80 minutes with these splendid women is too precious an opportunity to miss. The production runs through Feb. 16.

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).



## Avalon Flowers

520 SW 3rd Ave., Portland,  
OR 97204 • 503-796-9250

*A full service flower experience*

- Birthdays • Anniversaries
- Funerals • Weddings

Cori Stewart--  
Owner, Operator

**Open: Mon.-Fri. 7:30am til 5:30pm**  
**Saturday 9am til 2pm.**

Website: [avalonflowerspdx.com](http://avalonflowerspdx.com)  
email: [avalonflowers@msn.com](mailto:avalonflowers@msn.com)  
We Offer Wire Services



## CANNON'S RIB EXPRESS

3625 NE MLK Jr Blvd,  
Portland OR

Call to Order: 503-288-3836  
*Cannon's, tasty food and friendly neighborhood atmosphere.*

### Open (hours)

Mon-Sat: 11am-7pm  
Sunday: 11am-6pm  
Closed Tuesday



'Life is Fare,' an Eritrean/American film, dives into both the struggles and joys of being part of an immigrant community in the United States. The film will conclude the five-week Cascade Festival of African Films on Saturday, Feb. 29 at the Hollywood Theatre. The director Sephora Woldu will be in attendance at the screening.

## From the African Perspective

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

a Civil War." This autobiographical performance by Ifrah Mansour explores Somalia's civil war through poetry, puppetry, videos, and interviews, confronting a vio-

lent history with humor. The performances are 1 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 8 and 5 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 9 at the Moriarty Auditorium.

Other highlights include matinee shows for the whole family, a focus on women filmmakers and

a special series showcasing fully re-mastered classic films from seminal African filmmakers.

For the complete calendar of film screenings and director appearances, visit [africanfilmfestival.org](http://africanfilmfestival.org).