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## Restaurants in Crisis Feed Hungry

*Program is a win-win for homeless, small businesses*

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## Transit in the age of COVID-19

*TriMet requires passengers to wear masks*

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PO QR code

# The Portland Observer

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'City of Roses'

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Committed to Cultural Diversity

# Geneva's Closed for Good

## Legacy business a victim of COVID-19

BY MICHAEL LEIGHTON  
PORTLAND OBSERVER EDITOR

Geneva's Shear Perfection, the legacy barbershop and salon grounded in African American life in the heart of northeast Portland for the past 30 years, will not survive the loss of business brought on the Coronavirus Pandemic.

Paul Knauls Jr. and his father Paul Knauls Sr. confirmed to the Portland Observer Monday that Geneva's has closed for good due the economic turmoil brought on by the public health crisis. The business, located at 5601 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., has been shuttered



PHOTO BY SHAWNTELL WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Paul Knauls (left) and Paul Knauls Jr., owners of Geneva's Shear Perfection, a legacy barbershop and salon located in the heart of Portland's African American community, announce the closing of their landmark business due to economic losses caused by the coronavirus public health crisis.

for eight weeks under the stay-at-home orders of Oregon Gov. Kate Brown to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Even if allowed to open under the loosening of public health restrictions in the coming weeks, businesses such as Geneva's would be difficult to operate amid the restrictive actions recommended to avoid spreading the disease, Knauls Jr. posted on Facebook.

In a letter, he thanked staff and explained the decision.

"As you know COVID 19 has had devastating effect on so many businesses large and small including Geneva's Shear Perfection," he said. "It is with a heavy heart that after almost 30 years Geneva's Shear Perfection will not reopen. I want to express my sincerest gratitude to all who have stuck with our family for so many years. Thank you for your dedication and professionalism."

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Demetria Hester reacts in court to the guilty verdicts against Jeremy Christian. (AP pool photo)

## Racism at Every Step

Victim in Max attacks blames 'white supremacy'

BY MICHAEL LEIGHTON  
PORTLAND OBSERVER EDITOR

As Jeremy Christian awaits sentencing for his deadly and racist attacks on TriMet, a brave survivor

from the violence wants the community, judge and jury to understand how the legacy of white su-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

## Phased-in Openings Begin

### Safety and distancing requirements continue

Oregon Gov. Kate Brown is allowing the vast majority of smaller cities and counties to reopen in a first phase of allowing businesses closed by the coronavirus pandemic to reopen under safe distancing requirements. Portland and the major population centers around the city expect to take similar actions over the next several days and weeks, officials said.

Under the phase one guidelines, restaurants and bars in approved counties can reopen for



Oregon Gov. Kate Brown

sit-down service if they maintain six feet of distance between customers, limit groups to a maximum of 10 people, and require employees to wear face masks.

Salons and other "personal services" can also reopen in all but the Portland area for now, but only if they screen clients and follow other

protocols. That screening consists of asking the customer if they feel sick, even though the coronavirus can be transmitted by infected people who feel no symptoms.

Retail stores in Portland and across the state, regardless of whether they received phase one approval, can be open as long as they're not in shopping malls or shopping centers and they limit the number of customers to maintain at least six feet of distance between people and employees in the store. The business must also post signs listing COVID-19 symptoms and frequently clean and sanitize work areas, high-traffic areas, and commonly touched surfaces, and require all employees to wear masks.

"In each of these counties, we

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



# Train Hits Lombard Overpass

A Union Pacific freight train derailed early Tuesday in north Portland, damaging an overpass on North Lombard Street in the industrial area served by the Port of Portland. Lombard was closed at North Terminal Road as bridge inspectors from the Portland Bureau of Transportation assess the damage.

According to Union Pacific, three empty train cars came off the tracks as crews were attempting to move empty rail cars out of the Port of Portland around 6:15 a.m. One of the empty cars struck the overpass.

Another access to the port's Terminal 4 was still open and crews were working on getting more lanes open.

No injuries resulted from the crash, according to Union Pacific. They are evaluating the scene and will begin removing the rail cars once necessary evidence is gathered, officials said.



A Union Pacific freight train derailed early Tuesday in north Portland and one of the cars jammed up against an overpass on North Lombard Street. (Photo by Portland Bureau of Transportation)

## Got COVID-19 Symptoms? Test ASAP

### New guidelines issued to slow virus spread

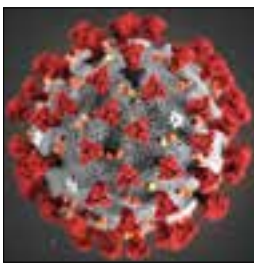
Anyone who develops symptoms of the new coronavirus (COVID-19) is urged to contact their health care provider about testing as soon as possible, according to new guidelines issued Monday from Clark County Public Health.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recently expanded the list of symptoms consistent with COVID-19 and now urge health care providers to test all patients with COVID-19 symptoms, saying early testing is critical to slowing the spread of the virus.

For people with either a cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breath-

ing, they may have COVID-19 and should call their health care provider to request testing right away, officials said.

If someone has at least two of the following symptoms they should also call their health care provider to request testing: Fever, chills, repeated



CONTINUED ON PAGE 11



A TriMet passenger wears a face mask as he prepares to board public transit. TriMet is now requiring riders to wear face coverings to support the safety of its riders and employees during the coronavirus public health crisis.

## Face Coverings in the age of COVID-19

### TriMet now requires masks for safety

On guidance of the Oregon governor's office, TriMet announced additional actions Monday to promote safety during the coronavirus public health crisis.

"Over the last two months, TriMet has elevated our cleaning protocols, provided riders direction to stay healthy and changed procedures to increase the wellbeing of our bus operators and other front-line staff," said TriMet General Manager Doug Kelsey. "Now, as we look forward to the TriMet of tomorrow, we will step up even more. It is paramount that our customers feel safe with the transit service we provide. Gov. Brown's order helps build on everything we've done to date."

Based on the direction of the Oregon Health Authority, TriMet will now require riders to wear face coverings; install face covering and hand sanitizer dispensers inside all buses and trains; and require passengers to maintain 3-foot distancing from each other and 6 feet from the operator.

As the governor eases stay-at-home restrictions in some counties across the state, TriMet plans to increase the limits on the number of people on board, increase onboard cleaning throughout the service day, add more operator safety panels and continue to educate riders about COVID-19 symptoms and precautions.

The requirement for riders to use face coverings on transit goes into effect Wednesday, May 20. OHA also strongly recommends riders use face coverings at rail stations, transit centers and busy bus stops. This follows the guidance of the Centers for Disease Control when physical distancing of at least 6 feet from other individuals cannot be maintained.

When people wear face coverings it sends a strong message of community. It shows respect and caring for our neighbors and each other, officials said. TriMet urges riders and its employees alike to follow this requirement to help keep everyone safe.

Children under the age of two should not wear face coverings, nor should people with medical conditions or disabilities that prevent it. Face coverings should cover both the mouth and nose.

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# The INSIDE

## The Week in Review

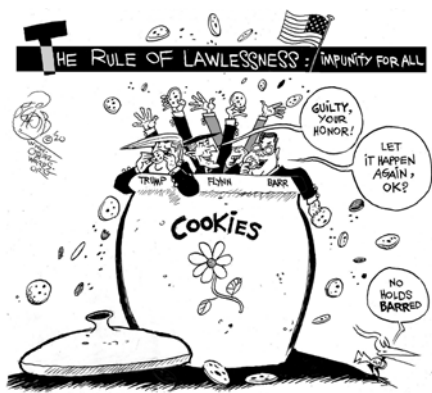
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# LOCAL NEWS



Joy Sinviengxay manages the counter at the Chai Thai restaurant in east Portland, one of two eateries providing meals to homeless shelters operated by Human Solutions as part of a partnership with two nonprofits providing financial backing to businesses impacted by the coronavirus health crisis.

## Restaurants in Crisis Feed Hungry

### Program is a win win for homeless, small businesses

A new partnership between two east Portland nonprofits, local restaurants and the city of Portland is bringing food to people in homeless shelters and supporting struggling businesses during the economic crisis created by the coronavirus.

The city is providing financial assistance for the feeding program through Prosper Portland, the city's urban and economic development agency, and the nonprofit Rosewood Initiative is channeling funds to struggling local restaurants in east Portland that are strapped for business during COVID-19.

Nelly's Taqueria and Chai Thai

are two of the participating restaurants, preparing hot, delicious meals delivered to two Human Solutions shelters, Lilac Meadows for Families and the Gresham Women's Shelter. On a typical night, about 220 people eat dinner in these shelters.

Program organizers hope to find additional resources in the community to expand this win-win effort. Human Solutions and The Rosewood Initiative are community-based organizations working in east Multnomah County to address the root causes of poverty and build vibrant communities where everyone can thrive.

The Rosewood Initiative supports community-driven solutions for a healthier, more economically vibrant Rosewood neighborhood. Human Solutions is a 31-year-old community organization that develops affordable housing and operates shelters and a range of programming to ensure all com-

munity members have economic and housing security.

Leaders for both groups said they saw an opportunity to collaborate and meet multiple community needs in a unique moment where restaurants are struggling to survive due to the COVID shutdown and emergency shelters are stretched to meet their ongoing need for warm meals.

Human Solutions Executive Director Andy Miller said he was thrilled with the results thus far.

"This is how community responds in a crisis," he said. "Prosper Portland stepped in quickly to do what they do best - supporting local small business to keep them working. The Rosewood Initiative did their part by recruiting local minority-owned restaurants they already partner with and Human Solutions was able to relieve some of the stress on our courageous

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

## \$8.5 Million Provided for Rent Relief

The Oregon Housing and Community Services announced Monday that it has accumulated over \$8.5 million to provide rent relief across the state.

As many Oregonians are struggling to pay rent during the coronavirus public health crisis, the rent relief program is providing assistance to those who need it most.

According to a news release sent by the organization, the money is

allocated to regional Community Action Agencies by a needs-based formula which takes rent burden data, poverty data, homelessness data, and unemployment claims into consideration.

"Through no fault of their own, many Oregonian families are facing an abrupt loss of income and find themselves unable to pay their rent during this pandemic," said Gov. Kate Brown. "Through Oregon Housing and

Community Services, we can deliver immediate rent relief so that more families can stay housed as we work to build a safe and strong Oregon."

Oregonians looking to apply for aid should contact their local CAAs directly or call 2-1-1 for assistance. Officials said they will begin taking applications in upcoming days. Any rent payments given will be made directly to the landlord on behalf of the tenant.

The Portland Observer

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# Racism at Every Step

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

premise and Christian's continual taunts against his victims, people of color and other minorities, makes him a danger to society and an example of someone who perpetuates racism in Portland and the nation.

Demetria Hester was a TriMet passenger who was assaulted by Christian in a hate crime the night before his vicious knife attack on a Max train against three male passengers. Upset that he escaped the death penalty because of accommodations for his rights at trial, Hester said he should get no leniency now as sentencing approaches.

Christian will face a possible true life prison term when sentencing takes place on June 17 and 18 in Multnomah County Circuit Court, pending plans to satisfy COVID-19 safety and distancing requirements for the two-day hearing, court officials said Monday.

A jury convicted Christian of all

12 charges against him after trial in February. The charges included the murders of Taliesin Namkai-Meche, 23, and Ricky Best, 53, and attempted murder for the serious wounding of Micah Fletcher, then 21 on May 26, 2017.

He was also found guilty of hate crimes for threatening to assault Walia Mohamed and Destinee Mangum, two black girls who were passengers on the train as it approached the Hollywood Transit Center in northeast Portland. In Hester's case, on the night before the deadly attacks, he threatened to assault and kill her as she rode a TriMet train in north Portland.

In an interview with the Portland Observer, Hester, a member of the African American community, said she found elements of white supremacy and accommodations for Christian's racist behavior a constant in all aspects of the case, from Christian's continual outbursts speaking hate and defending First

Amendment rights, to the actions of TriMet officials, police, prosecutors and even the judge.

"White supremacy has fed into this," Hester said.

She said the first example one was the night Christian threw a bottle at her when she defended herself against his racist and deadly threats.

Christian was yelling that he was a Nazi, that he hated blacks and Muslims and Jews and was generally bellowing hate speech. After enduring that for a few minutes, Hester was the only one on the train brave enough to turn around and tell him to stop.

She said other accommodation for Christian's racist behavior came from the train conductor who was unable to stop the barrage of assaults, even as she screamed for help behind the conductor's door and the emergency call button was pushed. When Hester got off the train two stops later at the Rose Quarter, she used mace to defend herself against Christian's continued aggression. But when a Portland Police officer responded, she was questioned and

treated like the criminal, she said, while Christian was left alone to wash out the mace from his eyes at a nearby fountain and then given the time to takeoff as the officer waited for backup.

If police had arrested him, he could have been prevented from going on his deadly crime spree the next day, Hester said.

The police officer, she said, reacted by telling her "to shut up" and then wrote up a report describing the bloody attack against her as a regular assault case, not a hate crime, she said.

In addition, during the prosecution of the case, delays were allowed by the judge to give Christian added time to mount his defense, she said. It took three years for the trial to begin, so long that a law providing a possible death penalty was deemed by the judge to be no longer available, the consequence of a new law limiting death penalty cases in Oregon.

Hester also faults Judge Cheryl Albrecht for allowing defense attorneys to assail her own character as

a victim by bringing up to the jury a felony conviction she had in her own life. Then Albrecht warned Hester as a witness in the trial that she was out of line for speaking to supporters when the case was in recess and outside the presence of the jury, she said. But Hester said the judge failed to stop Christian's outbursts during trial, saying he repeatedly made taunts against her in the courtroom.

Hester said Jeremy Christian espoused hate in a murderous way, but his conduct was also grounded in the painful history of white supremacy in America where "white men just think they can get away with it."

Although Christian won't get the death penalty for his crimes, Hester hopes he does die in prison, possibly from infection or disease.

"I hope he gets COVID, I really do," she said.

In the meantime, Hester considers her own future as a mother and grandmother in another country, possibly moving to Africa where racism against black people is not the dominant culture.

## Phased-in Openings Begin

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

will continue to monitor testing rates, effectiveness of contact tracing and isolation of the case, hospitalization rates and other metrics that are required to remain open

during phase one," Brown said Friday during a news conference. She hopes schools in the entire state can reopen in the fall.

The Oregon Supreme Court Monday stopped a rural judge's order that would have tossed out all

the statewide coronavirus restrictions.

A Baker County Circuit Judge had ruled earlier Monday that Brown erred by not seeking the Legislature's approval to extend her stay-at-home orders beyond a 28-day limit. The opinion now awaits review by all the high court justices.

In a statement, Brown praised the Supreme Court action.

"There are no shortcuts for us to return to life as it was before this pandemic. Moving too quickly could return Oregon to the early days of this crisis, when we braced ourselves for hospitals to be overfilled," she said.

Officials in Multnomah Coun-

ty, which covers Portland, have announced plans to hire contact tracers as required by the state to reopen. A week earlier Brown reported that Oregon was on track in meeting the goals that doctors and public health experts have laid out. She said that means the state has "the opportunity to begin rebuilding a safe and strong Oregon."



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# Restaurants in Crisis Feed Hungry

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

shelter teams and make sure our shelter guests had plenty of delicious food."

With Gov. Kate Brown's Stay Home, Stay Safe order for restaurants to offer only takeout, many restaurants have had to close and may not survive. Hardest hit are often family owned restaurants in less prosperous areas like east Portland.

Receiving \$5.50 for 180 meals

each week adds up for these small businesses. Right now, the effort costs \$8,000/month for 1,450 meals; each restaurant earns \$4,000 each month. Volunteer drivers transport the food from the restaurants to both shelters in time for dinner.

Nelly's Taqueria was happy for the opportunity.

"Nelly's Taqueria is really grateful to have gotten the opportunity to work with Rosewood on such a great program to cater to

the homeless community. Thanks to this we are able to keep our doors open and continue to grow and continue to serve food for people. Gracias," a statement from the company said.

Staff from the Human Solutions' emergency shelters says the program is a game changer. Tamara

Holloway, who manages Lilac Meadows near Southeast 82nd and Powell Boulevard said, "Our shelter team is doing amazing frontline work right now during the COVID pandemic. When a hot, ready-to-serve dinner is delivered by a volunteer driver from a local restaurant, our staff and shelter residents feel cared for by our community. We couldn't be more grateful for this delicious food and all the donations we have been getting from everyone in our incredible community. Thanks to each and every one of you. We are for sure stronger together."

The teams at Human Solutions and The Rosewood Initiative are looking to grow the program by inviting the community to invest so they can feed more vulnerable people and support more local businesses. To make a contribution online, visit

[charity.gofundme.com/o/en/campaign/send-a-meal-support-a-rosewood-business](https://charity.gofundme.com/o/en/campaign/send-a-meal-support-a-rosewood-business).



Paul Knauls Sr. and his late wife Geneva Knauls, were the founders of Geneva's, which became a center for African American life in the heart of Portland's historic black community, drawing a loyal and expansive customer base that included Portland Trail Blazers, dignitaries and extended family members.

## Geneva's Closed for Good

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Knauls Sr. and his late wife Geneva Knauls, were the founders of Geneva's, which became a center for African American life in the heart of Portland's historic black community, drawing a loyal and expansive customer base that included Portland Trail Blazers, dignitaries and extended family members.

The Knauls family still owns the property where Geneva's is located and said they plan to lease the building named for Geneva Knauls to another African American business to keep its historic ties to the community preserved for future generations.

Paul Knauls Sr. told the Portland Observer he's going to miss his customers and staff the most, and all the people he enjoyed seeing on almost a seven days a week basis. But at 89-years old, the elder Knauls, affectionately known as the "Mayor of Northeast Portland," says he's ready to slow down.

Knauls said he's a happy man as he looks back at how both he and his wife were married for 50 years and had successful careers, including ownership of the former Cotton Club in Portland and Geneva's Restaurant and Lounge. He said they got their start in the personal care business by shining shoes in Arkansas before moving to Portland.



Salvador Arreola and Oscar Ocampos of Nelly's Taqueria in east Portland prepare weekly dinners for the residents of Human Solutions' two emergency shelters, Lilac Meadows for Families and the Gresham Women's Shelter.

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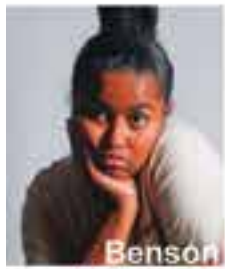
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The Portland Observer



# Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



Singer Betty Wright performs the national anthem in 2013 before an NBA basketball game in Miami. The Grammy-winning soul singer and songwriter died of cancer at her home in Miami on Sunday. (AP photo)

## 70s Soul Singer Betty Wright Dies

### Influential hit-maker remembered

(AP) — Betty Wright, the Grammy-winning soul singer and songwriter whose influential 1970s hits included “Clean Up Woman” and “Where is the Love,” died May 10 at her home in Miami after being diagnosed with cancer in the fall. She was 66.

Wright had her breakthrough with 1971’s “Clean Up Woman,” which combined elements of funk, soul and R&B.

Recorded when she was just 17, the song would be a top 10 hit on both the Billboard R&B and pop charts, and its familiar grooves would be used and reused in the sampling era of future decades.

The youngest of seven children, Wright was born Bessie Regina Norris in 1953 in Miami, the city whose funk and soul sounds

her music would always be identified with.

She started singing with the family gospel group, Echoes of Joy, and released her solo debut album, “My First Time Around,” at age 15 in 1968. The album yielded a top 40 hit, “Girls Can’t Do What the Guys Do.”

After “Clean Up Woman,” written by Clarence Reid and Willie Clarke and later sampled by Afrika Bambaataa and Mary J. Blige, she would have her first hit she wrote herself with “Baby Sitter,” a 1973 hit that showed off her so-called “whistle register” vocals, an ultra-high singing style later employed by Mariah Carey and others.

With members of K.C. and the Sunshine Band, she co-wrote her 1975 proto-disco hit, “Where is

the Love,” which would win her a Grammy for best R&B song.

A career lull in the late 1970s and early 1980s prompted Wright to start her own label in 1985, leading to a gold album, “Mother Wit,” in 1987 and the comeback hit “No Pain (No Gain)”

She spent much of the rest of her life as a producer and mentor to younger artists, many of whom were singing her praises after her death.

“Thank you for being a master teacher, a friend and one of the greatest female soul singers in our industry,” Ledisi said on Twitter. “You were so much more than your music. We were blessed to be around royalty.”

John Legend tweeted that Wright “was always so loving and giving to younger artists. Always engaged, always relevant. She will be missed.”



PHOTO BY BEV STANDISH/COURTESY PORTLAND YOUTH PHILHARMONIC

The Portland Youth Philharmonic is connecting virtually with its community during the coronavirus health crisis by conducting weekly video chats for musicians, live-streamed concerts and conversations for the public.

## Youth Orchestra Online

As concert halls across the country go dark due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Portland Youth Philharmonic has made significant efforts to connect virtually with its community.

The nation’s first and oldest youth orchestra has joined other orchestras to give hope and solace to a quarantined public by making an unprecedented number of online performances and educational resources available free of charge.

The Portland Youth Philharmonic is now featured in the League of American Orchestras’ a new Symphony Spot website ([symphonyspot.org](http://symphonyspot.org)), a one-stop hub of orchestra live-streams, videos and digital learning events.

In addition, the Portland Youth Philharmonic presents “Conversations with the Conductor,” on YouTube and Facebook. The outreach will continue every Thursday at 6 p.m. for the time being,” says Musical Director David Hattner.

“Each week, I create a short playlist of music without identifying the performers. I am joined by a panel of musicians, made up of fascinating people and friends that I have been fortunate to meet during my career, and we spend an hour talking about the performances.”

All episodes of Conversations with the Conductor can also be found on PYP’s blog [portlandyouthphil.org/blog/conversations](http://portlandyouthphil.org/blog/conversations).



PHOTO BY TRISTAN PAHGE

Anis Mojgani is the new Poet Laureate of Oregon. Born in New Orleans to Black and Iranian parents, he is a National Poetry Slam champion and author of five books of poetry, including his latest, “In the Pockets of Small Gods.”

## Oregon’s New Poet Laureate

Gov. Kate Brown has named Anis Mojgani, a two-time individual champion of the National Poetry Slam and an International World Cup Poetry Slam winner, to a two-year appointment as Poet Laureate of Oregon. Mojgani succeeds Kim Stafford, who has held the post since 2018, to become Oregon’s 10th Poet Laureate.

Brown called Mojgani the “pragmatic optimist” Oregon needs, especially now as it deals with the coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19).

“His words breathe fresh air into the anxiety and negativity that we all feel. He urges us to resolutely reflect in the moment,” she said.

Born in New Orleans to Black and Iranian parents, Mojgani first called Oregon home in 2004. He is the author of five books of poetry including his latest, “In the Pockets of Small Gods.” Mojgani has also

done commissioned work for the Getty Museum and the Peabody Essex Museum, and the premiere of his first opera libretto, “Sanctuaries,” is scheduled for April 2021.

His work has appeared on HBO, National Public Radio, in the Academy of American Poets Poem-A-Day series, and in the pages of such journals as Rattle, Platypus, Winter Tangerine, Forklift Ohio and Bat City Review. His performance credits include hundreds of universities across the U.S. as well as international festivals.

“I believe all of us wish to be seen on some level, to be heard,” said Mojgani. “For then we get a little closer to being known and understood. The closer we get to that, the more we are able to see and understand how we belong to the world we are a part of -- To belong. That is what poetry does -- it gives us all the power and path to being known, both to ourselves and to others.”



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

## New Urgency in Our Calls for Health Justice

### COVID-19 from the front lines

BY LESLIE D. GREGORY

Some of us in the frontlines of health care have been trying to convince the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to declare racism as a threat to public health. We think our proofs are strong.

Nearly five years ago, when we started the Racism is a Public Health Threat campaign in Portland, at Race Talks PDX, hosted by long-time community justice activist Donna Maxey, a consistent response from both fabricated "sides" of the racial divide in this country was, "What then?" as if the rightness of it were contingent upon that response. And my answer was the same: They do their job, we do our job, the CDC criteria for declaration and protocols for remedy are already established.

Race has always been a frightening topic for much of America and what we see now, as white America is on the cusp of being just another minority in the USA, is near hysteria from the White House on down.

The unknown, the fear of loss of unearned and largely unrecognized privilege, looms large, especially in the setting of the most divisive and labile political climate in memory. Our voice, the call for health justice, has been suppressed, ignored and rejected.

The mental health aspects of threats to cultural power (or one might say "cult of personality") darken our days now—witness the orchestrated demonstrations in battleground states demanding an end to social distancing, as if temporary loss of business is far more threatening than a pandemic raging worse here than in any country on Earth, killing more than 2,000 Americans every day—and yes, African Americans at far higher rates by the CDC's own figures.

"It isn't what you say, it's how you say it," I've been told. And my response, as a black woman and as a primary health care provider, has been the same: "It's been said every other way, and yet perceived and proven racism continues to result in death, illness, or injury to the bearer," so it is the message that America just doesn't want to hear and never has.

While we revere the memory of peace makers like Dr. Martin Luther King, Gandhi, Mother Teresa and Mandela, we fail to learn their lessons and walk in their footsteps. Their teachings include rising above our privilege or lack thereof, and seeking equality for all.

I have been black a long time—I

am a child of the Civil Rights era. I confess to discouragement. We Americans are like ignorant and immature children peering incredulously through a window removed from the dangers of the adult world, as if the stories of pain and loss are made for Netflix, not real.

That luxury is over, as we face dire losses of life and our economy. As Bruce

Lee said: "Knowing is not enough, we must apply. Willing is not enough, we must do"; his brilliance just another example of the importance of a diverse nation. "We don't have a soul to waste," cannot have more meaning than right now.

With the emergence of COVID19, we see all hands on deck, mobilized and motivated to halt its spread, and most of us are appreciative of those working to defeat it. Public health campaigns bring light and awareness to it and funding is found locally if not nationally for those treating it. Lives are lost, love is expressed and our best selves are called to rise to this

frightening challenge in unity and compassion. What has not changed is the disproportionate impact of this disease on African Americans. We are approximately 13 percent of the US population, we are approximately 33 percent of the COVID19 mortalities.

And even before all this, the Harvard Business Review found that racial health disparities are associated with substantial annual economic losses nationally, including an estimated \$35 billion in excess health care expenditures, \$10 billion in illness-related lost productivity, and nearly \$200 billion in premature deaths. Concerted efforts to reduce health disparities could thus have immense economic and social value.

What has also been consistent is the callous gaslighting and largely falsifying approach of an entitled economic elite at the highest levels that continues to cost lives. This accompanies vitriol and lack of leadership clearly prolonging the misery. Our national health services appear woefully inadequate

to the challenge and behind the efforts of our global neighbors.

We announce the threat, initiate containment measures, screen the most vulnerable, support the front line fighters and then wait to evaluate those efforts and allow our observations to guide next steps. This is part of the protocol of which so many have been afraid and thus reluctant to support our campaign. This is the job of our national health leadership -- and they know it.

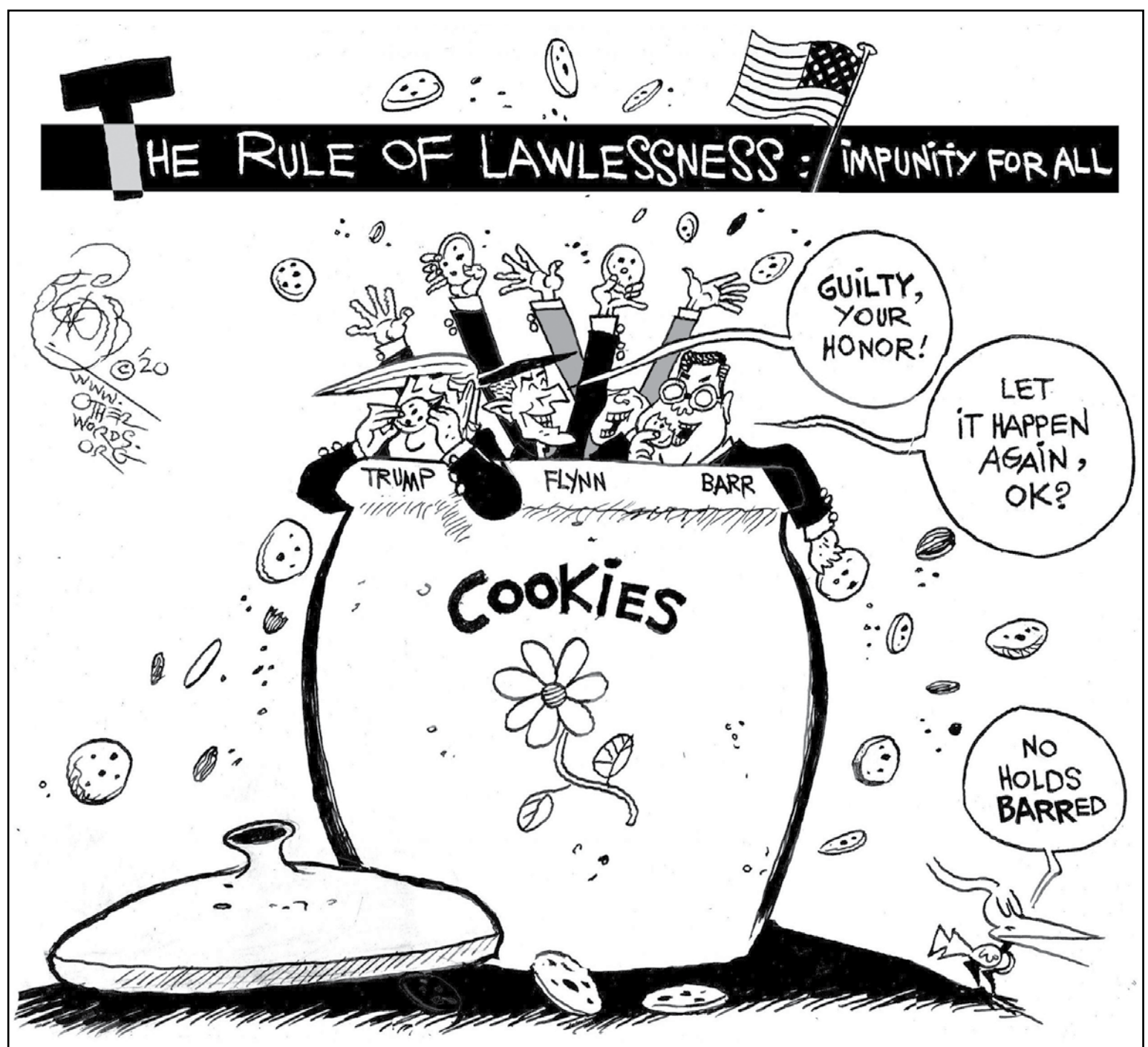
In primary care, which is what I do, just as in national health prevention, it is hard to prove a negative, what would have happened, what has been saved. But we see "flattening the curve" as just that during the pandemic. When will we see that in our efforts against health disparities if we never call out the issue? If we never actually make the diagnosis, how will we ever flatten the curve and see the \$billions in savings associated with racial health care disparities?

We get it. Change is frightening. Illness is scary, especially when

mixed messages about medical approaches increases confusion around action steps. But what we're seeing is at least a light to bear on the intersection of greed and racism in this moment and many are crying for equity and justice, recognizing what communities of color have been experiencing for generations. Now is the time, America, to begin the process of healing from one virus to learn those lessons and apply them to another and more persistent one, more virulent, costly, unjust and long, long overdue, the virus of racism.

Join our campaign to force the CDC and National Institutes of Health to admit that racism is the true public health target impacting outcomes for all Americans. Cure the infection and not just the fever. Visit [sign.moveon.org/petitions/racism-meets-criteria?r\\_by=16228964&source=c.fb/](http://sign.moveon.org/petitions/racism-meets-criteria?r_by=16228964&source=c.fb/)

Leslie D. Gregory is a certified physician's assistant focusing on preventive cardiology and is Executive Director of Right to Health.





# CLASSIFIED

## REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

### Battery Electric Busses, Related Components, and Charging Infrastructure

The Clark County Transportation Benefit Area (dba C-TRAN) is requesting information and demonstrations from firms that manufacture battery-electric busses, related components, and charging station infrastructure. Additional information can be found at <https://www.c-tran.com/about-c-tran/business/procurement/bid-and-proposal-opportunities>. Responses are due no later than June 5, 2020.

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## LIVE UNITED



**United Way** is hiring a **Chief Development Officer**, responsible for oversight of all aspects of UWCW's resource development strategies and initiatives. This includes maintaining and enhancing current efforts and creating new resource streams through giving campaigns, individual and major donor programs, planned giving, endowment, and in-kind gifts. Hiring range: \$125,000 to \$145,000, DOE. For more info and to apply: [www.unitedway-pdx.org/about/careers](http://www.unitedway-pdx.org/about/careers).

First review of candidates starting May 22, 2020, EOE.

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# Reward Offered in Man's Death

## Quincy Gill died in a shooting last December

The Portland Police Bureau, in partnership with Crime Stoppers of Oregon, is asking for the public's help to solve the December 2019 homicide of Quincy Gill.

Despite lifesaving efforts, Gill died from a gunshot wound on Dec. 11 as Portland Police responded to a report of a shooting in the area of Northeast Garfield Avenue and Northeast Fremont Street around 9:15 p.m. He was 39.

The Oregon State Medical Examiner's Office conducted an autopsy and determined the cause of death was homicide. There is no suspect information in this case, authorities said.

Crime Stoppers of Oregon offers cash rewards of up to \$2,500 cash for information, reported to Crime Stoppers, that leads to



Despite lifesaving efforts, Quincy Gill died from a gunshot wound on Dec. 11 as Portland Police responded to a report of a shooting in the area of Northeast Garfield Avenue and Northeast Fremont Street around 9:15 p.m. He was 39.

an arrest in any unsolved felony crime and tipsters can remain anonymous.

Visit the App Store and download P3 Tips to submit secure and anonymous tips; visit online at [p3tips.com/823](http://p3tips.com/823) or call 503-823-

HELP (4357).

Crime Stoppers of Oregon is funded 100% by community donations. To support Crime Stoppers with a donation, or to view other unsolved cases, visit [crimestoppersoforegon.com/](http://crimestoppersoforegon.com/).

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# New Cash Benefits for School Meals Families impacted by pandemic get extra help

The Oregon Department of Human Services and the Oregon Department of Education announced this month that the USDA Food and Nutrition Service authorized DHS to provide Oregon P-EBT Pandemic School Meal Replacement Benefits to more than 351,000 students receiving free or reduced-price school meals in Oregon, including almost 147,000 students already receiving nutrition assistance.

Households will receive benefits equivalent to one free lunch and one free breakfast for each eligible child – \$5.70 per normal school day for the months of March, April, May and June.

The benefits will support student's nutritional needs during a time of crisis and uncertainty, said Dustin Melton, director of the state's child nutrition programs.

Oregon families with children who are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals will get the cash benefits for the meals they would have received



Families with children who are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals will now be getting cash benefits applied to EPT cards for the meals they would have received at schools that are closed because of the coronavirus pandemic.

at school even if they have been accessing meals from schools during the closure, officials said.

Eligible Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households will have their March, April and May benefits automatically deposited to their existing Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) accounts by the end of May, officials said. Students who get free or reduced-price school meals from

the Oregon Department of Human Services but do not receive SNAP benefits will automatically receive an Oregon Trail Card in the mail.

Families who have experienced significant income loss also become eligible for free or reduced-price school meals, and there is still time to apply. Apply online at [ode.state.or.us/apps/FRLApp/Default](http://ode.state.or.us/apps/FRLApp/Default) or contact your local school.



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## Test ASAP

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat and new loss of taste or smell.

"It's important that people get tested as soon as they begin experiencing COVID-19 symptoms," said Dr. Alan Melnick,

Clark County health officer and Public Health director. "Early testing and identification of cases enables Public Health to isolate those who are sick and quarantine their close contacts. Doing this as early as possible will help us to slow the spread of COVID-19 in our community."

Most health care facilities now offer COVID-19 testing. Testing

should come at no cost to the patient, whether they have insurance or not. The Washington state insurance commissioner is requiring insurers to waive co-pays and deductibles for COVID-19 testing.

For additional information about COVID-19 in Clark County, visit [clark.wa.gov/public-health/novel-coronavirus](http://clark.wa.gov/public-health/novel-coronavirus).

## Obituary

### In Loving Memory

Mary Joyce Brannon

July 29, 1931 -- May 11, 2020

Mary Joyce Brannon was born in Northeast Texas in the small town of Daingerfield to Herman and Ida Gilstrap in 1931.

She attended school in Texas and graduated from Rhodes High School a year ahead of time. She attended Bishop College, which is where she met her future husband, Harel Brannon.

After marrying, Harel was drafted into the military. While enlisted, he visited Oregon and fell in love with this side of the country. After Harel was honorably discharged from the military, they moved to Portland. Upon moving to the area, Mary said it "rained inside and outside" and she was not immediately fond of the city. However, the rainy season ended and Mary began to like and even love Oregon.

Mary had a long career in education, teaching in the primary grades for Portland Public Schools. After retiring, she enjoyed participating in social groups, travelling, going to church, and shopping

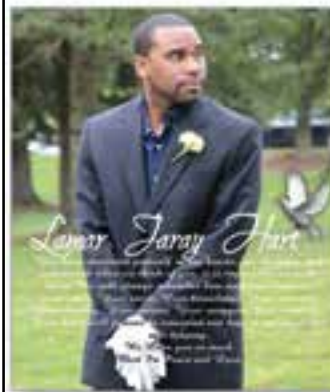
with her dear friend Jeannette Allen who drove her to church every Sunday.

Mary will be missed dearly, as everyone who came in contact with her said she was a sweet and wonderful lady. Her family fondly referred to her as "Queen B." She will be missed by all who knew her.

Mary is survived by her sons, James Brannon (Linda Brannon, daughter-in-law) and Michael Brannon; sister Verda Allen, and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, grandchildren, family and numerous friends.



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# EDUCATION & CAREERS

## Chiropractic College Moves Campus

University of Western States has served Portland since 1904

University of Western States, a private integrated health sciences university in Portland and second oldest chiropractic university in the world, has relocated its campus to a vibrant leading-edge facility at 8000 N.E. Tillamook St.

The new campus includes a 150,000-square-foot structure constructed in 2006 that formerly housed the world corporate headquarters of Banfield Pet Hospital. The university was previously located at 2900 N.E. 132nd Ave. in Portland.

The university had originally planned to open its new campus doors for the spring quarter last April 6. Instead, administrators quickly regrouped and worked closely with the school's information technology department to shift all classes online, allowing students to focus on distance learning services during COVID-19 shelter-in-place orders.



The University of Western States, a Portland chiropractic college since 1904, has moved its campus to a former corporate headquarters for Banfield Pet Hospital, located at 8000 N.E. Tillamook St.

As an institution of higher learning that has been in Portland since its inception in 1904, we are celebrating this relocation and our commitment to the community,"

said Dr. Joseph Brimhall, president of UWS. "Despite the global pandemic, we succeeded in meeting our timeline and completing this complex relocation. I am proud

of our team for accomplishing this historic move in the midst of challenging circumstances. This campus relocation enhances opportunities for collaboration with other institutions and community partners and fosters a healthy and sustainable center for generations.

UWS currently employs more than 150 on-campus staff members and enrolls more than 1,200 students in the fields of chiropractic medicine, human nutrition and functional medicine, sports medicine, diagnostic imaging, sport and performance psychology, and clinical mental health counseling.

Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler extended his congratulations to UWS students, Dr. Brimhall and the university team, stating, "It's great to see the University of Western States settling into its newly relocated campus in the Northeast quadrant. Especially during this challenging time in our world, I'm impressed at how quickly they adapted to a distance learning format to protect the health of their students. As one of Portland's oldest institutions of higher learning, UWS will no doubt thrive in its new environment and continue to create the future leaders of our community."

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## Helping Women Pursue Technology Careers

A road map to breaking barriers

In her new book, *Women of Color in Tech: A Blueprint for Inspiring and Mentoring the Next Generation of Technology Innovators*, award-winning tech professional, Susanne Tedrick encourages women of color to pursue careers in technology and provides a road-map to break through barriers and build a rewarding and successful career in tech.

For too long, women of color have been underrepresented in tech and many have not had the access to strong support networks or resources to build successful careers in the tech industry. With several years in the technology industry, Tedrick understands the many challenges that young women of color face and has written her book in hopes of inspiring the next generation of women to explore careers in tech

and provides a road-map to navigating the industry and building a rewarding future.

Tedrick says, "I wrote this book for women of color who may have the spark and curiosity in pursuing a path in tech, but perhaps, may need some guidance and clarity on

now to build their careers, even if that path changes in the future. Finally, I wanted to talk openly on specific issues that may be a challenge for them - bias, imposter syndrome, mental health and lack of strong support systems among a few - and strategies to help navi-



Susanne Tedrick

gate them through."

Through her own experience of transitioning into the tech industry, Tedrick shares inspiring stories and practical, real-world advice to arm young women with the tools and knowledge they need to develop their skills, follow industry trends, find mentors and a support network, and cultivate strong relationships to build a successful career.

what a tech career could look like beyond the ones we traditionally associate with the industry. I also wanted to provide actionable and practical steps that they can take