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Introducing Rutherford Park

*First Portland park
named for black
woman*

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Juneteenth Elevates Significance

*As day becomes
holiday, NFL star
leads youth on
justice march*

See story, page 2



PO QR code

The Portland Observer

Volume XLVIV • Number 15



'City
of
Roses'

www.portlandobserver.com
Wednesday • June 24, 2020

Committed to Cultural Diversity

Toppled in Protest



PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEIGHTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A historic bronze statute commemorating the namesake for Jefferson High School sits on the ground awaiting transport to school district storage on Monday, June 15, after being toppled one night earlier during a protest against police brutality and racism.

Community healing is priority now, principal says

A historic bronze statute commemorating the namesake for Portland's Jefferson High School has sparked new conversations about the appropriate name for the school and its future after the statute was toppled to the ground during a June 14 protest over police brutality and racism.

A crowd of several hundred people had gathered for a Black Lives Matter demonstration to hear speeches and participate in a planned march to Alberta Park, located several blocks to the east on Northeast Killingsworth Street. But when the marchers moved away from the school, another splinter group descended and tore down

the statute, school officials said.

Automobile tire tracks could be seen nearby, indented into the all-weather athletic track that surrounds the football field, the apparent evidence that a vehicle was used to help pull the statute down.

Jefferson High School Principal Margaret Calvert said the goal now for school leaders is to promote community healing.

Calvert acknowledged that in recent years both the statute and name for the school have become more controversial because of the historical context to Thomas Jefferson, the nation's third president and the author of the U.S. Declaration of Inde-

pendence, but also a slave owner.

Some members of the school community have advocated for the statute's removal along with the name of the school, others want the Jefferson High School name preserved because of its long history as Portland's most diverse high school serving African American families for generations.

Jefferson High School alumnus Clifford Walker has led community efforts to remove the Jefferson name and statute for several years, saying a slave owner isn't an appropriate centerpiece for the histori-



Jeremy Christian

Killer Taunts Victim

Heated exchange delays Christian sentencing

BY MICHAEL LEIGHTON
PORTLAND OBSERVER EDITOR

Sentencing for the Jeremy Christian, the racist-spewing Max rider convicted of killing two men and injuring a third as they defended two black teenagers he was verbally assaulting on a MAX light rail train in 2017 was delayed on Tuesday after Christian was thrown out of court for going on a tirade against the first victim who spoke.

Demetria Hester was testifying about her encounter with Christian the day before the fatal stabbings on a different MAX train when he threatened to kill her for being a black woman and struck her in the eye with a bottle.

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The Week in Review

COVID-19 Cases Increase

Oregon's coronavirus cases increased by 514 people during the week-end and a quarter of the new cases are based in Multnomah County, where officials say a majority of the spread is occurring among close social networks, such as family and friends.

Governor Calls on Lawmakers

Gov. Kate Brown announced last week she will convene a special legislative session starting on Wednesday to address the state's COVID-19 pandemic and to improve police accountability following weeks of protests over the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

Black Woman Handcuffed at Emanuel Hospital

Complaints about a black woman handcuffed and detained Thursday by Legacy Emanuel security has prompted the hospital to suspend its security officers' further use of handcuffs and trespass arrests in non-violent situations. The woman ultimately was released and not charged, the Oregonian reported.

Washington Statue Toppled

A quiet evening of demonstrations for racial justice and police reform in Portland on Thursday last week ended with another group of protesters razing of a George Washington statue at northeast 57th and Sandy. Some wrapped the statue's head in an American flag and lit the flag on fire.



Gresham Votes to Fly Black Lives Matter Flag

The Gresham City Council voted unanimously on Monday to fly the Black Lives Matter flag at City Hall until the end of July. It comes days after the resignations of Gresham's mayor, police chief and city manager and reports blaming those in leadership positions for dropping the ball on diversity training in the police department.

Police Tactics Review Ordered

Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler and new Police Chief Chuck Lovell said they will review police tactics after hearing accounts of officers threatening and roughing up journalists covering demonstrations against police brutality. "Members of the media, not just in Portland but around the country, should not be targeted, hurt, or arrested while reporting on demonstrations," the two leaders said in a joint statement last week.



Atlanta Officer Charged

An Atlanta police officer was charged last week with murder for the shooting death of Rayshard Brooks in a fast-food parking lot two weeks ago, the latest in a long line of unarmed African Americans whose fatal encounters with law enforcement have been documented on video. Brooks, a 27-year-old father-of-three, "never presented himself as a threat" according to prosecutors.



PHOTO BY DJ WILLINGHAM

Brennan Scarlett, a former Central Catholic football standout and now a linebacker with the Houston Texans of the NFL, speaks out for racial justice on Friday, June 19 during a Black Lives Matter rally at Peninsula Park in observance of Juneteenth. In the wake of national and local protests over police brutality and racial injustice, Portland government leaders have declared Juneteenth a new annual paid holiday for city and county employees.

Juneteenth Elevates in Significance

As day becomes holiday, NFL star leads youth on justice march

Portland observed Juneteenth for the first time as an official holiday Friday and the day was celebrated by thousands of people who marched for racial justice in demonstrations against police brutality, protests that have continued almost daily in the city since the Memorial Day police custody death of George Floyd, a black man whose neck was pinned to the ground in Minneapolis for more than 8 minutes before he died.

At Peninsula Park in north Portland, a large group of young people gathered to celebrate black lives with speakers in a Juneteenth event organized by Malik Montgomery, a 22-year-old who grew up in the neighborhood and hosted with the help of the Big Yard Foundation, a nonprofit that supports community empowerment.

The speakers took to the stage to share their experiences and speak out for racial justice. Brennan Scarlett, a former Central Catholic football standout and now a linebacker with the Houston Texans of the NFL, called on the community to unify behind a peaceful message for change.

The group then marched down Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard

to King School Park as they chanted "Black Lives Matter."

In another Juneteenth protest organized by young people, participants reflected on what the holiday and the Black Lives Matter movement means to them during a gathering at the Salmon Springs Fountain, downtown. Later, members of Portland's interfaith community wrapped up the day with a prayer at Terry Schunk Plaza, downtown.

Both Portland and Multnomah County have made Juneteenth an official annual paid holiday for their employees in a moment of reckoning for the history of anti-blackness and racism in Portland.

Last Wednesday, the Portland City Council voted unanimously to adopt Juneteenth as an annual Day of Remembrance and paid holiday.

"Since the death of George Floyd, thousands of people have reached out to my office demanding accountability and change," Wheeler said. "Today's ordinance and resolution are a direct result of our commitment to listen and respond to our community. This is not performative. This is our reality and it is our responsibility to resolve the brutality of the past."

Multnomah County Chair Deborah Kafoury cited the historical systemic oppression of black people as the backdrop to her recent order to make Juneteenth an annual holiday for all county employees.

ployees.

Although Juneteenth has been regularly celebrated by Multnomah County employees and community members as a day of commemoration, education and achievement, the chair's designation places the day of observance alongside Independence Day, Memorial Day and Presidents' Day in significance and impact.

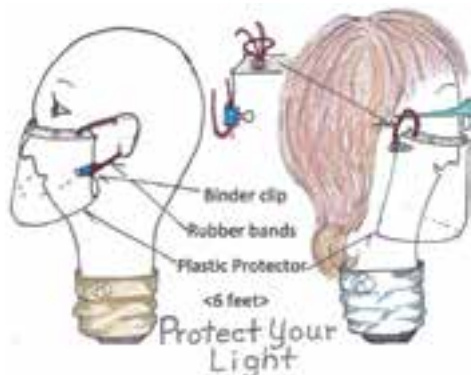
"We have a profound responsibility at the county to acknowledge that the structural inequities in our community and country are rooted in the original enslavement of black people," Kafoury said in a statement. "Observing the day of black liberation honors the historic and current struggle, acknowledges the strength of our black neighbors, friends and family, and reminds us of the hard and necessary work we must continue to dismantle systems of oppression."

Oregon Gov. Kate Brown on Thursday proclaimed June 19 as Juneteenth in Oregon and said she will introduce a bill in 2021 to make it a state holiday.

Brown said celebrating black freedom "is fiercely important as people around the world protest systemic racism and undeniably show that Black Lives Matter."

Juneteenth commemorates June 19, 1865, when the Union army brought word of the Emancipation Proclamation to enslaved people in Texas. It is celebrated as the end of slavery in the United States.

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LOCAL NEWS



A photo of the late Burdine Rutherford, courtesy Portland State University Special Collections and Portland Parks & Recreation.

Introducing Rutherford Park

First Portland park named for black woman

A newly redeveloped park in outer northeast Portland has been renamed to honor a late female leader from Portland's historic African American community, and removes a previous moniker for the park that drew racist connota-

tions.

The green space and playground formerly known as Lynchview Park at 167th and Market Street will be called Verdell Burdine Rutherford Park. It honors Rutherford, a civil rights leader and historian who lived in Oregon from 1913 to 2001.

As president of the Portland chapter of the NAACP she helped pass the Public Accommodations Bill, also known as the Oregon

Civil Rights Bill, which in 1953 outlawed discrimination in public places on the basis of "race, religion, color or national origin."

The park was recently renovated with a new playground, picnic shelter, paved pathways, public art and a soccer field.

Renaming the park was a project kick-started by former City Commissioner Nick Fish, who di-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

Police Defunding Proposals Pass

Vote eliminates former gang task force, school police

The Portland City Council followed through on a pledge from the Mayor and City Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty by voting to cut nearly \$16 million from the police budget in response to concerns about excessive use of force and racial injustice.

The money will be saved by eliminating a gun reduction violence team, formerly called the gang enforcement task force; school police resource officers; and the bureau's transit division. It redirects the revenue from police to social service programs.

Chloe Eudaly was the lone commissioner to vote no on the cuts made during a budget session on June 17, saying they weren't deep enough. The police budget had stood at about \$245 million before the council action.

Some protesters have demanded cuts of \$50 million for police, but City Commissioner Jo Ann

Hardesty defended the smaller amount, saying the \$50 million was not based on a specific analysis.

Hardesty worked for years to transform the Portland Police Bureau from the outside as an activist and was the first black woman on the City Commission when she was elected in 2019.

"What I know is that there are a lot of people taking to the street every night who have not before this month actually understood all the work that community and government has done," said Hardesty, who proposed smaller cuts to police in last year's budget that failed.

Thousands of protesters have filled the streets of Portland every night for three weeks following the death of George Floyd, a handcuffed black man who died after a white Minneapolis police officer pressed his knee on Floyd's neck for nearly nine minutes.

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Demetria Hester speaks at Jeremy Christian's sentencing on Tuesday.

Killer Taunts Victim

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

As Hester was making her victims statement, she told Christian "You are a waste of breath and when you die and go to hell, I hope you rot." He then erupted out of his chair and started shouting profanity at her. The judge ordered him removed, and as he was whisked out of the courtroom by sheriff's deputies, he yelled out to Hester, "I should have killed you!"

Multnomah County Judge Cheryl Albrecht told Christian he had been warned not to be disruptive and she would not allow him to return to the courtroom for the rest of the hearing. But after other witnesses indicted they wanted

Christian to hear their victim testimonies, she allowed Christian to be connected by video only while seated in another room. That caused another delay.

Hester also spoke to the injustice against African American like herself, accusing the criminal justice system, police and the judge in the case of bias against people who are black, accommodating a white defendant rights to espouse white supremacy speech over the terror it causes.

Christian could be sentenced to life in prison with no chance of parole for the first degree murders of Taliesin Namkai-Meche, 23, and Ricky Best, 53. But defense attorneys say the judge can only hand him a life sentence with the

possible of release after 30 years, claiming the law is unconstitutional and ignores past Supreme Court decisions.

Christian was found guilty earlier this year on 12 counts, including those murders and attempted murder, as well as assault and intimidation.

Sentencing was originally scheduled for March but was canceled and rescheduled due to the coronavirus pandemic. Only 19 people were in Judge Albrecht's courtroom Tuesday in an effort to ensure physical distancing is maintained during the proceeding.

The sentencing hearing was scheduled to resume Wednesday morning.

Toppled in Protest

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

cally prominent African American school and neighborhood.

The school has also had other discussions about removing the statue and/or changing the school's name, but black residents and others had differing opinions and no long term determination

was ever made.

The "action" to remove the statue without permission by protesters, puts the issue back before the school community and neighborhood, the principal said.

"We're working it through," Calvert told the Portland Observer. "It's complicated. It's important to listen to the black community. We

have to unpack what's going on. The goal is to heal ultimately."

Calvert said the nightly protests against unjust racism and police brutality in Portland, entering the fourth week on Monday after the Memorial Day police custody death of George Floyd in Minneapolis and other killings of African Americans at the hands of police, "Is bringing racism into focus. We are in a defining moment."

Employee Claims Racism by Supervisor

A former Fred Meyer employee who says he was fired after he complained about a pattern of racism at work has filed a \$2 million lawsuit against the grocery store chain.

Michael Mangum, who is 26 and African American, says in the lawsuit filed last week that he and other employees complained to higher ups, but Fred Meyer retaliated by ending his employment. Mangum worked in the produce department of the Interstate store from 2014 to 2019, according to

his suit.

Among other racist comments, Mangum's suit says his manager had commented to him that the African American shoppers were buying up the watermelons and collard greens and when he saw black women shopping he would tell Mangum that his mother was in the store, according to the lawsuit. The manager said it was a joke, according to an investigation by the Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries.

The state agency sided with

Mangum finding "substantial evidence" that Mangum was "subjected to increased scrutiny" after he complained, and that Mangum "was terminated as a result."

In a response to BOLI, Fred Meyer said it gave the manager a verbal warning about one comment. The BOLI investigator found that Fred Meyer's response to the manager -- or at least the file documenting the company's response -- was lacking.

--Associated Press

Suit Claims Unjust Force on Young Black Male

Sheriff denies neck hold was used

The mother of a young African American male filed a \$300,000 lawsuit Thursday, saying three sheriff's deputies pinned him to the ground at the Clackamas Town Center Mall — one by pressing a knee on his neck, after the 12-year-old witnessed a fight and was walking away.

The incident happened last August, over nine months before widespread national outrage over the killing of George Floyd after he was put in a similar hold by Minneapolis police. The boy, Ka'Mar Benbo, is now 13 but was 12 at the time and the friends he was with repeatedly told Clackamas County deputies his age, the lawsuit said.

In an emailed statement, Sheriff Craig Roberts disputed the allegations and said an investigation did

not find any evidence that a deputy placed a knee on the boy's neck. The deputies were responding to a call about a "large group of juveniles following and physically assaulting a female juvenile" and Benbo was briefly detained and handcuffed because he was the only person who refused to follow orders from deputies, Roberts said.

"We do not train deputies to restrict a person's airway or impede their ability to breathe. It was determined the involved deputies followed training and policy," he wrote, adding that the sheriff's department participated in a "listening session" last October over concerns about the incident.

Roberts said the investigation included a review of photos and videos and interviews with witnesses and deputies. But Benbo's



Video released by a Portland law firm shows a Clackamas County Sheriff's Deputy restraining a 12-year-old black male at Clackamas Town Center last August, and a photo taken after the incident shows bruises to his head. A lawsuit claims a Clackamas County sheriff's deputy used unjust force by placing his knee on the boy's neck.



A family photo shows Ka'Mar Benbo in July, when he was 12. (Photo courtesy Jarena McDavid)

mother, Jarena McDavid, was not interviewed and neither was the child, the family's attorney, accord to Jason Kafoury, the family's attorney.

"They elbow him in the head and then they take him to the ground, handcuff him and put the knee to the neck and leave him there for several minutes," Kafoury said. "No police report was generated and they never interviewed my client about what happened."

Chris Owen, spokesman for the Clackamas County District Attorney, said nothing had been submitted to prosecutors on the incident. "If we get presented the

necessary information, we will certainly evaluate it," he said.

Kafoury said Benbo was a witness to a fight between two girls he didn't know at Clackamas Town Center, which is in the suburbs south of Portland. Mall security called police and as Benbo and his friends were leaving the mall's parking lot, responding deputies grabbed him by the arm, Kafoury said.

Benbo's mother said one of her son's friends called her to tell her what was happening after Benbo screamed out, "Please, call my mom!"

"It was terrifying. I didn't know what was happening. I just wanted

him not to move and don't reach for anything," said McDavid.

The deputies ultimately let Benbo go and no criminal charges were filed. The lawsuit says Benbo suffered scrapes and bruises, headaches, loss of sleep and feelings of racial stigmatization and "fear of police."

McDavid filed a complaint the day after the incident with the

sheriff's office. The sheriff's office wrote her a letter saying "we have completed a thorough investigation" and the deputy was exonerated.

"I can only imagine the fear a parent has for their child of color engaging with police. I know that there is nothing I can say to make their worry go away. What I can say is: I will do my part to make

sure that we use appropriate force and that every use of force continues to be reviewed by my agency," Roberts said in his statement.

Authorities told McDavid they didn't call her about the incident at the time because her son wasn't injured, she said. The lawsuit includes photographs that show

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Future Connect students from Portland Community College pose with Oregon State Treasurer Tobias Read. The program helps eliminate barriers to college by providing first generation or low-income students with ongoing assistance throughout their time at PCC.

Knocking Down Barriers to College

PCC grant supports under-served

Portland Community College can enroll more first generation and low income students because of a new one year grant of \$413,910 by the

Oregon High Education Coordinating Commission to support under-served students. The grant will support efforts to eliminate barriers to college and provide students with ongoing assistance throughout their time at PCC.

Future Connect students have historically been 85 percent students of color and nearly 90 percent eligible

for low-income Pell Grants. During the past six years, PCC has raised nearly \$40 million in grant funding to bolster student support infrastructure, and more than \$6.5 million since the start of 2019.

"We are part of nine community colleges who received awards from the state for this upcoming year," said Josh Laurie, PCC Future Connect

manager. "We are excited to be on the forefront of helping our college be more student-ready with the support of this grant."

The monies will directly help an incoming group of 330 Future Connect students and provide nearly 125 individual scholarships, officials said. A new aspect of the program will include services tailored

to help students complete required math and writing courses.

In 2011, the Future Connect Program began as a partnership with the city of Portland to serve schools in Multnomah County. Future Connect has since expanded, thanks to partnerships with Beaverton and Hillsboro to serve students in those cities, as well.

Introducing Rutherford Park

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

rected a naming committee before his death in January. The committee was made up of nine local community members.

Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler announced the new name earlier this month amid the protests in response to the death of George Floyd, a black man killed by a white police officer in Minneapolis.

"I am honored to recognize Verdell Burdine Rutherford's role as a leader and historian for the black community by selecting her name for the first Portland park named after a black woman," said Wheeler.

The park was originally named for Patrick Lynch, who in the late 1800s donated land for the park and adjacent Patrick Lynch Elementary School, which still bears his name. Three other elementary schools named for the Lynch family were renamed in 2017.

At the time, Centennial School District Superintendent Paul Coakley said many newer families coming into the district associated the name with lynching, the killings of black Americans in America's violent and racist past.

"Mom rightfully considered herself a local historian," Verdell's daughter, Charlotte Rutherford said in response to the park renaming. "She was a hardworking volunteer and community activist who did not seek the limelight,



PHOTO COURTESY PORTLAND PARKS & RECREATION

Charlotte Rutherford visits the park re-named for her late mother, Verdell Burdine Rutherford, a Portland civil rights leader and historian who helped pass legislation in Oregon to outlaw discrimination in public places on the basis of "race, religion, color or national origin."

but she would have accepted this honor humbly, knowing that this park will provide a place for the community to gather together."

Verdell Burdine Rutherford was born in Oklahoma in 1913 and moved with her family that same year to Oregon, who hoped who hoped to get farmland under the Enlarged Homestead Act of 1909. Upon arrival, they learned that black people were prohibited from owning free land in Oregon.


In 1936, Verdell married Otto Rutherford and settled in Portland. Together, they were leaders of the Oregon chapter of the NAACP, and oversaw one of the NAACP's

biggest victories – the passage of the Public Accommodations Act of 1953 which outlawed discrimination in public places on the basis of race, religion, or national origin.

In 2011, a decade after her passing, her daughter, Charlotte, gifted her historical collection of artifacts from Portland's historical African American community to Portland State University. It remains accessible for academic research and public use as the late leader desired.

Due to public gathering restrictions during the COVID-19 pandemic, a community celebration at Verdell Burdine Rutherford Park will be held at a later date, officials said.


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Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



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Portland Parks & Recreation's Free Lunch + Play program returns Monday with the distribution of free meals for kids at several parks and some apartment complexes, citywide. The program has been expanded to provide food security in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.



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Kids Ready for Summer Lunch + Play

Parks program
returning with
take home
activities

A summer Lunch + Play program for kids by Portland Parks & Recreation opened on Monday with expanded free meals at Portland parks, citywide.

This year, in addition to the distribution of meals at lunchtime or during the early afternoon at convenient park locals and several

apartment complexes, take-home activities are being planned, such as art kits, activity packs, free books, and games. The program is part of an expanded effort by the city of Portland and Portland area school districts to provide food security in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Lunch + Play gives kids a free, healthy meal for lunch during summer when school is out. The food distribution program continues a Portland Parks & Recreation endeavor dating uninterrupted from the 1970s.

Schedules are available for all 26 sites at portlandoregon.gov/parks/freelunch. Due to the COVID-19 crisis, children do not need to be present in order to receive a meal as they did in years past.

Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler said he was proud of all the support the program has received to help keep thousands of young people nourished and healthy.

"COVID-19 and widespread layoffs have made hunger one of our community's most urgent needs this summer," Wheeler said. "Special thanks to NIKE, Inc., Bank of America, and our other partners who made it possible to expand our service during this time of higher need."

PP&R and its partners expect to distribute nearly 500,000 free

meals to Portland children this summer - nearly five times more than a typical season. The program will take place at parks in areas with a clear need for free and reduced lunch programs and areas where other free food providers are less accessible, officials said. Most of the sites are in east and north Portland.

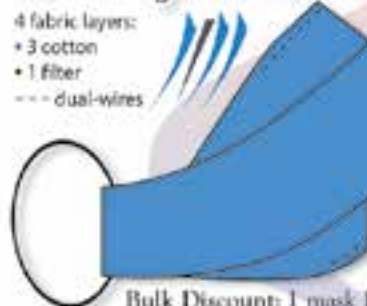
"This summer looks different than any other, with the challenges posed by the COVID-19 health crisis," says PP&R Director Adena Long. "But Portland Parks & Recreation has been providing summertime food for nearly 50 years. We are continuing to help people be healthier, life to be more stable, and neighbors to make life-long summer memories through this flagship program. Our thanks to all our City and non-profit partners who are helping deliver summertime fun, food, and memories."

If you'd like to donate to help the Free Lunch + Play program serve Portland's children, visit portlandoregon.gov/parks/lunch+play.

Due to the COVID-19 public health crisis, everyone visiting a park and/or taking part in the Free Lunch + Play program should adhere to physical distancing guidelines - staying at least 6 feet away from others when in a public space.

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

OPINION

Fighting for Health and Justice

Racism called out as public health epidemic

BY SIRIUS BONNER

Planned Parenthood Columbia Willamette believes reproductive freedom will never be achieved until people are able to make choices, care for their children and families, and pursue their life's interests without fear of violence or murder at the hands of police and white supremacy.

We're outraged by the senseless violence that took George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor and too many others. As our nation faces a pandemic that is disproportionately ravaging black communities, we must address the public health crisis that racism presents.

To our black patients, staff and supporters and the black community whose lives, health and safety are constantly under attack: Planned Parenthood stands with you.

For more than 400 years, the systems that built and uphold American society have demonstrated a disregard for black people's humanity. Today, brutal police forces across the country are strong-arming and killing black people before our very eyes.

The over-policing of black bodies extends far beyond the actions of individual police officers. It is in our workplaces, our schools, our public institutions. It is in our healthcare system.

It is this same policing of black bodies that makes the promise of reproductive freedom unattainable for black people in this country. Many of the states where politicians enact abortion bans are states with higher-than-average black populations. They're also states with voter suppression, gerrymandering, "stand your ground" laws and anti-immigration legislation.

In addition, because black people are more likely to depend on Medicaid for health care, they are often barred from using their own insurance to access abortion. To make matters worse, later this month

the U.S. Supreme Court could dismantle the protections of Roe v. Wade — which means 3.5 million black people stand to have their state ban access to abortion.

Public health by definition is built on the principle of saving lives. For too long this nation has underinvested and under-resourced black and Latinx communities — leading to less access to health care and dramatic healthcare disparities. Maternal mortality is three times higher for black women than for white women. The death rate due to breast cancer is 40 percent higher. Black women have twice as many unintended pregnancies, and are four times as likely to contract HIV.

As our nation confronts the COVID-19 pandemic, we see these disparities loud and clear: Economic inequality, structural racism and public health failures have translated to exponentially higher infection and death rates in the black and Latinx communities.

Discrimination creates a barrier to health, both inside and outside the doctor's office. The stresses of anti-black racism, microaggressions and discrimination take a toll on the health black people.

White supremacy and systemic racism permeate every structure in our society. Now is not the time to simply call out extreme violent racism. We must stand in solidarity with those demanding change through uprisings and protests. We must look inward into how white supremacy continues to show up in the institutions we are part of, including Planned Parenthood.

Like most century-old organizations, Planned Parenthood is steeped with our own structural racism and white supremacy. Planned Parenthood's mission today is to build a world in which every person — regardless of their race, income, insurance, gender identity, sexual orientation, abilities or immigration status — can ac-

cess expert, compassionate sexual and reproductive health care, information and education without shame or judgment. We are committed to addressing and correcting implicit bias and structural racism within our organization so that we can continue to improve our delivery of health care and education to the people and communities we serve.

We also must call on governors and city leaders everywhere to hold their police forces accountable. No police violence should go without direct and swift consequences.

As we continue to watch our country's two very different, racially divided, systems of justice unfold, we demand an end to the inequity that continues to define every moment of life for Black America.

Sirius Bonner serves as vice president of equity and inclusion at Planned Parenthood Columbia Willamette. For more information visit ppcw.org.



Letter to the Editor

Disarm PSU Police

Dear PSU Board of Trustees,

I write you speaking only for myself and hoping that many others will also write you regarding the matter of campus police carrying guns.

I testified three times to you when the question of starting an armed police force originally came to you six years ago. I opposed it then, noting that the literature in our journals gave us many reasons to not make that decision and that, as a research university, we should be paying attention to the scholarship.

Along with the majority of students polled and the votes of the PSU Faculty Senate, I urged you not to set up condi-

tions that would statistically make people of color less safe rather than more safe. Instead, you went against the stated opinions of the majority of the PSU community. In the silent seconds following your voice vote I stood and said, "I can't breathe," and walked out.

Last year, with a slightly different assemblage of PSU trustees, in a hearing that took place in Lincoln Hall following the murder of Jason Washington—exactly the tragedy we forecasted and that trustees ignored—in my testimony, I noted that any of the board members who voted in favor of

arming campus security should apologize to the family of Jason Washington and to the PSU community, and resign as a PSU trustee.

Now, yet again, I am just one member of the PSU community and I know many of my feelings are shared by many others, and I'm insisting that you reverse your poor decision from those years ago and #DisarmPSU. Not after a long study. Now.

Yours for a nonviolent future,

Tom Hastings, assistant professor of conflict resolution at Portland State University.

CLASSIFIED/BIDS

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This beautiful property in the Eliot neighborhood of Portland offers 61 affordable apartments. 30 units subsidized with the Project Based Voucher Program, with rents approx. 30% of the household's adjusted income, are now available. **Pre-applications will be available online on June 22, 2020. Pre-apps received by July 7, 2020 will be randomly ordered.** Pre-apps received after July 7 will be added to the end of the lists. For more info, visit bridgehousing.com/properties/songbird or leave us a message at (415) 748-3988 or songbird@bridgehousing.com. Disabled applicants are encouraged to apply. We do not discriminate on the basis of disability. Income and other restrictions apply. Rents subject to change. EHO. BRIDGE Property Management Company.



SUB-BIDS REQUESTED

SW Capitol Highway: Taylors Ferry Rd. to SW Garden Home Rd.
Storm Water Management and Street Improvements
Portland, OR

Mandatory Pre-Bid Meeting: 6/26/2020 at 10:00 a.m. (Site Work)

Mandatory Pre-Bid Meeting: 6/26/2020 at 2:00 p.m. (Concrete)

RSVP for Meeting Invitation / sondraj@jwfowler.com

Last Day for Questions: 6/25/2020

Sub Bids Due: 7/2/2020 at 2:00 p.m.

Requesting bids for the following Subcontractor Packages:

SUB021.1 – MULTNOMAH NORTH STORM FACILITY SITE WORK

SUB020.1 – 42ND FACILITY STORM FACILITY SITE WORK

SUB027.1 – MULTNOMAH SOUTH STORM FACILITY SITE WORK

SUB017.1 – MULTNOMAH NORTH FACILITY CAST IN PLACE CONCRETE

SUB018.1 – MULTNOMAH SOUTH FACILITY CAST IN PLACE CONCRETE

SUB026.1 – CIP RETAINING WALL 42ND STORM FACILITY

This project is subjected to prevailing wage rate law and City of Portland Community & Equity Inclusion Plan requirements.

Please Direct Questions To:

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INVITATION TO BIDS

OREGON ZOO

On-Call Crane and Rigging Services

ITB 3848

Bid Date: July 7, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.

The Oregon Zoo, a department of Metro, a metropolitan service district organized under the laws of the State of Oregon and the Metro Charter, located at 600 NE Grand Avenue, Portland, OR 97232-2736, is hereby requesting sealed bids for On-Call Crane and Rigging Services.

Sealed bids are due no later than 2:00 p.m., July 7, 2020, at <http://bidlocker.us/a/oregonmetro/BidLocker>

The Oregon Zoo needs qualified and experienced, on-call contractors specializing in crane & rigging services. The Oregon Zoo has an immediate need for the demolition & removal of structures in our Colobus-Swamp Monkey exhibit. Typical areas in the Zoo where crane & rigging services could be utilized, including but not limited to Animal exhibits, animal holding areas, guest facing areas, and staff only areas

ITB documents can be viewed and downloaded from the Oregon Procurement Information Network (ORPIN) at <http://orpin.oregon.gov/open.dll/>.

Metro may accept or reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, or waive irregularities not affecting substantial rights if such action is deemed in the public interest.

Metro extends equal opportunity to all persons and specifically encourages minority, women-owned, emerging small businesses and service disabled veteran owned businesses to access and participate in this and all Metro projects, programs and services.

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Young Rapper Signs Deal

A teenage rapper from Houston's African American community has taken the world by storm with her infectious energy and sharp rhymes.

Nickelodeon last week announced it has signed a deal with 13-year-old social media star and hip-hop artist, Alaya "That Girl Lay Lay" High to develop original programming for the entertainment channel, supporting her music career and an exclusive line of consumer products.

A musical prodigy who has dazzled famous fans like Nick Cannon and Le'Veon Bell with her viral freestyle raps, Lay Lay has been writing, producing, rapping and singing since the age of five. At age 11, she became the youngest female rapper to sign a recording deal and released her debut project, Tha Cheat Code following a jaw dropping performance on The Ellen DeGeneres Show.

With TV appearances, national ad campaigns and book deals firmly under her belt, the sky is the limit for this talented young star.



PHOTO COURTESY NICKELODEON

Alaya "That Girl Lay Lay" High

In Loving Memory

Wilma Pauline Graham

Jan. 12, 1934 -
June 11, 2020

Wilma Pauline Graham passed away peacefully Thursday, June 11, 2020 of natural causes after a long illness. She was born in Hazelhurst, Miss., Jan. 12, 1934 to George Byrd and Georgia Tillman, and was the oldest of four children. She was raised in Empora, Miss., with her Aunt Hopie and Uncle Charlie White.

She traveled to Oregon and joined Vancouver Avenue First Baptist Church, where she met deacon Elijah Graham Sr. They were married in 1952, which was the first wedding at the church. They had two sons Elijah (Tim) Graham Jr. (Leisa) and Tony Andre Graham.



Wilma was a Licensed Practical Nurse for 50 years. She worked at Emanuel Hospital, Holiday Park and OHSU, retiring as head nurse at Terwilliger Plaza.

Wilma had a loving, giving spirit. She enjoyed entertaining her family and friends. She loved

antiques, decorating her home, going fishing and getting dressed up!

She adored her five grandchildren, Lesa, Elijah III, Meyaka, Alexandria and Eli IV (Bo). She also had two great-grandchildren, Malea and Naya; and several nieces and nephews.

Wilma was preceded in death by her husband, Grand Master Mason and Deacon Elijah Graham Sr.; her mother Georgia; father George; brother Willie Zeal and sister Alice Faye. She leaves behind to celebrate her memory, her sister Ruth, her sons, grandchildren and numerous other family members.

We lost a beautiful wife, mom, sister and grandmother. She will FOREVER be in our hearts.

The family would like thank Cherrywood Parkview Memory Care.

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Joyce Washington

Born: 1937 - 1996

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

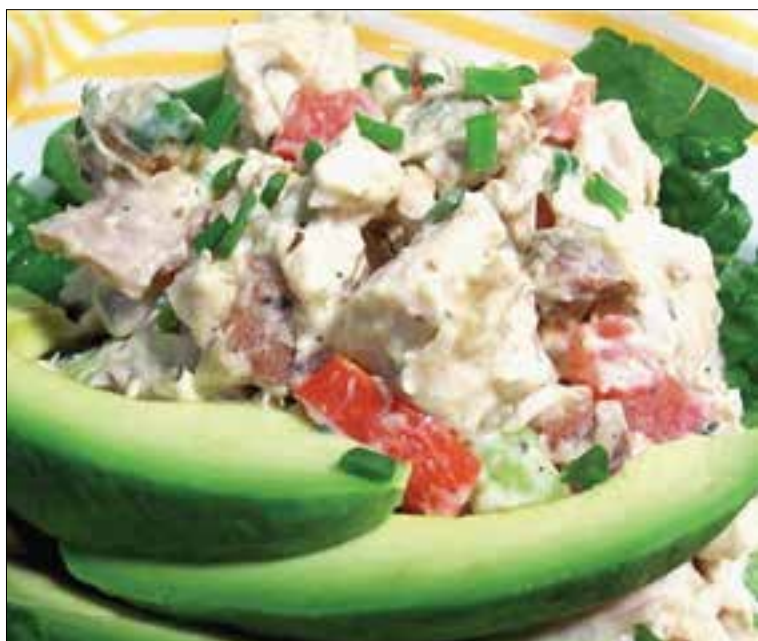
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Your Story is important to our Community.

The Portland Observer



FOOD



Chicken Salad with Bacon, Lettuce, and Tomato

Ingredients:

- 5 slices bacon
- 3 cups diced cooked chicken
- 1 cup chopped fresh tomato
- 2 stalks celery, thinly sliced
- ¾ cup mayonnaise
- 2 tablespoons minced green onion
- 1 tablespoon chopped parsley
- 1 teaspoon lemon juice
- 1 dash Worcestershire sauce
- 1 pinch salt and ground black pepper to taste
- 12 leaves romaine lettuce
- 1 large avocado, sliced

Directions:

1. Place bacon in a large skillet and cook over medium-high heat, turning occasionally, until evenly browned, about 10 minutes. Drain bacon slices on paper towels; crumble.
2. Stir chicken, bacon, tomato, and celery together in a bowl.
3. Whisk mayonnaise, parsley, green onions, lemon juice, Worcestershire sauce, salt, and black pepper together in a bowl until dressing is smooth. Pour dressing over chicken mixture; toss to coat. Refrigerate until chilled, at least 30 minutes.
4. Stir chicken mixture and serve over romaine lettuce leaves; garnish with avocado slices.



Opening Up and Giving Back

Erica Fahnbulleh, owner of Essence Hair Design, 4710 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr., reopens her business under new Phase One coronavirus regulations for public safety, while reaching out to distribute free food boxes from the Sunshine Division for those in need each Thursday from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. On Friday, Multnomah County was officially reopened for business under the state's re-opening process, requiring safe distancing between people and masks to be worn in all public places.



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Unjust Force

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

scrapes and bruising around Benbo's eye and on his cheek.

She said she first contacted an attorney about the case last year, but was pleased the lawsuit was filed Thursday because of the national attention to police brutality and racial injustice following Floyd's death.

"Right now, it's a prime time. George Floyd, for goodness sakes — watching his video made me cry because that could have been my child," McDavid said.

--Associated Press



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