



Black History Month

Established in 1970



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The Portland Observer

Volume XLVIV • Number 8



'City of Roses'

www.portlandobserver.com
Wednesday • February 19, 2020

Committed to Cultural Diversity



Power in Governing

Activist city leader fights for equity, fairness

BY BEVERLY CORBELL
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

When City Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty, herself a historic leader at Portland City Hall, thinks about Black History Month, she thinks about Charles Jordan, the first African American Portland city commissioner, who served from 1974 to 1984.

"I had the privilege of meeting him and getting to know him," she said. "And what I learned from his legacy is that there is always strong leadership from people of color communities, but the problem is whether they are recognized by everybody else."

Hardesty, who first was elected to public office in the Oregon House of Representatives from 1995 to 2001, is widely recognized today because of her historic City Council race last year in which she became the first African American female on the council. It followed two decades of outspoken activism for progressive causes.

She served in the trenches as a community organizer as executive director of Oregon Action, building a movement for justice in Oregon led by people of color, immigrants and refugees, rural communities, and people experiencing poverty, and later as president of the Portland NAACP. She also hosts a progressive radio show, "Voices from the Edge," on KBOO Radio.

In an interview with the Portland Observer for Black History Month, Hardesty talked about her work and what it takes to overcome obstacles.

Because of her activism, Hardesty said there was a public misperception that she couldn't build coalitions, that she "was just a bullhorn and would just yell at people," but that's not true, she said.

"What I wanted was equity and fairness, and what I wanted was for my people to



PHOTO BY BEVERLY CORBELL/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
Jo Ann Hardesty, the first African American woman to serve on the Portland City Council.

be treated the same way as the people who live downtown."

Calling herself "a community organizer who happens to have a seat on the City Council," Hardesty said she brings those grassroots skills to the table of city government.

"My style is radically different from my colleagues because I have always come to this work from a position of, 'Who's most impacted, how do we hear their voices, and how do we make sure they're part of helping us develop what the solution is?'" she said.

The full council heard those impacted voices, when under Hardesty's leadership, commissioners developed a plan for Portland Street Response, a new pilot program that will start this spring that will use mental health professionals instead of police in responding to some non-emergency calls, many of which come from homeless camps. But before coming up with a plan, volunteers went out and interviewed hundreds of homeless first, to see what they needed.

"We very intentionally started out talking to the houseless people before we started talking to the neighborhoods and the business associations," Hardesty said. "We wanted to make sure that we were grounded in what houseless people said they needed. It's a different way to go and I think people of color govern differently and I think women govern differently."

Women also lead differently in crisis situations, and although she's a frequent critic of police brutality, Hardesty said one reason that there was no major disturbance to the peace last August when white supremacists and anti-supremacists clashed in downtown Portland, was that women, including former Police Chief Danielle Outlaw, were in charge and kept confrontations to a minimum.

"They had a lot of pushback when they opened to the Hawthorne Bridge to let the white supremacists go, but I said that was the smartest thing they could have done," she said, to separate the groups.

Because she oversees fire and rescue and emergency management, Hardesty

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Black History Salute



Marcia L. Taylor

Congratulations to Marcia L. Taylor of Portland for her decades of support to improve the quality of life of those suffering with the life-threatening and painful disease of sickle cell anemia.

As founder of the Sickle Cell Anemia Foundation of Oregon, Taylor has been a champion of improving health outcomes for countless Afro-Americans and others impacted by the medical disorder since 1982. She has been instrumental in getting doctors to routinely test newborns for sickle cell in Oregon, educating both the community and medical providers about the disease, and building resources through a foundation with other partners to provide assistance to patients and families in need.



PHOTO COURTESY PORTLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Combining early childhood education and support for adult student parents can help kids succeed and give current college and career-path students the ability to stay in school and graduate.

New Support for Head Start Families

Program to focus on balancing work, careers

Portland Community College and Albina Head Start will have more resources to connect low-income residents and students to human services and educational pathways to future careers as they balance work and childcare needs thanks to a new grant of \$495,000 from the Kresge Foundation.

The funds will expand existing career-focused PCC education programs and support an additional 200 Early Head Start and Head Start parents. As part of this effort, staff will identify and reform organizational barriers, and develop better approaches to serve low-income communities of color.

“We will look at how we can use student-centered design to improve the way we communicate

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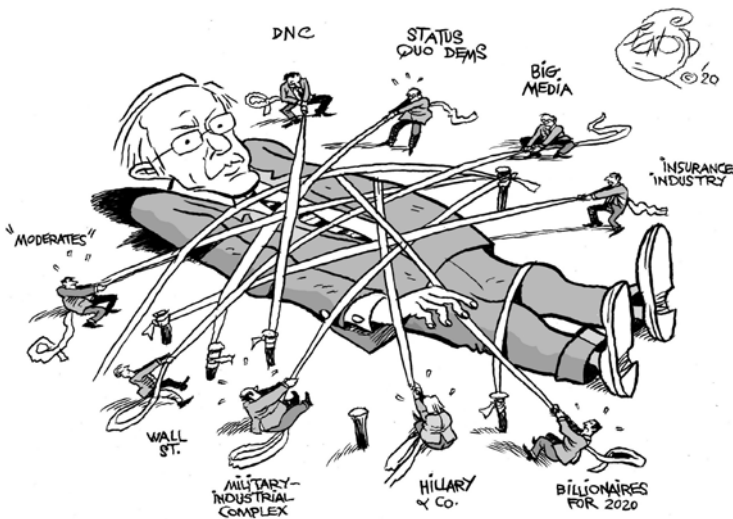
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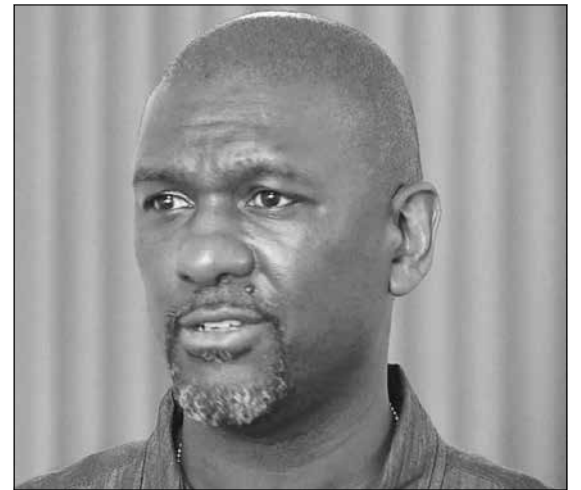
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LOCAL NEWS

Wrongful Arrest

Settlement leads to more investigations



Michael Fesser, 48, of Portland, won a \$600,000 civil suit this month against the city of West Linn for a wrongful arrest in an alleged racially-motivated harassment case from 2017 involving West Linn police, Portland's former gang enforcement team and his employer A&B Towing. (KATU photo)

Multiple police investigations looking at possible misconduct have been sparked after the story of a Portland African American man who was the alleged victim of a racially-motivated harassment in 2017 by a towing company employer and the West Linn Police Department, actions that also enlisted Portland's former gang enforcement team to make an arrest during a traffic stop.

Since the case of Michael Fesser, 48, was reported last week by the Oregonian, new investigations have started in Clackamas and Multnomah counties, the Portland Police Bureau and city of West Linn. Oregon Sens. Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley and Congressman Earl Blumenauer have also asked the U.S. Attorney for Oregon to investigate possible civil rights violations.

In addition, Portland City Commissioner Chloe Eudaly has directed the Portland Bureau of Transportation to sever its contract with A&B Towing, the company at the heart of the harassment claims and Fesser's former employer.

Fesser this month won \$600,000 in a civil suit against West Linn police, claiming he was targeted for arrest as a favor to a fishing buddy of former West Linn Chief Terry Timeus. The fishing friend was Eric Benson of A&B Towing, Fesser's employer at the time who accused Fesser of stealing money from the company. The lawsuit claimed two West Linn detectives and Timeus worked with the employer to fabricate a theft case against Fesser just as Fesser was alleging racial discrimination on the job because he was black.

Saying she was sickened by Fesser's wrongful arrest, Portland City Commissioner Eudaly last week

released a statement, saying she's instructed Portland Bureau of Transportation to cut ties with A&B Towing, which currently holds one of the main towing contracts with the city.

The Clackamas County District Attorney's Office will conduct a review to determine if officers involved committed crimes and whether action should be taken to avoid putting future cases in jeopardy. Portland Police Chief Jami Resch has called for an internal police investigation.

The Multnomah County District Attorney's office also announced it would initiate a review of what led to Fesser's arrest, including the involvement of the city's gang enforcement team.

Current West Linn Police Chief Terry Kruger said in a statement that the department would fully cooperate with the investigations, and that like many, he was deeply troubled and angered by the full weight of the allegations. He said the only remaining member of the West Linn police department associated with the Fesser case was put on paid administrative leave pending the final outcome of the Clackamas County District Attorney's investigation.



Portland Community College hosts a meeting for minority, women, emerging small businesses and veteran-owned firms. Coming Wednesday, Feb. 26 at 6 p.m. will be another event to recruit participation in campus construction projects to be held on the Sylvania Campus

Minority Business Outreach at PCC

Portland Community College is recruiting participation in an event where certified minority, women, emerging small business and service-disabled veteran-owned firms are invited to meet with the college's general contractors.

The gathering will take place on Wednesday, Feb. 26 from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on the Sylvania Campus in southwest Portland in

the College Center Upper Mall. Refreshments will be served, and parking is free.

Representatives from PCC's Facilities Management Services, Kirby Nagelhout Construction, Fortis Construction, Andersen Construction, Mortenson Construction, Lease Crutcher Lewis, Pence Construction, the Small Business Development Center and other firms will be in attendance.

They'll have information available for their contracting needs and schedules for the different trades.

This outreach function is part of the college's effort to promote business development and workforce diversity. For more information, call PCC Bond Finance Manager John MacLean at 971-722-8435 or email john.maclean1@pcc.edu.



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Power in Governing

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

said she spent that day last August among the EMTs and watched developments, including one where a handful of kids were dancing in front of Nordstrom's, which like other downtown businesses, was closed for the day. Hardesty said she was alarmed when a half dozen cops in riot gear started to approach the dancing kids, but, apparently upon receiving orders, turned around, got back on their truck and left.

"I'm not saying women are better leaders, but what I'm saying is that women are not so prone to immediately escalate," Hardesty said of the incident.

But that doesn't mean Hardesty doesn't push some buttons with her strong sense of what's right and wrong. Take facial recognition technology, for example. Hardesty said it's bad science and does not work the way it's supposed to, particularly for women of color.

"My goal is to ban both public and private use of facial recognition technology and plan to have it before the council no later than April," she said. "Until I'm comfortable that it works the same way for white men as it does for black women, I don't want any part of it."

Another thing Hardesty wants no part of is saving all five city-owned golf courses, which she doesn't see the need for, and believes that space could be better used.

"Why do we have golf courses?" Hardesty asked. "I haven't gotten a good answer to that, especially since we now have the third mayor who's declared a housing emergency and the most expensive thing in building new housing is that people can't afford the land."

Golf courses have plenty of land, she said, which could be used either to build new housing or to construct tent communities for homeless residents, with mobile cooking units, showers and garbage containers.

Hardesty said she believes in

a "housing first" approach to the housing crisis, but that developers are not really building affordable housing in many cases and are not helping people who are very poor.

"The only tools we have today that are addressing the severe housing shortage on the very low income scale are community development corporations, but if you build housing at zero to 30 percent (of mean income) you need to have services in the building; it can't just be housing," she said. "We need people to be able to have their needs met where they live... We're doing things the way we've always done them and there doesn't seem to be a sense of urgency around it."

In some ways Portland is better than it was 20 years ago, but Hardesty said she believes that racism has gotten worse in "the whitest city in America."

"In my entire 60-plus years on the earth it's only been in the last two years that I've been fearful in walking the streets of Portland because of all the white supremacists' activity taking place, out in the daylight, out in public," she said.

But Hardesty has hope for the future, especially for the city's Charter Review Commission to be assembled in 2021. At present, each commissioner is allowed to appoint four people to run the commission, whose work could take up to two years.

Big issues the commission will be evaluating, include the city's form of government and whether to make changes in how power is shared between the mayor and commissioners or a possible appointed executive; and if council members should continue to be elected at-large or from particular districts of the city.

"We are all elected city-wide, which explains why I'm the only person of color on the council," she said. "We want to make sure the Charter Review Commission is diverse and clear about their mission, which is to talk to every corner of the city of Portland."

The Portland Observer

Established 1970 — USPS 959 680 —

4747 NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., Portland, OR 97211

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Joshua Webb was a senior at Grant High School when he reported for Grant Magazine Multimedia in the 2016 documentary "Losing Alberta: Gentrification in Northeast Portland." The film will get a screening on Saturday night at Alberta Abbey as part of a grouping of locally made documentaries exploring the past, present and future of black communities.

Films to Screen on Local Black History

The community is invited to explore the past, present and future of black communities in Portland by attending a night of short documentary films. Presented by Alberta Abbey and Gentrification is Weird, the screenings will take place Saturday, Feb. 22, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Alberta Abbey, 126 N.E. Alberta St. The night will also feature a post-screening discussion and Q&A.

The films include Albina Murals (1978) about the creation of a series of murals that no longer exist

detailing black history; Losing Alberta (2016), an in-depth look into how Alberta became one of the most popular streets in Portland, while financially squeezing its black communities' identity further out of reach; The Numbers (2017), a look into the hopes, dreams and visions of young people living east of 82nd Avenue; and Roof Shocked (2019), on how one family reclaimed their home.

Admission a suggested \$5 donation but nobody will be turned away.



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"...all come from dust, and to dust all return." Ecclesiastes 3:20 (NIV)

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For more information, contact:
Lee Fleming
Multnomah County
Supplier Diversity Officer
Lee.Fleming@multco.us or
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Supplier Portal:
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A full-page photograph of Prince playing a white electric guitar. He is wearing a white ruffled shirt under a dark, patterned jacket. The background is dark with blue and purple stage lighting. The text "the most searched guitar solo" is overlaid in white.

the most searched guitar solo

Prince's guitar solos have been searched more than any other artist's guitar solos in U.S. Google Trends history.

Explore more at g.co/blackhistorymonth

Google



the most searched speech

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s speech, "I Have a Dream," has been searched more than any other speech in U.S. Google Trends history.

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Be our guest

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Saturday, February 22, 2020
7:00pm to 10:00pm
The Village Ballroom
(704 NE Dekum St.)

FREE EVENT

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PHOTO COURTESY US ARMY

African American regiments known as Buffalo Soldiers fought in the Spanish-American War and later garrisoned at Vancouver Barracks in Vancouver. This weekend, an exhibit and discussion about historic black connections to the area will take place at the Fort Vancouver Historic Trust.

Black Roots Presented

Weekend tribute and discussion set

This weekend, the Historic Trust at Fort Vancouver presents a special exhibit and discussion about historic black connections to the lower Columbia River basin, including the 1948 Vanport flood, the Vancouver NAACP and the Buffalo Soldiers.

The exhibit will be open free both Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 22 and 23 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Artillery Barracks on the Vancouver National Historic Site. The discussion, exploring the impact of the Vanport Flood, the importance of the Buffalo Soldiers 24th Infantry Regiment

Company B being stationed at Fort Vancouver, and the contributions of the NAACP will be held on Saturday at 2 p.m. at the same location.

The panel members will include Donna Sinclair, adjunct professor at Washington State University-Vancouver; Carl Abbott, historian and urbanist at Portland State University; Claudia Carter, assistant treasurer of the Vancouver NAACP; James Harrison, Portland Community College professor; Frazier Raymond, retired U.S. Army staff sergeant and president of the Buffalo Soldiers - Moses Williams Pacific NW Chapter; and Melissa Williams, director of diversity, equity and inclusion at Clark College.



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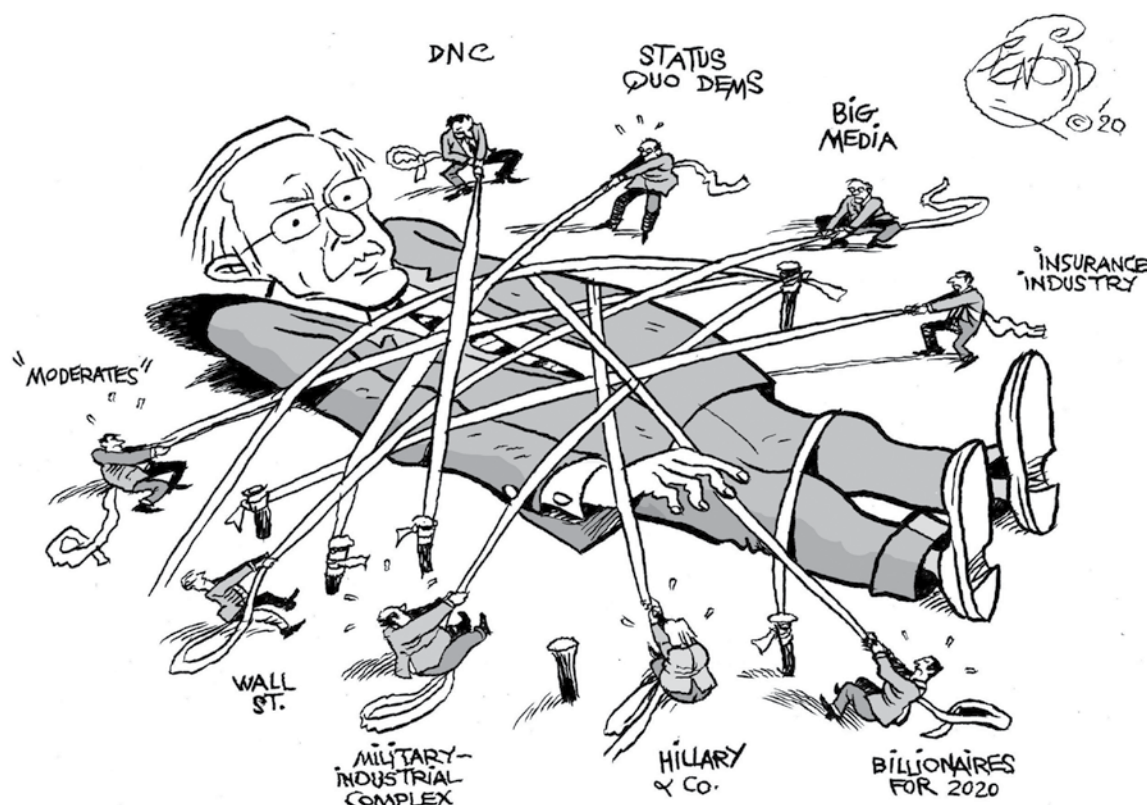
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Opinion articles do not necessarily represent the views of the Portland Observer. We welcome reader essays, photos and story ideas. Submit to news@portlandobserver.com.

OPINION



Be Ever Vigilant: No Turning Back

Cheer black progress but still speak out

BY MARIAN WRIGHT EDELMAN

A new Black History Month ad by Google featuring some of the search engine's "most searched" terms has gained a lot of attention. It begins with a simple statement: "There are moments in American history that captivate us all." Viewers then see images from the top Google searches for 20 of those historic moments.

As the ad ends with the "most searched speech" and a clip of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. sharing his dream for America at the March on Washington, we see that all of these celebrated moments and accomplishments feature black Americans.

At too many points in our national experience, black history and American history have seemed to tell different stories. But we need to continue to search out and celebrate every moment where we see the threads of our separate stories woven together.

Native American history, black history, Latino history, Asian American history, women's history, immigrant history, and LGBTQ history—are all American history. President Barack Obama's election was a nation defining moment. On the day of his first inauguration, the sea of nearly two million multicolored faces cheering together on the National Mall confirmed its historic impact, not just for black Ameri-

cans, but for all Americans.

In today's tumultuous times it often feels as if our nation is veering off course and our divisions are being exploited and threatening to unravel our national fabric. In this current election year, I hope we can reaffirm the promise and hope of that moment.

Everywhere one looked on that historic day there were reminders of how black history and American history converge. Journalists pointed out that our Capitol was built with slave labor and our National Mall sits on land that once held slave markets.

At the opening ceremony at the Lincoln Memorial the Sunday before his swearing in, President Obama, surrounded by monuments to our most revered leaders, reminded our nation of that "most searched speech" that took place on that sacred ground: "Directly in front of us is a pool that still reflects the dream of a King, and the glory of a people who marched and bled so that their children might be judged by their character's content." Civil rights giants Dr. Dorothy Height and John Lewis, members of the World War II Tuskegee Airmen, and many other trailblazers for liberty bore quiet witness by their presence.

During the inauguration ceremony the late Aretha Franklin, the Queen of Soul, sang "My Country 'Tis of Thee" and reminded all Americans of our nation's original promise to "let freedom ring." During his benediction, Rev. Joseph Lowery quoted a stanza of the song we call our Negro National Anthem, James Weldon Johnson's "Lift Every Voice and Sing":

For all of us who immediately recognized those beloved words the symbolism was overwhelming. For over a hundred years, every time that hymn has been played in church sanctuaries, school auditoriums, or community meetings it allowed black Americans to sing our own song about our faith in America's promise of liberty and hope for the future.

Rev. Lowery didn't recite every line, like those that speak of the bitter obstacles overcome and the bloodshed along the way. He didn't need to. As part of the blessing of our nation and its new President, the Negro National Anthem became—at long last—part of the larger American hymn. And as President Barack Obama's name was added to a list that began with George Washington and First Lady Michelle Obama graciously stepped into her role, we watched with pride the next chapters in Black and American history coming together before our eyes.

The book is still being written. As we celebrate Black History Month this year, this is a time to celebrate and cheer past progress but it is no time to drop our vigilance.

All Americans must remain vigilant and help our nation move ahead to fully include all its peoples. All of the people beginning with its children. We must continue to speak out, organize, vote and challenge any effort to undermine the progress made to date. We've come this far along the way and must continue to work for a nation where no child is left behind.

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



Join Us For the COVID OUTREACH EVENT

Contractors and consultants are invited to speak with our primes and project managers about current and future business opportunities with PCC, including upcoming capital projects and Facilities Management Services trade services needs.

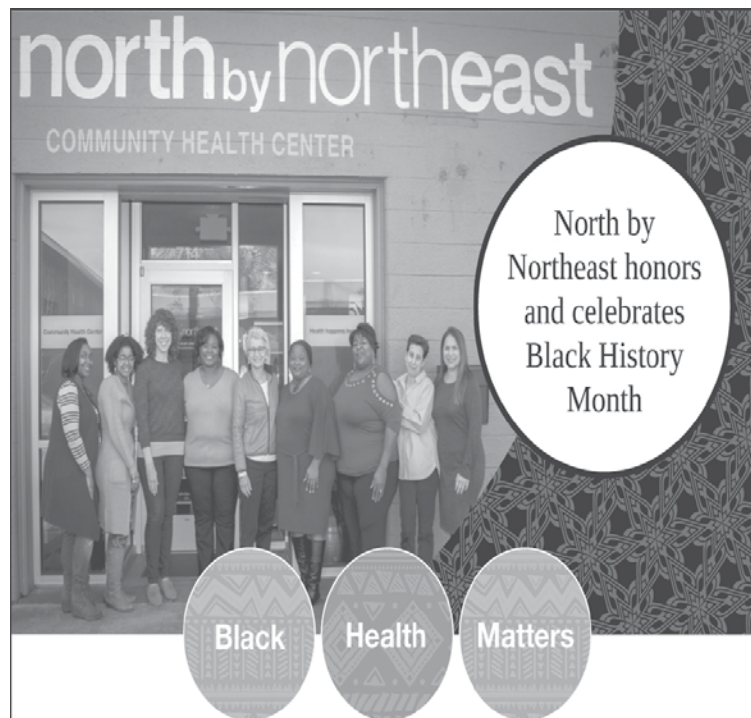
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RSVP and Questions:

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Portland Community College ("PCC") is soliciting bids from qualified suppliers to provide Palo Alto Networks Next Generation firewalls consisting of Hardware, Software, and 5 year support.

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 March 5, 2020:

Portland Community College
ITB - Palo Alto Networks Next Generation Firewalls
Attn.: James Lasseter
9700 SW Capitol Highway - Suite 260
Portland OR 97219

LATE, FAXED, OR EMAILED 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 March 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.

Emerging small businesses, as well as minority-owned, women-owned, disadvantaged-owned, or service disabled veteran-owned enterprises are encouraged to submit a response to this ITB solicitation.

This Notice is dated this 19th Day of February 2020 and is published in the following publications:

State of Oregon ORPIN System
Oregon Business Tribune
Oregon Daily Journal of Commerce
Portland Observer

s/: James Lasseter - PCC Buyer and Contract Specialist



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The Portland Observer

Community Heart Health Outreach

African Americans between the ages of 45-64 in Multnomah County are dying at double the rates as whites because of heart disease. To help fight back, a community conversation on heart health, sponsored by African American Health Initiatives and First AME Zion Church will be held Sunday,

Feb. 23 at the New Song Community Center, 20 N.E. Russell St. All are welcome. Lunch will be served from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. with a program featuring Legacy Health Heart Failure Specialist Dr. Raghu Reddy taking place from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

The free event will also include

blood pressure checks and enrollment in support groups to help you monitor your heart health, maintain a healthy diet and learn how to cook healthy meals and much more.

For more information and to register, email afam.health@gmail.com or call 503-349-2071.



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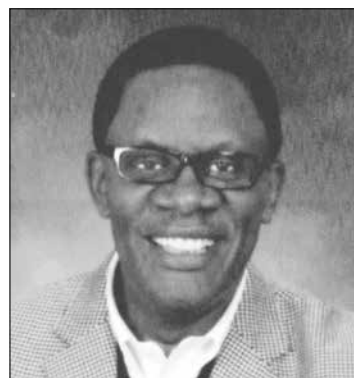
Part 29

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Dr. Billy R. Flowers

chiropractic are extremely successful at eliminating many symptoms. Often more quickly and effectively than other healing methods.

But, your doctor of chiropractic

can do so much more for you than just treating symptoms. Your chiropractor is concerned with making sure your entire body is functioning properly. Therefore, your chiropractor goes beyond treating your immediate symptoms to make sure your body is still functioning efficiently. That is the only way true health can be achieved.

But we aren't the only ones who have said it. Chiropractic has been accepted by the ultimate authority; you the people.

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.

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Obituary

In Loving Memory

Rodney Keith Bickham
July 6, 1951 – Jan. 8, 2020

Some may fondly remember him as “Party Time” or “PT.” Rodney Keith Bickham unexpectedly passed away on Jan. 8, 2020. He is survived by 5 children, 12 grandchildren, a grandson-in-law, his friend first and then lover/partner for 40 years and stepmother to his children -- Carolyn D. Grenfell, 2 of the 3 mothers to his children, a brother in California, 2 sisters, and best friend since kindergarten Jimi Johnson, among many other friends.

Although he resided in Newberg for 37 years, he never forgot his connection to his childhood years and original community. He attended Boise Elementary School followed by Jefferson High School. One year of high school was spent with his dad in California at Jefferson High School in Compton, then returning to Jefferson in Portland



to graduate with his class of 1969.

He also attended the University of Oregon and Portland Community College Culinary. He was baptized at and a member of Vancouver Avenue First Baptist Church.

Rod had a number of jobs in his younger years. He ended his career at Oregon Health & Science University after 20 years of cooking for patients with special diets and visitors, catering and managing meals. He was forced to retire in 1996 due to health reasons.

Carolyn and Rod moved to his stepdaughter Richelle's house in Multnomah Village 3 years ago to be cared for. He will be truly missed by many. He was a very sensitive man, fun loving, and he definitely liked to party!

A scattering of his, his mother's and his sister's ashes during a private family memorial by charter boat will take place at Depoe Bay on July 6, 2020, followed by an early dinner.

SWIGGLE MANDELA WITH RAZ SIMONE
 MIGHTY - COOL NUTZ - TIMMI HENDRIX - FIGURE 8 - LIL \$WAG - NAPPY THC
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Head Start Families

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

and connect with student parents,” said Kate Kinder, PCC’s director of career pathways and skills. “We’ll look at how we collaborate and align systems more effectively with partners, and what policies can improve college access, completion, and career opportunities for student parents.”

In 2018 the Oregon State Legislature passed HB4043, which called on community colleges to assess students’ financial constraints and determine how to increase access to federal, state and local benefits by low-income students. The Pathways to Opportunity initiative was thus launched, to close opportunity gaps and increase economic mobility across the state. PCC serves as the lead on the project, which includes a coalition of all 17 Oregon community colleges, the Higher Education Coordinating Commission, Oregon Community College Association, community-based organizations, and state partners like Oregon Department of Human Services.

Authors
Front Black
Lit is Lit!

Portland’s Black Parent Initiative is sponsoring “Black Lit is Lit!” a day and night of cultural literacy events on Saturday, Feb. 22 at Barnes & Noble at Clackamas Town Center.

From 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., families are encouraged to bring their kids for story times with three black authors and enjoy the event’s free giveaways, food and autographed copies of the books read. The featured authors are April Allen (It’s Nice to be Nice), Dr. Arlyne Simon (Abby Invents Unbreakable



Authors April Allen (from left), Dr. Arlyne Simon and Mitchell S. Jackson

Crayons) and Montrell “Chillin’ the Poet” Goss (Courageous Coyote Meets the Young Kids).

Later in the evening, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., a discussion geared to adults will take place with award-winning Portland native black author Mitchell S. Jackson as he highlights his paperback release of Survival Math: Notes

on an All American Family.

All purchases made at any Barnes & Noble store and cafe using the book fair ID# 12567079 at check out on Feb. 22 or online between Feb. 22 and Feb. 27 will help the Black Parent Initiative earn funds to buy more culturally specific books for families in the community.

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Joyce Washington

Born: 1937 – 1996

Joyce Washington Believed in this Community
and all those that made this Community Great.

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