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Census Begins with Mail Notice

No citizenship questions ease concerns

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The Portland Observer

Volume XLVIV • Number 11



'City of Roses'

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Committed to Cultural Diversity

Drastic Measures Prepare for Virus Onslaught

Public health experts warn that without drastic measures to slow the spread of the coronavirus epidemic, the demand for intensive-care beds in local hospitals could quickly outstrip capacity. As of Tuesday, the state had 65 people who have been diagnosed with COVID-19, but researchers expect the number of new cases statewide will double every 6.2 days. At that rate the state will need 1,000 additional hospital beds and another 400 intensive care beds in a matter of weeks, officials said.

Authorities urge everyone to take steps to protect themselves, their families, and those who are most vulnerable to complications from COVID-19. Those considered "high risk" include adults 60 and older, or anyone with a serious health condition, including lung or heart problems, kidney disease, diabetes, or anyone who has a suppressed immune system.

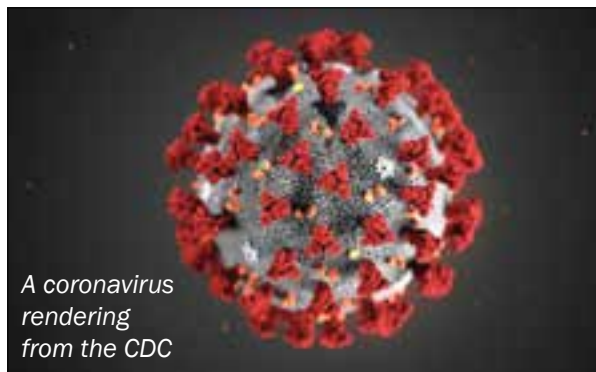
People vulnerable to complications should follow federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommendations to stay home as much as possible and avoid gatherings.

Every resident should take these basic steps to protect themselves and those most at risk:

Never visit a hospital or long-term-care facility if you have a fever or cough. Cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze.

Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Regularly clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces like bathrooms, desks, countertops, doorknobs, computer keyboards, faucet handles, toys and cell phones. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands. Stay home and away from others if you are ill.

After someone contracts COVID-19, illness usually develops within 14 days. Symptoms mirror those of the flu, including fever, cough, runny nose, headache, sore throat and general feelings of illness. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia.



A coronavirus rendering from the CDC



Gov. Kate Brown issues an order during a press conference with state and local government officials Thursday in Portland to close all schools in the state because of the coronavirus epidemic. On Monday, she went further to limit crowds of 25 people and ordered restaurants and bars to either shut down or serve take-out only. (AP photo)

Trying to Slow an Epidemic

Isolation now will help medical response later

BY BEVERLY CORBELL
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Portland and Vancouver have their first deaths attributed to the worldwide coronavirus epidemic, or COVID-19. A 70-year-old man with underlying health conditions died on Saturday at the Portland Veterans' Affairs Medical Center and two Clark County COVID-19 patients died Monday evening, according to state and county health authorities.

As of Tuesday, Oregon had a total of 65 people diagnosed with COVID-19, but that number was expected to grow significantly. Oregon Gov. Kate Brown issued an order to limit crowds of 25 people in an attempt to slow the spread of the virus. She also ordered restaurants and bars to either shut down or serve take out only. The latest measures followed her order on Thursday to close all schools until the end of the month.

The aim of health authorities is to try to flatten the curve of new infections to alleviate a feared surge of sick patients that could overwhelm the health system. Authorities are making strong efforts to promote social isolation and social distancing as a way to prevent the spread. For the next month, people are urged to avoid being around more than 10 people at a time.

Portland Police Chief Jami Resch Monday directed officers and supervisors to contact members of the public by phone when possible, but stated that police will continue to respond in person to disturbances such as thefts in progress, burglaries, welfare checks and injury vehicle crashes, and detectives will continue to investigate crimes.

Government offices across Portland and Vancouver have closed as employees work from home. And non-profits are also cutting back client contact. Meals on Wheels People is facing many challenges and is taking the further precaution of no longer offering even take out meals at its dining centers, according to spokeswoman Julie Piper Finley.

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County to Open More Shelters

Coronavirus response aimed at community in crisis

(AP) — Authorities in Multnomah County announced Tuesday that they will be opening hundreds of new shelter beds in public buildings throughout the city to try to stem the spread of the coronavirus in the homeless community.

The most vulnerable homeless residents have been given vouchers for hotel and motel rooms and those businesses will not be allowed to kick them out or turn people away, said Deborah Kafoury, chair of the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners.

Local government will also open spaces for homeless people with the coronavirus to recuperate indoors, she said.

Volunteers have made contact with 1,700 people living on the streets or in their cars in the past week throughout the county to provide information about the coronavirus and to offer services, Kafoury said.

“What if you don’t have a place where you can self-quarantine? What happens when the libraries close, the cafes aren’t open and public spaces are no longer available?” she said at a news conference announcing the initiatives.



Anthony Crowell sits at his barber station, downtown, after multiple customers canceled haircuts Monday because of fears about the spread of the coronavirus. Crowell usually has a steady clientele of business people at his barber shop but customers have stopped coming in recent days. (AP photo)

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“These are people who simply don’t have the option to close the front door and hope that the worst won’t come.”

The city and county are also jointly suspending evictions for those who can’t pay the rent due to COVID-19 for as long as the crisis lasts, said Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler.

Renters will have six months to repay their back rent after the city and county lift the state of emergency.

Those who will qualify for the evic-

tion moratorium are renters who have lost jobs or had reduced hours due to business closures; who have been out of work to watch children who are out of school; or who have been sick with the coronavirus or have a family member who is ill.

The city and county are coordinating with the Oregon courts and local sheriff’s officials to make sure no one is evicted.

“Many people are in fear and we understand that,” Wheeler said. “Extraordinary

times require extraordinary actions.”

Gov. Kate Brown on Monday banned on-site consumption at bars and restaurants around the state for at least four weeks in a bid to slow the spread of the new coronavirus and said gatherings will be limited to 25 people or fewer.

Restaurants can still offer takeout or delivery but the ban on in-restaurant dining is intended to give teeth to guidance on social distancing to slow transmission of COVID-19.

Housing Evictions Stopped

Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler and County Chair Deborah Kafoury Tuesday announced a moratorium on renter evictions to assist the community during the coronavirus crisis. “For people who are losing their wages due to COVID-19 and find themselves unable to pay rent, we want you to be able to stay in your home,” Kafoury said. People will have 6 months to pay back what they owe.

Blazers, Timbers Sidelined

The Portland Trail Blazers and Timbers have suspended operations because of the coronavirus. The NBA suspended its season “until further notice” last week after a Utah Jazz player tested positive for the coronavirus. Major League Soccer announced it would stop all games for 30 days because of the virus threat.

Jefferson Season Ends

The Jefferson High School boys basketball team ended their season last week when the OSAA canceled all remaining winter sports high school championships, including the Class 6A, 5A and 4A basketball

The Week in Review

state tournaments. The Democrats were the only Portland school still competing for a state championship in the sport.

Suspension of Disconnects

The Portland area’s three largest utilities, Portland General Electric, Pacific Power, and Northwest Natural all announced a suspension of disconnects and/or late fees to support residents during the coronavirus outbreak. “We are ready around the clock to answer any questions about your electrical service and help any customers who are having difficulty paying their electrical bills,” a Pacific Power representative said.

Price Gouging Targeted

Gov. Kate Brown Monday declared an “abnormal disruption of the market,” trigger-

ing new consumer protections to prevent price gouging. As consumers hoard toilet paper, hand sanitizer and other emergency supplies, there have been reports from around the country that people are selling such items at tremendous markups online, in stores or on the street.

Stigmas Hurt Businesses

Asian-American-owned businesses in Portland have seen a downturn in business since the coronavirus outbreak because of xenophobic and racist stigmas about the virus’ spread, Multnomah County reported last week. “Some members of our immigrant communities and communities of color have experienced acts of racism and xenophobia,” the county announcement said.

Biden Wants Woman VP

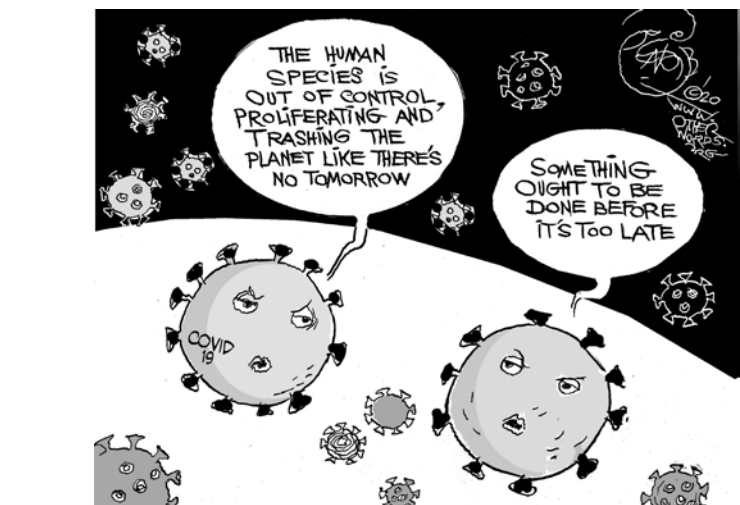
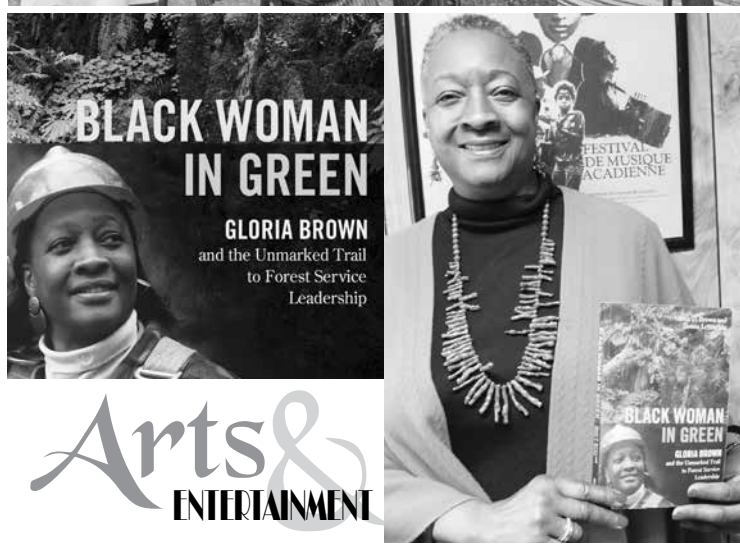
Joe Biden on Sunday committed to picking a woman running mate if he is the Democratic presidential nominee. “I commit that I will in fact pick a woman to be vice president,” Biden said during a longer answer about what he would do to support women if he becomes president.

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LOCAL NEWS



PHOTO COURTESY U.S. CENSUS

2020 U.S. Census notices are going out to households everywhere.

Census Begins with Mail Notice

No citizenship questions ease concerns

BY BEVERLY CORBELL
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

2020 Census notices are being mailed between now and the end of the week on March 20 and households are being asked to complete a Census count online. If requests are not followed up there will be forms sent by door-to-door Census counts. The results of the Census directly affect what resources the federal government provides to local communities and determine the number of representatives in Congress.

According to the website 2020census.gov, for example, the Census influences what is

allocated from Congress to highway planning and construction for states and municipalities based on population, impact grants for local public transit like TriMet, and determine federal allocations for teachers serving diverse populations, including Head Start and special education.

"The list goes on," the Census website states, "including programs to support rural areas, to restore wildlife, to prevent child abuse, to prepare for wildfires, and to provide housing assistance for older adults."

Census data also helps communities respond to natural disasters and secure funding for hospitals and fire departments, libraries, nutrition programs and as well as determining the number of members each state sends to the House of Representatives.

Everyone is required by law to respond to the census, which is conducted every 10 years. About 145 million households will receive an initial invitation by mail to complete the census form. About 112 million households will receive either an invitation to respond online or by phone and about 31 million households in areas with little or no cell phone service or internet access will also receive a paper questionnaire.

Misty Slater, U.S. Census media specialist for Oregon, Nevada and Idaho, said in a phone interview with the Portland Observer that people have several options to respond to their Census form. They can respond via mail, phone or online at my-2020census.gov.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Prison Visits Stopped to Fight Virus Spread

The Oregon Department of Corrections has suspended all visiting at all 14 state prisons as a response to the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Oregon. The restriction was imposed Friday following Gov. Kate Brown's state of emergency and will last for at least 30 days to include non-contact visits where people speak to one another through glass.

"All of us at the Oregon Department of Corrections value visiting and especially the connections that visiting affords to family and friends. We know that relationships reduce the risk of future criminal behavior. However,

during this State of Emergency, it is critical we take appropriate precautions necessary to protect our employees and those in our care and custody. This decision was not made lightly, and we understand the impact that this necessary action will have on the people in our custody and on their families. We are working hand-in-hand with our state and local partners to keep our institutions as healthy as possible."

Multnomah County Sheriff Mike Reese also announced that, as of Friday, the sheriff's office is no longer allowing "social visitation" at the two jails in the county

in an effort to prevent the further spread of the of the coronavirus.

"The outbreak of COVID-19 has far-reaching implications for all of us in public safety," said Reese, "To be clear, there are no presumptive cases of COVID-19 among our employees at the sheriff's office or in our jail population."

The interim restrictions on jail visits will not impact an inmate's ability to see their attorney, according to Reese. Families and loved ones can still access someone in custody through the jail's teleconferencing and video conferencing kiosks.

Census Begins with Mail Notice

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

If people don't respond to the first requests, they'll get a reminder postcard, and if they fail to respond then, a census worker will come to their door between May and July to help them complete the questionnaire.

Census officials say they are carefully monitoring the coronavirus (COVID-19) situation and will adjust some operations with two key principles in mind: Protecting the health and safety of Census workers and the public and fulfilling a statutory requirement to deliver the 2020 Census counts to the President on schedule.

Slater said people should take note that the census questionnaires will be addressed "To Resident," but it's not junk mail and they should go ahead and complete the form.

People will also have many options to reply in languages other than English,

she said. "For online and phone, we have 12 language options other than English," she said. "From

our five-year community survey, we found these were the top languages and we have a designated phone number for each one."

People can also find video instructions in up to 59 different languages on the U.S. Census website.

Residents contacted by a Census worker are advised to verify the legitimacy of the census taker by making sure they have a valid photo ID badge with U.S. Department of Commerce watermark and an expiration date. Census takers may also be carrying Census Bureau bags and other equipment with the Census Bureau logo. Census takers may also be in neighborhoods to drop off materials, conduct quality checks or collect responses for other Census Bureau surveys.

The Census Bureau will not ask whether a person is a citizen or not, a decision that went against the wishes of the Trump Administration in a court ruling last year which eased the concerns of minority and immigrant groups who feared it would cause people not to participate.



A rendering of the future North Rivergate Boulevard overcrossing over railroad tracks in the Rivergate Industrial District of north Portland.

Rivergate Overcrossing Build Begins

A one year construction project started Monday on a new overcrossing that will alleviate congestion associated with rail blockages in the Rivergate Industrial District of north Portland.

The North Rivergate Boulevard Overcrossing will be a new bridge that elevates North Rivergate

Boulevard over the Union Pacific and BNSF railroad tracks. The \$25.8 million project is funded with federal, state, and local dollars.

Beginning this week, North Rivergate Boulevard will be closed from North Lombard Street to North Time Oil Road. Traffic

will be detoured from North Burgard Road to North Time Oil Road for the duration of the closure which is expected to be in place for approximately one year. Some businesses will see new temporary access roads constructed for use during the overcrossing's construction.

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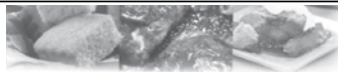
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State Champions Times Two

Garfield boys and girls win state

Congratulations to Garfield High School in Seattle, one of the state's most diverse high schools, for winning two state championships in basketball in the 3A tourney on Saturday, March 7 at the Tacoma Dome. The Garfield girls claimed the trophy by beating Lake Washington 55 to 41; and the Garfield boys took state by beating O'Dea, 69-44.

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Champions Barbershop Opens at PSU

Homegrown business grows to third location

Champions Barbershop, a locally-owned community barbershop in business since 2008, has opened a third location with a storefront at 1430 S.W. Park Ave. in the South Park Blocks on the Portland State University campus.

Champions offers artistic barbering service while cultivating community relationships. The Lanes opened their first location in 2008 at 3827 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., and expanded to a second location at 17040 S.W. Whitley Way in Beaverton in 2012. In 2018, Champions relocated and upgraded its original store to a storefront in Alberta Commons at 5175 N.E. MLK Jr. Blvd. The newest shop at PSU opened at the end of January earlier this year.

“We’ve always had a lot of PSU students coming to our Northeast shop, and we wanted to give them a more central location,” explained Jamaal Lane. “We feel it’s important to create a relationship with the school and the student body, and we are confident that Champions will double as a community gathering spot for the South Park Blocks neighborhood. We are honored to service our newest community of Champions!”

Champions has been home to some of the city’s most talented barbers for more than a decade under the tutelage of Jamaal Lane. Lane graduated from Beau Monde College of Hair Design in 2003 and took a job at Reggie’s, one of Portland’s most noted old-school barbershops. He worked under barber Reggie Brown for five years, but eventually decided to invest his time and energy into his own vision and passion.

In 2016, after noticing that most Oregon cosmetology schools were only glancing over barbering techniques, the Lanes opened the Champions Barbering Institute in northeast Portland, where students emerge not just with knowledge of the barbering craft, but also as well-rounded community leaders.



Champions Barbershop owners Christina and Jamaal Lane of Portland celebrate the opening of a third location in a storefront on the Portland State University campus at 1430 S.W. Park Ave.



PORTLAND OBSERVER PHOTO

The Oregon Transportation Commission is recruiting at-large members of the public to form a new advisory committee to look at equity and mobility issues for the proposed tolling of the I-5 freeway (above) through north Portland, I-5 in southwest Portland, and on I-205 through east Portland.

Equity Impacts on Tolling Considered

ODOT forms advisory panel

The Oregon Department of Transportation Monday began accepting applications for members of the public to form a new advisory committee to look at equity and mobility issues for the proposed tolling of the I-5 and I-205 freeways through Portland.

The Equity and Mobility Advisory Committee will develop an equity framework for the tolling project to advise the Oregon Transportation Commission and the Oregon Department of Transportation on community concerns.

The goal of the I-5 and I-205 Tolling Projects is to manage congestion and generate revenue to fund bottleneck relief projects, as directed by the Oregon Legislature in 2017.

House Bill 2017 committed hundreds of millions of dollars to

address congestion and improve the transportation system in the Portland metro region and around the state, including freight rail projects, transit and bicycle and pedestrian facilities. The bill also directed the Oregon Transportation Commission to implement congestion pricing, also known as variable rate tolls, on I-5 and I-205 in the Portland metro region to provide additional traffic management tools to further manage congestion.

In 2018, the Portland Metro Area Value Pricing Commission, set out three priorities for the tolling program to move forward. The issues were impacts to adjacent neighborhoods, making new mass transit investments to offset freeway use, and equity related to low income people and communities of color who have historically been underserved by transportation planning decisions.

The new committee will be

made up of about 15 members who represent a variety of mobility and equity interests and perspectives. Three to five members will be at-large positions selected through the application process. Other committee members will be appointed by the director of ODOT. Funds for time and travel may be available to committee members.

The meetings will follow guidance of Gov. Kate Brown and public health officials on proper safety precautions and social distancing recommendations in light of preventing the spread of the coronavirus pandemic. Options for alternative meeting schedules and formats will be considered if needed.

The committee will meet approximately 8 to 10 times and will complete its work in early 2021. Interested community members can apply for the committee and learn more on the project by visiting the web page oregon.gov/ODOT/tolling.



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Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

First Black Forest Supervisor Writes Memoir

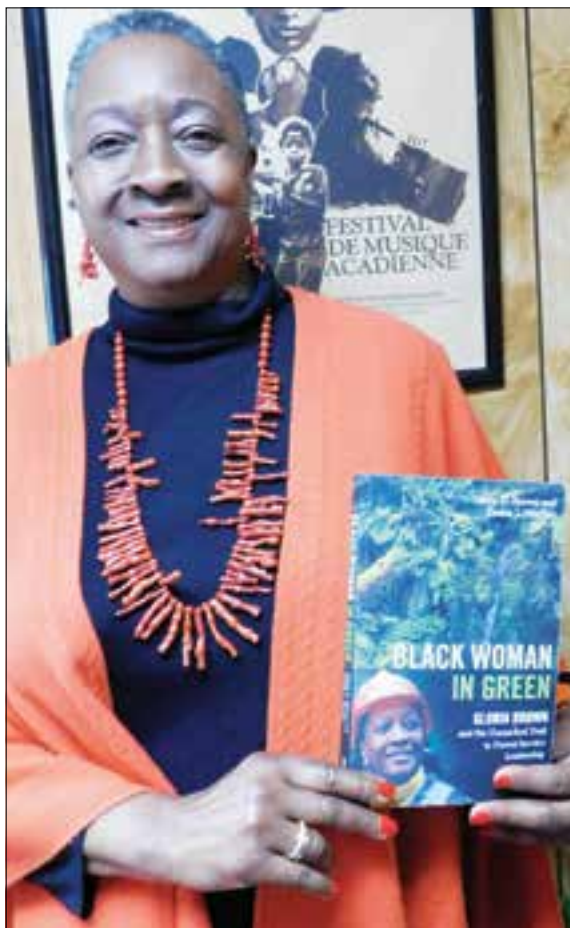
Portland woman tells story of her historic journey

By BEVERLY CORBELL
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

When Gloria Brown was just 30 years old and the mother of three small children, her husband was killed by a drunk driver. Her future looked bleak, but through perseverance, hard work and smarts, she ascended and became the first African American woman to be named a Forest Supervisor with the U.S. Forest Service.

Brown has written a book along with history professor Donna Sinclair, about her experiences in the Forest Service titled "Black Woman in Green," recently published by Oregon State University Press.

Brown recently sat down with the Portland Observer to talk about her journey. She said she was working for the Forest Service as a clerical worker in Washington, D.C. when



Gloria Brown, the first African American woman to attain the rank of Forest Supervisor at the U.S. Forest Service, has written a book about her experiences, 'Black Woman in Green,' recently published by Oregon State University Press.

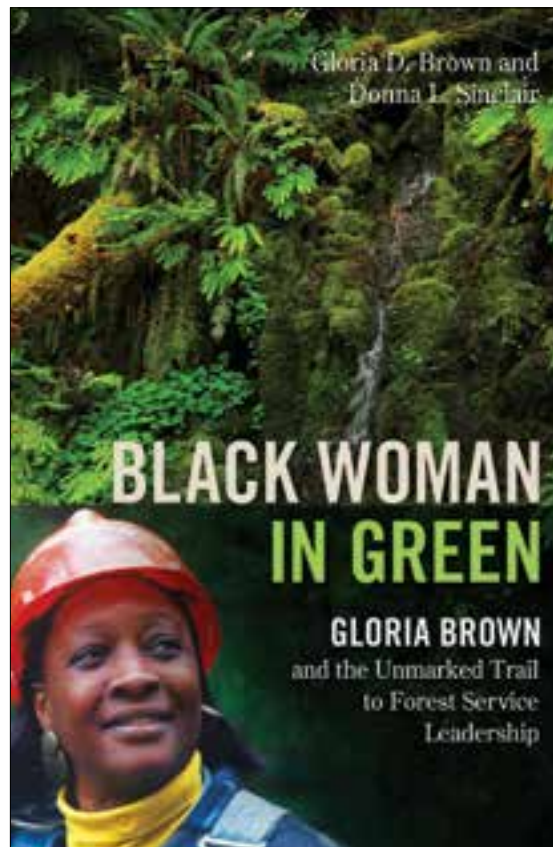


PHOTO BY BEVERLY CORBELL/
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

her husband was killed and she knew she had to work hard to make ends meet. People of color didn't have great opportunities for advancement in D.C., so she asked for a transfer so she could move up and make more money to support her children. She was hoping to go to Atlanta, but instead was sent to Missoula, Mont. where she ran into blatant racism.

She had been in Montana for several years when her daughter, Nicki, who was in high school, was attacked and called the N-word by a white girl, the captain of the basketball team. Her daughter fought back and both girls were suspended, but Brown soon learned that the white girl was continuing to go to basketball practice. When she asked the assistant principal why, she was told that the school "didn't have these problems" until her children came into the school system.

Outraged, she contacted

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Actors from Portland's PassinArt production of "Seven Guitars." The dramatic play about African American life in the 20th Century was canceled Monday just as it was scheduled to begin because of concerns over the coronavirus epidemic.

'Seven Guitars' Canceled

Passinart, the theater group grounded to Portland's African American community, announced Monday the cancelation of its latest production "Seven Guitars." The dramatic play by August Wilson was scheduled to begin a one

month run this week at the Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center in north Portland.

Passinart said they made the decision to cancel the production to ensure the safety and health of the public, artists, staff and volun-

teers in light of recommendations by public health officials to limit group events to fight the spread of the coronavirus epidemic.

If you have already purchased a ticket, you can request a refund by emailing passinart@yahoo.com or you can donate your ticket(s) back to Passinart and receive a donation receipt.

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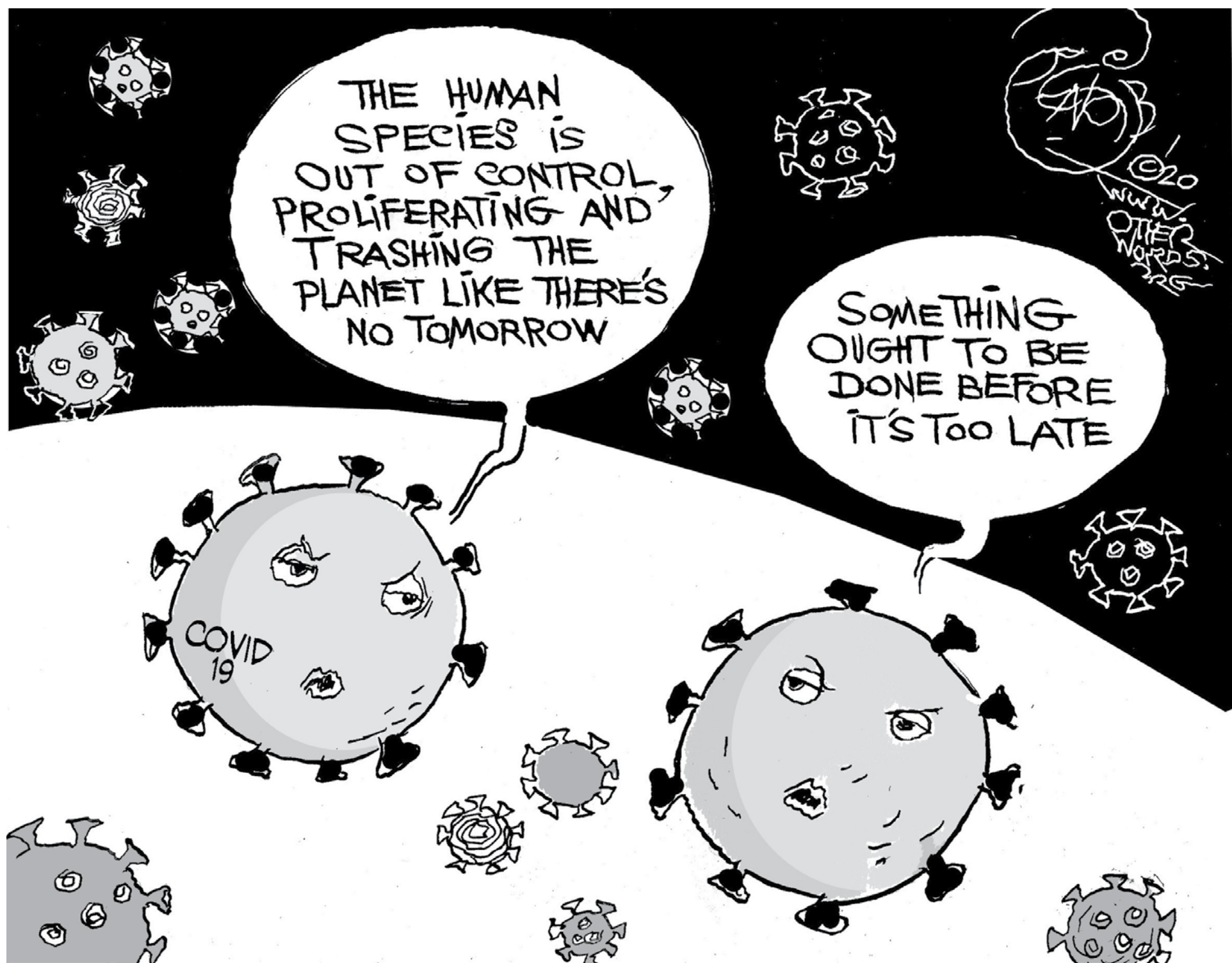
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OPINION



Caring for Our Children Right Now

All of us are suffering as pandemic concerns grow

BY MARIAN WRIGHT EDELMAN

As the global coronavirus officially becomes a pandemic and the effects in our nation become more widespread each passing hour, children and all of us are suffering from anxiety and the virus's many threats and disruptions.

Many unknowns loom large, but one thing is certain: children need adults to help them process and cope with any uncertainty and dangers in their daily lives. Most are anxious



about changes to their daily routines or afraid something will happen to them, their parents or grandparents, or other people they know and love. They will need clear, age-appropriate,

accurate information and loving support during every step of this massive crisis.

Here are a few prayers for the parents, teachers and other caregivers who must be the oaks of strength children need right now even in the midst of adults' own uncertainty.

**God, straighten our backs
clear our heads
strengthen our voices and judgment
infuse our hearts**

with Your mighty and comforting spirit.

**God, help us to be like bamboo,
which bends and bows and sways
in the winds but never breaks.**

**God, think Your thoughts in us
do Your work through us
build Your peace in us
share Your love through us.**

**O God, we pray for our children
and family members and for our
neighbors and their children.**

**Help us God to remember that all
Your people are our neighbors
and all children are our own.
We pray especially for every
caregiver, doctors and nurses,
health and hospital personnel,
and those who serve people
with special needs and other
vulnerable populations.**

God, please help us to show our children

*By our actions as well as our words
That they are loved.*

*O God for whom nothing is too hard
Who makes the impossible possible
Every minute of every day
Kindle within us an unshakable faith*

In Your presence, power, and goodness.

*O God help us to remember that
You have the whole world in Your
hands—every baby, child, woman,
and man in every circumstance
everywhere.*

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

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OPINION

Living and Working in a White Homeland

A challenge to be heard and recognized

BY ETHAN JOHNSON

I moved to Portland in 2005 to start my job as an assistant professor in the Black Studies Department at Portland State University. I had never been to the city previously, but had visited the Salem area as a teenager because I had relatives living there. When I got to PSU, Darrell Milner, the senior faculty in the department gave me a book called *Peculiar Paradise*, which I read from beginning to end immediately. It helped me develop a beginning picture of the state. My primary reason for moving to Portland was that I was relatively close to my family in Oakland, Calif. I also liked that there were many outdoor activities that you could do in and around the city. I grew up backpacking, skiing and going to the beach. Lastly I liked the idea that I could be a part of a Black Studies Department. My academic work was focused on the educational experiences of Black people in Oakland and Esmeraldas, Ecuador. Esmeraldas is a province where Black people make up the largest proportion of the population and was where I conducted my dissertation research.



The thing that struck me the most upon moving here was the small number of Black people compared to where I was from. I tell my students that I had a Black dentist in Oakland. I would bet that there are not more than five black dentists in the Portland Metro area. What I have also noticed is that there are even a smaller percentage of middle class Black people in Portland compared to Oakland and the Bay Area. I would explain this as primarily due to Black people's lack of access to public sector employment, such as working in city, county, state and federal jobs that are stable and offer middle class wages. In other large urban areas across the country, Black people have been able to gain access to these institutions in ways they have not in Portland.

Numbers matter. As a result of Oregon being the only state in the Union to have in its original constitution include an exclusion law barring Black people from living in the state, few Black people saw Portland as a viable option to migrate to from the South as they did California and Washington, whose Black populations are much larger. Too, it took until 1974 for Oregon to overturn its denunciation of the 14th Amendment which provided formal citizenship to Black people in the United States. The state had passed the amendment in 1866 but then rescinded it in 1868. That sent a clear message to Black people that Oregon did not welcome them, not to mention the Ku Klux Klans' takeover of the

state legislature in the 1920s. As a result, Oregon has the smallest number and proportion of Black people on the West Coast. PSU historian Carl Abbott has demonstrated that because of past policies Portland is numerically and culturally white. He also shows that the small number of Black people living in the city means that they (we) have to organize differently as a result. We are much more dependent on white philanthropy and altruism than in other regions, where greater numbers bring more positive results in electoral politics, political activism and other forms of resistance, helping Black people not only gain access to public institutions, but also become primary actors within them.

This does not necessarily mean Black people are worse off in Portland compared to other parts of the country, however, there are indications that Black people here do experience forms of inequality that set Portland and Oregon apart from the nation as a whole. A recent article demonstrated, for example, that Oregon has the highest pushout rate for Black high school youth

politically progressive city in the country. How, one might ask, is this possible? I actually connect Portland's politically progressive reputation to the original exclusion of Black people. Because of the impacts of Black exclusion and its continuance in Portland, the city did not have to confront the large migrations of Black people out of the South and subsequent Black struggles with housing, employment, transportation and education as compared to Oakland, Los Angeles and even Seattle. The weight or what some might refer to it as the hydraulics of Black resistance to anti-Black racism in Portland did not cause white flight, flight of capital and the associated suburbanization that happened in other large metro areas because our numbers were and continue to be so small. Thus, in comparison with other large urban areas, Portland has relatively a system of strong schools, libraries, transportation and housing because white people stayed in the urban center. I jokingly tell my students also that Portland is progressive because you can smoke weed here legally, ride your bicycle naked with thousands of mostly white Port-

As pushout, incarceration and homicide are forms of exclusion, we can say Portland continues to legally exclude Black people as citizens of the state. If you do not graduate high school, are incarcerated or murdered the obstacles for you to participate as a citizen are at best curtailed and at worst eliminated.

in the country (I prefer pushout to dropout because it puts emphasis on practices of exclusion within and outside schools rather than on some problem inherent in Black people). In addition, Portland has higher rates of incarceration and homicide. As pushout, incarceration and homicide are forms of exclusion, we can say Portland continues to legally exclude Black people as citizens of the state. If you do not graduate high school, are incarcerated or murdered the obstacles for you to participate as a citizen are at best curtailed and at worst eliminated. Besides these statistical data, my teaching experience gives me a perspective on the experiences of local Black youth. Virtually every Black male I have met in Portland has been stopped by the police, been called the N word and have experienced multiple forms of explicit and implicit forms of anti-Black racism. My point on Black males is not to be exclusive of Black women, but to highlight the disproportionate impact the 'educational' and criminal injustice systems have on Black males in the Portland area. Black women have to deal with us being locked up and pushed out disproportionately and the consequences of that which I don't diminish. They are two sides of the same coin.

Beyond irony, Portland also benefits from having the reputation of being the most po-

landers, and even call an animal civil rights attorney if you see someone treating their dog badly. Yes, Oregon is, as far as I know, the only state that has an animal civil rights attorney.

I'll end this piece with an anecdote. When I first moved here a friend of a friend invited me over for dinner. She was married to an engineer who graduated from U.C. Berkeley. We were making small talk and her husband asked me what I do. I told him I worked in the Black Studies Department. He asked me what courses I taught and I said I was currently teaching one called Racism. He responded, "Oh, we don't have that problem here." This well-educated middle class white man who thought of himself as progressive had found it in himself to somehow not see what was so evident before him; nor think it a problem to say to me, a scholar of racism, that he knew more than me. Here, in Portland, often this is what defines the context we struggle in. The lie of political progressiveness makes invisible to many white people that anti-blackness exists. Our small numbers and small voice makes it challenging to say the least to be heard and recognized in this context.

Ethan Johnson is chair and associate professor of the Black Studies Department at Portland State University.

Forest Supervisor Writes Memoir

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

her supervisor, who called the school superintendent and in a short time, the principal called her and said they let the white girl continue to participate because she had an abusive father and they were afraid he would hurt her if he found out she had been in a fight. Incredulous, Brown asked if anyone thought about her daughter.

"They said no," she said. "It was an honest answer. But I said that is not acceptable and feels like racism against my daughter."

But it was while in Montana that Brown learned to make camp in the woods, ride a horse and learn all about the wilderness experience that she came to love, as she relates in the book.

Although she had made friends in Missoula, and the reason for her leaving was featured in the July 1987 issue of the Missoulian newspaper titled "Shades of Racism," Brown knew she had to leave.

"I felt sad about leaving," she wrote in the book. "I had been naïve about Montana, but I'd also learned that if I set my mind to it, I could do just about anything. I had ridden a horse, set up camp, cooked outdoors, learned to fight fire, made new friends in an all-white community, helped other women and begun to focus on civil rights. When I arrived, the beauty of the Big Sky country had enveloped me like a blanket. Now I felt cold."

But all those experiences also

gave her courage to face the future, and Brown was determined to forge ahead. After the incident at her daughter's high school, Brown ended up sending her daughter back East to live with her parents to finish her senior year, and she was given a transfer to the regional office in Portland to work for the Willamette National Forest.

But Brown still wanted more. She wanted to become a Forest Service line officer, so she could make the decisions that were then only being made by white men, she said. So she found out about an opening in public affairs and applied for it, saying if selected, she would help them get their overdue Forest Plan published quickly. And once she did that, she said, she wanted a sabbatical to go to OSU to get training to become a forest ranger, the only track to becoming a line officer. It worked, and she became a forest ranger and was able to work out in the woods.

Brown went on to other assignments in the Northwest, including Mount St. Helens, and eventually reached the lofty position of being hired as Forest Supervisor of the 630,000-acre Siuslaw National Forest. It was both a shock and an unbelievable challenge, as she wrote.

"My position as forest supervisor was new territory not only for me, but also for the Forest Service," she wrote. "We were betting on each other, and the stakes were high. I had watched and participated in the continued

unfolding of Mount St. Helens' ecological network, the flora and fauna that brought back an ecosystem. Just as wildlife, birds and sprouts of green reemerged on the once-barren landscape, I realized that I, too, had blossomed toward my new assignment. I knew that my dream job would present huge and unexpected challenges."

Brown's book is chockfull of anecdotes about the inner workings of the Forest Service and the many situations she has overcome, from the internal racism in her own family because of her dark skin, being raped at age 12, becoming a widow at a young age and experiences as varied as working to protect the California condor, promote women's rights and standing up to white men who would keep her down.

She sums up her life in the Forest Service and her experience with racism in the book's epilogue:

"My philosophy was that if you want to be successful as a black person in a white world, you were the one who had to make it work. That could mean educating white people or simply turning the other cheek. The reality is that many African Americans don't make it past a single summer in the Forest Service, in part because the onus is always on them. But others do. I'd had to put aside my own feelings and push my way upward. My need to provide a decent life for my children and my own ambition had more power than the words of a few racists."

Obituary

In Loving Memory

Hilary Thomas Clark

Hilary Thomas Clark was born Feb. 26, 1929 in McGregor, Texas to John Clark and Lizzie Thomas, and the third child born to Lizzie. His siblings included five brothers, Jack, Roscoe, Roy, R.L. and Curtis; and five sisters, Beatrice, Willie, Maezella, Lizzie and Evia.

Though he had just a seventh grade formal education, he was determined to make his life better, telling others how he lied about his age to be accepted into the military. While he never saw action, he served as a quartermaster and received an honorable discharge. His military service entitled him to all the benefits that would put him on the path to more opportunity. His biggest success was his marriage to Doshie Lee Brannon whom he met through a friend. With her support, he was able to purchase his first home through the G.I. Bill. They went on to create a blended family of nine children in a marriage that ended with Doshie's death just shy of their 50 year anniversary.

Hilary had a career working for the Southern Pacific Railroad and Portland Public Schools. He also had multiple businesses, including



Hilary Clark Construction Services.

Also preceding him in death were two sons, Donald Allen Clark and Ricky Van Clark; and his first-born daughter, Margaret Clark. He leaves to mourn his passing, a sister, Maezella Marlborough; sisters-in-law Jean Winters, Merle Rogers and Doris Cumby; his children, Lurlene Johnson Shamsud-Din, Carolyn Johnson Gamble, Ozie Johnson Jr., Beverly Edmondson, Linda Sue Beasley, Larry Dean Clark and Harold Thomas Clark; and the spouses of his children, Jeddy O, Beasley and S.K. Clark. He was blessed with 26 grandchildren, 60 great grandchildren and 8 great-great grandchildren. He also leaves many nieces, nephews and friends.

While Hilary will be missed, he has left his family and many friends with great memories of his humor, tireless work ethic, and many unbelievable and outrageous stories to tell.

Trying to Slow an Epidemic

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

"All of our dining centers are closed and we are not distributing meals to diners and diners cannot pick up meals. If they have no other source of food, they can register for Meals on Wheels delivery," she said.

Finley says many volunteer drivers have backed out of making deliveries, so more volunteers as well as more bags with handles are needed. One hitch in getting more volunteers to make home deliveries, is that all drivers must pass a criminal background check, which normally takes about three weeks. She said efforts are being made to shorten that time or to use people who have already passed background checks, such as teachers.

The nonprofit also needs donations of hand sanitizers, anti-bacterial wipes and plastic gloves. Donations of this type can be brought to the Meals on Wheels

Central Kitchen at 7710 S.W. 31st Ave. in Portland.

Finley stressed that if people can cook at home or get food from any other source, like restaurant take outs, they should.

The Urban League of Portland, one of the oldest African American service, civil rights and advocacy organizations in the area, is also redefining how it offers its services. The nonprofit will not hold in-person walk-in hours and will maintain at least six feet of social distancing along with enhanced hygiene procedures.

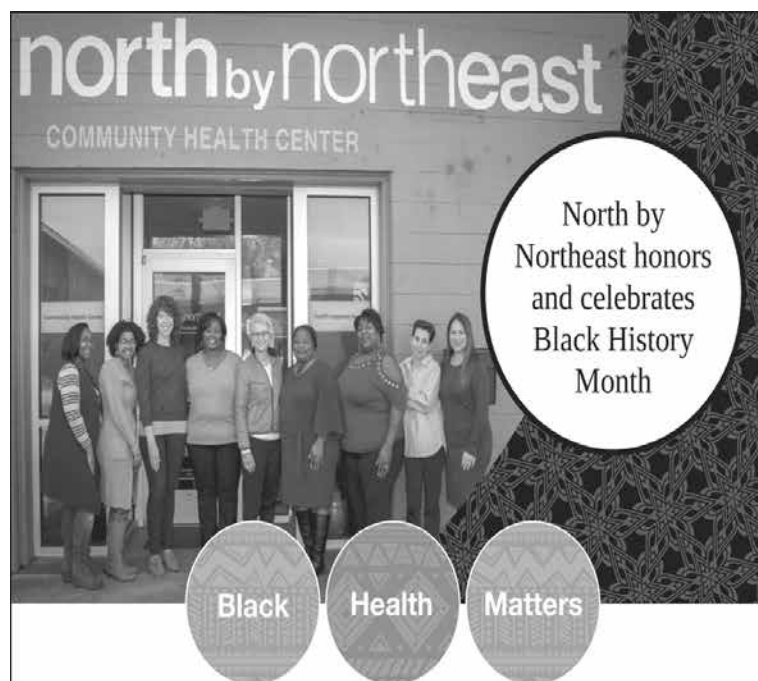
Starting on Monday, March 23, all Urban League offices and satellite locations will be open by appointment only. In addition, in response to guidance from Oregon Health Authority, the Urban League is cancelling all planned gatherings, including daily activities at the Multicultural Senior Center, parenting groups, upcoming Zumba classes, and the Rent Well series. The annual Urban

League Career Connections Job Fair, previously scheduled for April 7, has been canceled.

Hospitals are also limiting contact between people, and the Legacy Health hospital system announced that unless accompanying a patient, the general public is not allowed inside Legacy medical center until further notice, including cafeterias, waiting rooms and other indoor and outdoor meeting spaces. There are a few exceptions.

"It is important that we initiate these safeguards to protect our patients, staff and the public," said Brian Terrett, director of public relations and community relations for Legacy Health.

Many other organizations and health providers have taken similar steps to limit people-to-people contact, and readers should call or email agencies whose services they use to find out what their policies are and not rely on websites alone.



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States Take Harder Line on Fighting Virus

Half of the deaths so far are from Washington

(AP) -- Nearly 7 million people in the San Francisco area were all but confined to their homes Tuesday, while Florida put a damper on spring break and St. Patrick's Day by ordering the closing of all bars, as state and local officials took an increasingly hard line against the coronavirus.

Ohio canceled its presidential

primary hours before the polls were to open, but three other states pressed ahead with their elections, recommending such precautions as putting tape on the floor to keep voters a safe distance apart.

On Wall Street, stocks bounced around in early trading, one day after the worst market loss since the Black Monday crash of 1987.

With the economy grinding to a halt, the White House proposed a roughly \$850 billion rescue package — a sweeping stimulus not seen since the Great Recession of 2008 — and called for its rapid approval.

It would provide relief for small



People wear masks as a precaution to spreading the coronavirus as they commute during rush hour on a subway Tuesday in New York. (AP photo)

businesses, \$50 billion for the airline industry and a big tax cut for wage-earners, said two people familiar with the request who described it on the condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to speak publicly.

"If we do this right, our country and the world, frankly, but our country can be rolling again pretty quickly," President Donald Trump said.

Officials in six San Francisco Bay Area counties issued a "shelter-in-place" order that went into effect Tuesday, requiring most residents to stay inside and venture out only for food, medicine or exercise for three weeks — the most sweeping lockdown in the U.S. against the outbreak.

"It's really a scary situation for us because if we don't work, we don't eat," lamented Miguel Aguirre, a janitor at San Francisco's Boys and Girls Club.

Coronavirus infections across the country reached approximately 5,200, and the death toll climbed to at least 100, with more than half of the dead from Washington state. Worldwide, more than 7,300 have died.

Over the past day, new and more urgent warnings have come from the White House, which has called on Americans not to gather in groups of more than 10 and advised older people to stay home.

Still, the response across states varied.

While beaches on Florida's Gulf Coast were still open, and at least one was full of spring breakers, Gov. Ron Desantis ordered all the state's bars and nightclubs closed for 30 days and asked Florida's university system to send students home for online instruction for the rest of the spring semester.

Desantis has said he would leave beach restrictions up to local authorities.

In Texas, Gov. Greg Abbott has left many decisions up to local governments. Unlike other governors of heavily populated states, Abbott has not made explicit calls for limiting mass gatherings.

Election officials in Illinois' Cook County, home to Chicago, urged poll workers to use blue painter's tape to mark the floor every 6 feet so voters could keep their distance while waiting in

line.

Meanwhile, millions of Americans were holed up at home, many thrown out of work until further notice as offices, stores and other businesses shut down. School was canceled for tens of millions of students, forcing parents to scramble for child care or find ways to entertain their children.

The rapid work stoppage had Americans fretting about their jobs and their savings, threatened to overwhelm unemployment benefit programs, and heightened fears the country could plunge into a recession.

Most people who come down with the disease have relatively mild symptoms, but it can be deadly for some, especially the elderly and those with underlying health problems. Most people infected with the virus recover in a matter of weeks.

Health officials say that "social distancing" — encouraging people to avoid close contact with others — is a key to slow the spread of the virus and keep U.S. hospitals from being overwhelmed with a sudden deluge of patients.



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