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'City
of
Roses'

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Committed to Cultural Diversity

Another Look at I-5 Project

ODOT forms new board to consider past harms

See Local News, page 3

New Fire Chief in Vancouver

Brennan Blue brings 32 years of experience to job

See Local News, page 3



Travis Stovall, a long-time Gresham resident, small business owner and community leader, has secured key endorsements in his Gresham Mayoral race.

Historical Race for Mayor of Gresham

Travis Stovall secures key endorsements

A Black leader from Gresham has the potential to become the first Black mayor of any city or town in the Portland metropolitan area.

Travis Stovall, a long-time Gresham resident, small business owner and community leader, has secured key endorsements in his Gresham Mayoral race, including the presiding Gresham mayor and former mayor, seven current and former Gresham City Councilors, and several other community leaders, making him a formidable candidate among the five people running in the Nov. 3 election.

The impressive list of endorsements was released last week by Stovall's campaign.

"Travis' long history of service to our community will help navigate our way to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Unhealthy at Best



A view of smoky Portland from Union Station, downtown. The Portland metropolitan region remains under a thick blanket of smog from wildfires that are burning around the state and residents are being advised to remain indoors due to hazardous air quality.

Best prescription for smoke: Stay inside

BY MICHAEL LEIGHTON
PORTLAND OBSERVER EDITOR

Very unhealthy air quality conditions are expected to last at least until the end of the week and possibility until next week because of dense smoke coming from massive wildfires in Oregon and across the West, officials declared Tuesday.

The extreme high winds, heat and dry conditions that gave rise to some of the worst wildfires in Oregon history finally abated as the week began, giving relief to fire crews, but the fires are still burning and



Dr. Gopal Allada

the risks to human populations continue, including from smoke. At least eight people have been killed by wildfires in Oregon since they erupted last week and more than 20 people are still missing.

The Portland area has been under a dense smoke advisory for several days and an air quality advisory is in effect at least until Thursday.

Tyler Kranz, a meteorologist at Portland's National Weather Service office, said for the smoke to disperse Oregon will need strong enough winds blowing from the ocean towards land — but there needs to be a "perfect balance" of wind so that

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

Unpaid Rents Grow during COVID-19

Mayor calls for more housing relief

Unpaid rents are growing in Portland during the COVID-19 pandemic and Mayor Ted Wheeler announced last week he will bring forward local housing relief measures to help stabilize households facing evictions and foreclosures.

Wheeler proposed an emergency amendment to the city's mandatory relocation ordinance so that any rent increases would trigger a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



A protest against evictions in San Francisco is captured in this AP photo. Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler announced last week he is bringing forward local housing relief measures to stabilize households facing evictions and foreclosures due to COVID-19.

The Week in Review



Suspect Killed by Police

Michael Reinhoel, the Portland man suspected of fatally shooting Aaron "Jay" Danielson, a right-wing supporter during in a confrontation downtown last Aug. 28, was shot and killed on Sept. 3 as law enforcement moved into to arrest him in Lacy, Wash. Authorities say he was armed and an investigation was underway.

Police Misconduct Investigated

At least three Portland police officers have been removed from patrol and protest duties while investigations proceed into whether they engaged in misconduct against protesters, officials confirmed last week. One of the officers was seen on video tackling and repeatedly punching a protester in the face.

Man Starts Six Fires

A man arrested Sunday for using a Molotov Cocktail to start a small brush fire along the I-205 freeway, was arrested again and held for a mental evaluation after he started 6 more small fires during the predawn hours early Monday morning. Portland Fire and Rescue extinguished three of the fires while passing community members put out the other three, officials said.



Officer Hurt by Laser

Multnomah County District Attorney Mike Schmidt Tuesday announced the indictment against a Portland man for shining a dangerous high-powered laser into the eye of a Portland Police Bureau sergeant during a protest and causing an injury. Law enforcement said the laser was so powerful that it would burn through paper and cause dry material to catch fire.



COVID Positive Rate Slows

The Oregon Health Authority says the positivity rate for people tested for COVID-19 was 4.3 percent for the week ending Sept. 5, considerably lower than the national average of 8 percent. A declining positive test rate shows that Oregonians' efforts to use face coverings, physically distance, and avoid gatherings is helping to slow the spread of the disease.

Singer, Producer Remembered

Ronald "Khalis" Bell, a co-founder, singer and producer of the group Kool & the Gang, died Wednesday at his home in the U.S. Virgin Islands. He was 68. The band was one of the major groups of the 1970s, blending jazz, funk, R&B and pop.

Wrongful Death Settlement

The estate of Lane Christopher Martin, a 31 year old white Portland man who was shot to death by police last summer during a mental health crisis will receive nearly \$1 million in a wrongful death settlement from the City of Portland, officials reported last week. A grand jury had found no criminal wrongdoing on the part of police.



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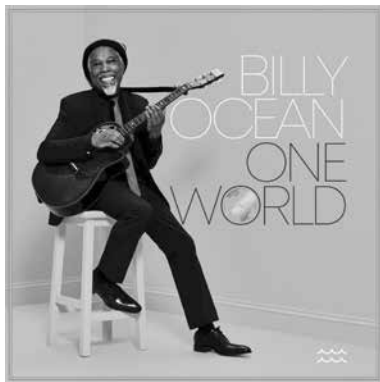
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The INSIDE

The Week in Review page 2



Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

page 8



OPINION

page 9

CLASSIFIED/BIDS

pages 9-10



page 11

METRO

LOCAL NEWS



The Oregon Department of Transportation is moving to elevate Black voices to shape the controversial I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project.

Feedback Starts Over on I-5 Project

New board with black ties to consider past harms

BY MICHAEL LEIGHTON
PORTLAND OBSERVER EDITOR

Officials say the priorities of Portland's African American community will be elevated under a new public outreach the Oregon Department of Transportation is taking to get past obstacles in the controversial I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project.

ODOT recently announced it is recruiting people with historic ties to the Black community in north and northeast Portland to form a new Historic Albina Advisory

Board to oversee decisions that must be made on designs for the project, replacing a prior committee of residents advising ODOT, some who grew disgruntled with the planning process.

The new 17-member panel will replace a 25-member community advisory panel and will be responsible for sending its recommendations to an executive steering committee of government officials overseeing the project, ODOT said.

The original construction of the I-5 freeway and other urban renewal projects over the past five decades historically contributed to Black residential displacement in the inner city neighborhoods of north and northeast Portland. Several advocates pushing for construction of a new diverse community in the Rose Quarter area are

opposed to the I-5 project as currently outlined.

This summer, Metro government, Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler, City Commissioner Chloe Eudaly and Albina Vision Trust, a nonprofit focusing on revitalizing the Albina area, all withdrew support for the project saying the plans ODOT was approving did not address historic wrongs to the black community. It happened after ODOT rejected the added expense to make the freeway caps adaptable to building structures, estimated to increase the cost to \$1 billion.

According to Bike Portland Publisher Jonathan Maus, several citizen members of the former Community Advisory Committee were also concerned their advisory

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Vancouver Fire Chief Introduced

Brennan Blue brings 32 years of experience



Vancouver's new Fire Chief Brennan Blue.

After a nationwide search, the City of Vancouver has hired Brennan Blue to serve as the city's new fire chief starting Sept. 24. He is replacing Joe Molina, who is retiring.

Blue brings more than 32 years of experience and leadership in the fire profession, including 13 years as a chief officer. He served in Southern California's Riverside and San Diego counties for more than 25 years. Most recently, he was the fire chief for Cal Fire's San Benito-Monterey Unit, overseeing 21 stations and more than 400 career staff.

Blue. "I look forward to building on the great work of the department staff in collaboration with the community. Together, we will continue to provide the highest level of fire and emergency response to the residents and visitors of our vibrant and growing community."

Chief Blue also has extensive experience in incident command for a wide range of emergency responses and has led the development of prevention, rescue, and hazmat programs for the communities he has served.

In addition to his ongoing professional development and training, Chief Blue has been working towards earning a bachelor's degree in organizational leadership from Bellevue College, which he will complete in 2021. He currently lives in Clark County with his family.

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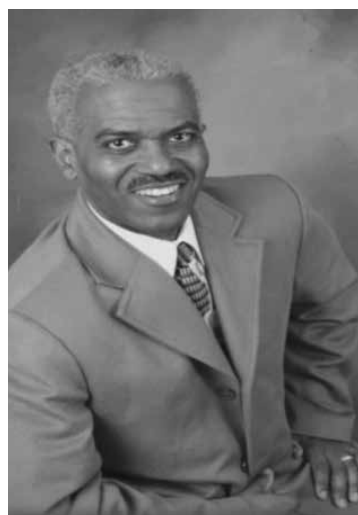
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Historical Race for Mayor of Gresham

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

a better and more just future," said former Gresham Mayor Shane Bemis. "His business acumen coupled with his heart will serve us well."

Former Multnomah County Commissioner Diane McKeel added, "Travis will work for quality equitable education, job training and our local transportation needs."

Former State Sen. Margaret Carter, the first Black woman elected to serve in the Oregon Legislature, said voters in Gresham can make history by electing Stovall.

"We have the opportunity to elect Travis Stovall as our region's first Black mayor, she said.

Some of his other endorsements include the Gresham Chamber of Commerce, the mayors of Troutdale and Fairview, and Joe McFerrin II, the Black president and CEO of Portland Opportunity Industrial

Center and Rosemary Anderson High School, which operates sites serving Black communities in Gresham, Rockwood and Lents along with the historical Black neighborhoods of north and north-east Portland.

Stovall said he was honored to have so much support from his community. His campaign provided a list of accomplishments he has made as an advocate for the Gresham community, including improved transit access and infrastructure during his tenure on the TriMet Board of Directors, where he currently serves as Vice-President and Chair of the Finance and Audit Committee.

Other accomplishments include his help to create affordable housing units as member of the Gresham's Community Development and Housing Subcommittee and creating local living wage jobs

as an entrepreneur and Executive Director of East Metro Economic Alliance.

Stovall started his career managing Adventist health clinics in Gresham and East County. He is the President of eRep, a company he founded and employs people locally. He holds a Bachelor's in Business Administration and Finance, and an MBA.

"I've spent my career helping our businesses thrive, creating quality healthcare, and building infrastructure so that our children and families can get around safely," said Stovall. "As your mayor, I will work across all political lines, to deliver the results Gresham deserves."

As the Gresham Outlook noted in its endorsement: "Gresham voters will not find a better candidate on the ballot to serve as the city's next mayor than Travis Stovall."

Feedback Starts Over on I-5 Project

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

panel was just a rubber stamp without real power.

Retired educator and consultant Liz Fother-Branch, a member of the committee from Portland's black community, was one of those speaking out. She resigned from the committee on July 1 and issued a statement.

"I find it frustrating to sit on advisory committees and know that all of the design, financial decisions and considerations have already been determined long before any real restorative justice can take place," Fother-Branch wrote. "During this time of protest, it is imperative to reject minimal performance gestures that will not improve air quality, guarantee jobs, create wealth or dismantle policies, procedures and practices that continue to harm and traumatize us."

The Oregon Legislature approved \$715 million to widen Interstate 5 near the Rose Quarter

to fix a bottle neck and improve neighborhood transportation links. ODOT has proposed constructing some freeway caps and overpasses that would provide new bike paths, sidewalks and greenspaces, but not space for new buildings.

The African-American led Albina Vision is a grassroots campaign to see the I-5 Rose Quarter area made into a whole new neighborhood, one that is diverse, inclusive, affordable and accessible, and one that recognizes the injustice done by historical displacement and gentrification.

ODOT officials, however, promise that the new committee will be charged with facilitating a new set of values to address past harms to the Black community. The agency has recruited Dr. Steven Holt, an African American pastor and a community planning consultant to facilitate the new public outreach.

Holt has been deeply involved in bringing generational opportunity to Black residents and promoting

restorative justice. He has promoted community components in planning by Legacy Emanuel Hospital to finally develop a vacant block at North Russell and North Williams Avenue, a large parcel that was a center of African American life before being bulldozed nearly 50 years ago.

Ensuring the long term benefit of the black community will be the priority as the I-5 project gets a new look, he told the Portland Observer.

Applications for the new Historic Albina Advisory Board will be online in the coming days, ODOT said.

"We want to do this right and take the time we need to develop long-term relationships with the people on this board and the Black community, said Megan Channell, I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project director for ODOT.

Learn more about the project and sign up for email updates at www.i5rosequarter.org.

Unpaid Rents Grow during COVID-19

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

requirement for landlords to pay relocation assistance to cover their tenant's moving cost when facing eviction or foreclosure. Under code adopted in response to the affordable housing crisis that existed before COVID-19, the relocation help would have only kicked in if the rent increase was 10 percent or more.

"While we are in the midst of a pandemic, we need to protect renters at risk of losing their housing and support renters who may need to relocate due to rent increases," Wheeler said.

The mayor directed the Portland

Housing Bureau to allocate an additional \$500,000 of existing funding towards housing stabilization and relief to residents in hard-hit east Portland neighborhoods.

He also announced plans to extend a local eviction moratorium to the end of the year.

While renters have six months to repay any back rent accrued during the Portland moratorium, Wheeler said the impacts of COVID-19 on Portland's already tight rental market and the growing magnitude of unpaid rent as a result of the pandemic show the magnitude of the current crisis.

The mayor was joined by Home

Forward's Michael Buonocore, the executive director of the Multnomah County Housing Authority, and Portland Community Reinvestment Initiative Inc.'s (PCRI) Executive Director Kymberly Horner to share how continued rent increases and outstanding loan obligations have many Portlanders falling further and further behind on their rent payments and their loan repayments.

The data shows that one in four Portland renters were already paying more than half their monthly income toward rent prior to the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

Unhealthy at Best

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

it disperses smoke but doesn't further ignite fires.

"We need the winds to get the smoke out of here," Kranz said. "We just don't want them to be too strong, because then they could fan those flames and all of a sudden those fires are spreading again."

Smoke particles are small enough that they can penetrate deep into the lungs, and health effects can include chest pain, arrhythmia and bronchitis. Those with preexisting conditions such as heart and lung disease or asthma are especially at risk.

According to health experts, the best prescription for avoiding wildfire smoke is to stay inside.

Dr. Gopal Allada, associate professor of medicine in the OHSU School of Medicine, warns that the cloth masks people have been wearing to prevent spread of the coronavirus are insufficient for wildfire smoke and may give false sense of security.

He said wearing a cloth mask outside won't sufficiently protect people from the microscopic particulate matter that comes from wildfire smoke. If people have

access to a N95 mask, they have the gold standard for protection, but those are in short supply because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

It's therefore critical for people to limit their exposure outdoors, he said.

The poor air quality has led to the closure of government build-

ings and offices in Multnomah County and residential services have been scaled back.

The city of Portland has closed all city-owned outdoor areas and natural spaces including city parks until at least Sept. 24 because of the hazardous conditions. Portland residential garbage, recycling and compost

collection was delayed this week due to air quality, and Meals on wheels canceled meal deliveries. Staff made wellness calls to all homebound participants.

"We want to ensure the safety of both our clients and volunteers," said Meals on Wheels People Executive Director Suzanne Washington. "All of our meal recipients have been receiving supplement food since the beginning of the pandemic in case of an event like this. We will call all of them to ensure they are safe and remind to eat one of the meals we provided."

Portland and Multnomah County's Joint Office of Homeless Serves has initiated enhanced response teams to reach unsheltered people experiencing homelessness and connect those most sensitive to air quality issues to cleaner air spaces, officials said.

Emergency smoke shelters have been set up at the Oregon Convention Center and the Charles Jordan Community Center in north Portland. Individuals and families seeking shelter were urged to call 2-1-1 or visit 211info.org.

In the meantime, public health officials urge people to continue to practice physical distancing, hand-washing and wearing facial coverings to prevent the spread of COVID-19, official said.



In response to massive wildfires across Oregon and near urban centers, Oregon Gov. Kate Brown tours the Oregon State Fairgrounds in Salem Saturday where she spoke with firefighting volunteers and evacuees. (AP photo)

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New Round of COVID-19 Help

Assistance geared to small businesses, nonprofits

Prosper Portland has announced a new round of financial help to small businesses and community nonprofits that are struggling during the coronavirus pandemic. The application period opened on Monday and closes on Friday, Sept. 25 at 5 p.m.

The Portland City Council



Prosper Portland has announced a new round of financial help to small businesses and community nonprofits that are struggling during the coronavirus pandemic.

approved a plan last July to distribute \$114 million in federal CARES Act (Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security) relief to the community. The City Council allocated \$15 million to Prosper Portland to distribute to small business via the Small Business Relief Fund and block grants to community nonprofits.

Up to \$12 million will be disbursed as grants of up to \$25,000 through selected Community Development Financial Institutions partners. An additional \$3 million will be allocated as block grants to community partners that can reach culturally specific populations to provide access to these funds.

Distribution is guided by the city's Equity Toolkit and the

knowledge that Black people, Indigenous people and all people of color have experienced the greatest impacts from the pandemic and need the most support..

Details about eligibility, requirements, selection priorities and frequently asked questions are all posted at prosperportland.us/relief. The distribution of grants will begin in mid-October, officials said.

Arts and performance venues are encouraged to apply for the PDXCares Venue Support program, which allocates a separate \$2.5 million recovery fund for businesses and non-profit organizations defined as "venues" to cover losses, payroll, or operational gaps due to the pandemic. Learn more at racc.org/apply.

Diverse Blood Supply Needed

All races and ethnicities urged to donate

The American Red Cross in Portland is sending out word it needs people of all races and ethnicities to give blood to help ensure a blood supply as diverse as the patients who depend on it.

For a small percentage of the population, finding someone else with the same blood type can be difficult. While the vast majority of people have types A, B, O or AB blood, some blood types are unique to certain racial and eth-

nic groups, so a diverse blood supply is important to meeting the medical needs of a diverse patient population.

Patients who require frequent blood transfusions as part of their treatment, like those with sickle cell disease or other lifelong blood disorders, often need close blood type matches to prevent complications from their transfusion therapy.

You can make an appointment to donate by downloading the free Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767). You can also visit RedCrossBlood.org/HostADrive.



People come in all different shapes, sizes and blood types. The American Red Cross needs people of all races and ethnicities to give blood to help ensure a blood supply as diverse as the patients who depend on it. (Red Cross photo)

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Beloved Reggae Star Remembered

Toots Hibbert gave musical style its name

(AP) — Toots Hibbert, one of reggae's founders and most beloved stars who gave the music its name and later helped make it an international movement through such classics as "Pressure Drop," "Monkey Man" and "Funky Kingston," has died. He was 77.

Hibbert, frontman of Toots & the Maytals, had been in a medically-induced coma at a hospital in Kingston since earlier this month. He was admitted in intensive care after complaints of having breathing difficulties, according to his publicist. It was revealed in local media that the singer was awaiting results from a COVID-19 test after showing symptoms.

News of the five-time Grammy nominee's ill-health came just weeks after his last known performance, on a national live-stream during Jamaica's Emancipation and Independence celebrations in August.

A family statement said Hibbert died Friday at University Hospital of the West Indies in Kingston, Jamaica, surrounded by family.

A muscular ex-boxer, Hibbert was a bandleader, songwriter, multi-instrumentalist and showman whose concerts sometimes ended with dozens of audience members dancing with him on stage. He was also, in the opinion of many, reggae's greatest singer, so deeply spiritual he



Toots Hibbert performs at the 2018 New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival. (AP file photo)

could transform "Do re mi fa so la ti do" into a hymn.

His raspy tenor, uncommonly warm and rough, was likened to the voice of

Otis Redding and his original songs such as "Funky Kingston" and "54-46 That's My Number" appealed to soul and gospel fans.



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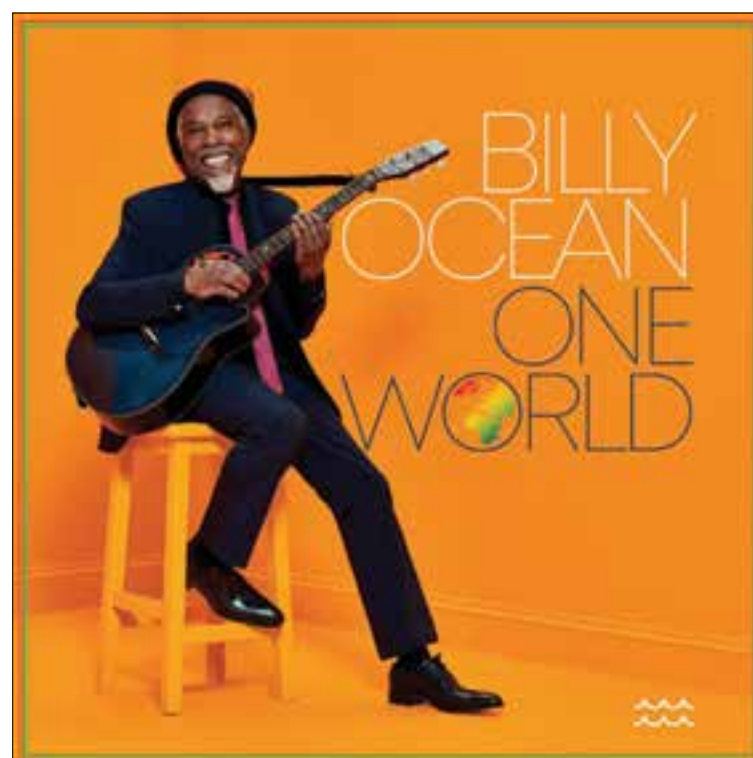
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Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



Ocean Inspires with New Album

Returns to music scene with 'Lift You Up'

(AP) — Billy Ocean is angry. But you won't hear it in his music.

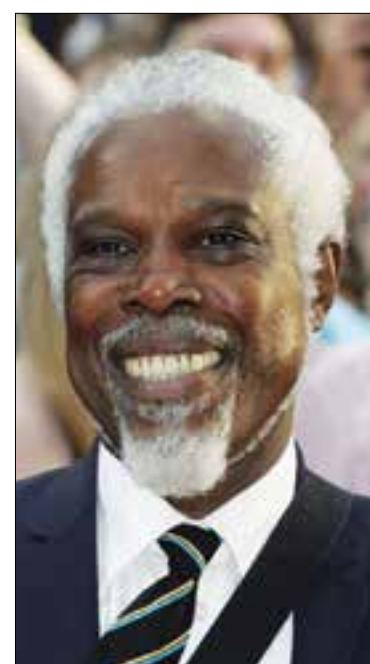
Now 70, he's frustrated by structural racism and by Black people being shot by police. He's fed up with hatred and thinks society is often going backward.

Yet none of that is unleashed in his mix of soul, reggae, R&B and pop infused with the warmth of the Caribbean. It's the way he's done it from his 1984 hit "Caribbean Queen (No More Love On the Run)" to his bright new album, "One World."

"If I was an angry man, I wouldn't be able to make the sort of music I'm trying to make," he says. "It's a gift to inspire people. I like to think it's a gift to lift you up. It shouldn't bring you down. What is the benefit of everybody trying to bring people down?"

For his first studio album in a decade, Ocean returns to the theme of uplift. Three songs alone have the word "love" in the title. He sings in the title track: "What we need is a love revolution."

"We need a love revolution because there's too much hatred around and there's too much



Billy Ocean

misunderstanding around," he told the AP.

"I mean, for God's sake: How long are we going to go on with this sort of climate?" he asks. "For me as a Black person, how long are we going to be shot down by the police?"

To make the album, Ocean co-wrote 19 songs last summer and settled on 12, going into the mix three times to get the balance right between slow tunes and uptempo ones.

Though the songs were crafted before the pandemic and summer of protests, he feels they seem right for our time now. Many urge unity and respect.

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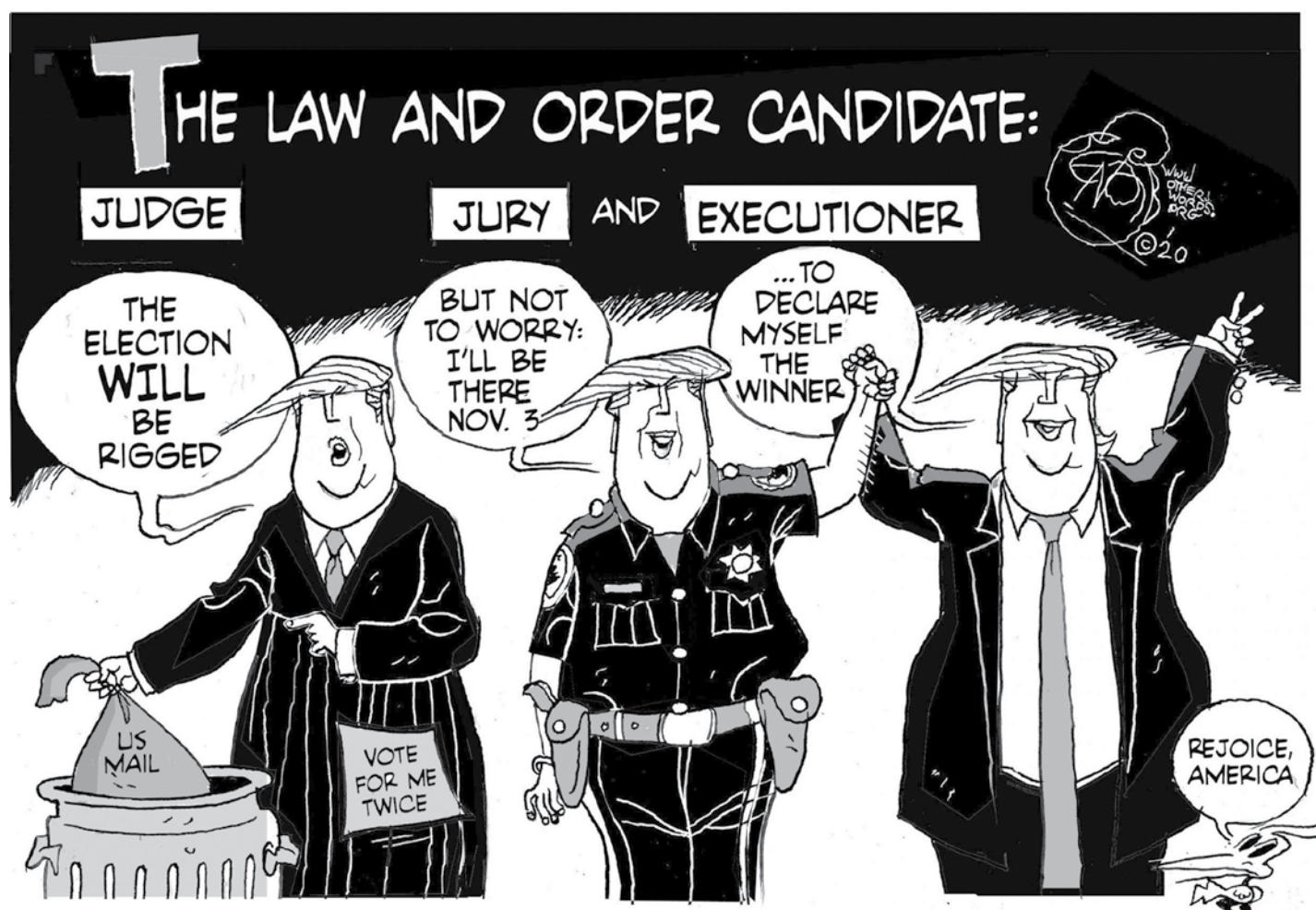
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Opinion articles do not necessarily represent the views of the Portland Observer. We welcome reader essays, photos and story ideas. Submit to news@portlandobserver.com.

OPINION



A Portland demonstrator is arrested during a Black Lives Matter protest on Aug. 30.

Complaints on Police Tactics Reviewed

Portland's Citizen Review Committee is now reviewing if police are using appropriate tactics for crowd control during protests. Crowd control tactics used by Portland Police responding to recent and past protests are being investigated by citizens serving on Portland Citizen Review Committee. The workgroup is seeking feedback directly from the community. For more information, email crc@portlandoregon.gov or visit the Citizen Review Committee website at portlandoregon.gov/ipr/53654.

Keep Politics Out of COVID-19 Vaccine

Interference in process erodes public trust

BY MARC H. MORIAL



Maintaining the American public's trust in the Food and Drug Administration is vital. If the agency's credibility is lost because of real or perceived interference in the process to approve a vaccine for the coronavirus, people will not rely on the agency's safety warnings.

Erosion of public trust will leave consumers and patients doubting public health recommendations, making them less likely to enroll in clinical studies or to use FDA-regulated products when they should to maintain or improve their health. This is problematic under normal circumstances but especially if we are to ultimately overcome COVID-19.

Protecting the FDA's independence is essential if we are to do the best possible job of protecting public health and saving lives.

It's no secret that the White House believes the approval of a vaccine or treatment for COVID-19 would be a boon for the President's reelection campaign. From the moment the novel coronavirus first reached America's shores in January, the president has regarded it first and foremost as a political inconvenience.

Without evidence, he has portrayed anything that delays the "magic bullet" he believes will end the pandemic – or at least appear to end it – as the result of a conspiracy to damage his candidacy. This includes

the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approvals process.

If we have any hope of developing a safe, effective vaccine that brings the virus under control, it depends entirely on the FDA's resolve to resist this shameful political pressure.

In an encouraging move, eight top FDA officials and doctors last week published an op-ed in USA Today pledging that all "decisions will continue to be guided by the best science" and maintain independence from political pressure.

Their statement came a day after executives representing nine companies working on coronavirus vaccines pledged to submit the vaccines for FDA approval only after they're shown to be safe and effective in large clinical studies.

"We believe this pledge will help ensure public confidence in the rigorous scientific and regulatory process by which COVID-19 vaccines are evaluated and may ultimately be approved," said a statement signed by the CEOs of AstraZeneca, BioNTech, GlaxoSmithKline, Johnson & Johnson, Merck, Moderna, Inc., Novavax, Inc., Pfizer Inc. and Sanofi.

It's worth noting that many of the regulations that still govern the FDA's drug testing process were developed in the wake of the thalidomide scandal of the early 1960s. The drug, taken by pregnant women, killed thousands of babies in the womb and caused at least 10,000 others in 46 countries to be born with severe deformities. The U.S. escaped this tragedy largely due to the determination of FDA medical officer Frances Oldham Kelsey who fastidiously blocked its approval while drug company officials maligned her as a bu-

reaucratic nitpicker, according to the New York Times.

Widespread vaccine use has helped eliminate deadly and disabling diseases in the U.S. The last natural outbreak of smallpox – which killed three of every 10 people who contracted it – was in 1949, and the disease was declared eliminated in 1952.

Measles was declared eliminated in the U.S. in 2000, although outbreaks among the unvaccinated are triggered by infected travelers bringing the virus from other countries. Rubella, a typically mild illness that can cause serious complications for pregnant women and their babies, was declared eliminated in the U.S. in 2004. Prior to 1955, polio permanently paralyzed thousands of children every year. No cases of polio have originated in the U.S. since 1979.

I have faith that one day, coronavirus can be added to this list. But only if we can maintain faith in our public health institutions. A poll from the Kaiser Family Foundation released this week found that 62 percent of Americans are concerned that a COVID-19 vaccine will be rushed to the market before it's ready because of political pressure from the Trump administration.

A smaller majority, 54 percent, said they wouldn't take a vaccine that is approved before Election Day.

It's hard to estimate how much damage the Trump administration has done by allowing politics to override responsible public health policy. The FDA and the pharmaceutical companies must invoke the spirit of Frances Oldham Kelsey and stand as a firewall against his interference.

Marc H. Morial is president and chief executive officer for the National Urban League.

Unpaid Rents Grow during COVID-19

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

pandemic, and since May, between 12% and 15% of Portland renters have been unable to make their monthly rent payments. Among "Class C" properties, which tend to be older buildings and located in Portland neighborhoods farther east, the rate of non-payment during the pandemic has been closer to 20%.

It's estimated that unpaid monthly rent totals have grown to between \$22 - 28 million in Portland and are expected to grow to \$120 - \$125 million in another 12 months. And with disparities based on income, employment, and housing, the impacts from missing rent have a substantially greater impact on Black, Indigenous, and People of Color communities who are disproportionately renters and overrepresented in service industry occupations, where they are most vulnerable to the health and economic impacts of the pandemic, officials said.

"Even prior to the pandemic, too many Portlanders were just one medical crisis, or family emergency, or job loss away from homelessness. We need to protect renters and we also need to make sure that local property owners who rent their homes to Portlanders are not foreclosed on because these circumstances make it impossible for them to pay back their loans," said Mayor Wheeler. "These are temporary measures, but ensuring Portlanders stay in their homes may be the most important and effective action we can take right now."

CLASSIFIED/BIDS

REQUEST FOR BIDS

2020-15 Invitation to Bid Windshield Washer Parts

Bid Date: October 8, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday

Clark County Public Transportation Benefit Area (dba C-TRAN) has issued an Invitation to Bid (ITB) for Windshield Washer Parts. This ITB may be found at <https://www.c-tran.com/about-c-tran/business/procurement/bid-and-proposal-opportunities>. Bids will be accepted until **1:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 8, 2020.**

REQUEST FOR BIDS

2020-10 Invitation to Bid for Drive Train Parts

Bid Date: September 21, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. on Monday

Clark County Public Transportation Benefit Area (dba C-TRAN) has issued an Invitation to Bid (ITB) for Drive Train Parts. This ITB may be found at <https://www.c-tran.com/about-c-tran/business/procurement/bid-and-proposal-opportunities>. Bids will be accepted until **11:00 a.m. on Monday, September 21, 2020.**

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ODOT's Urban Mobility Office is seeking a **communications director** in Portland! In this role, you will manage and oversee all aspects of a comprehensive strategic communications program. Visit www.odotjobs.com and search for REQ-47949 to learn more. This recruitment is open until filled. The first round of screening is scheduled for 9/24/20 at 7:00 a.m. Apply today! ODOT is an AA/EEO Employer committed to a diverse workforce.

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Initial screening to occur on **October 8, 2020.**

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Fighting to Save the World

A brilliant performance for sci-fi thriller

BY DWIGHT BROWN

Warner Bros delayed the release of Tenet during the coro-

navirus pandemic until it could open it in theaters. It was a wise decision. The film belongs on a

big screen. In fact, for maximum effect, viewers should consider experiencing the movie in an

IMAX theater. But where theaters are still closed, like Portland, the film will roll out in days and weeks to come.

Director/writer Christopher

Nolan is nearly unequalled when it comes to giving audiences unimaginable, spellbinding visuals: The Dark Knight, Inception, Dunkirk. He filmed Tenet in 70mm and IMAX, giving audiences a chance for a big picture adventure. Regular screens and TV's can't do justice to the international espionage, sci-fi trickery and devious mayhem that unravels across seven countries. Go big and the visuals will make your head spin.

The film has a sinister group of commandos taking over an

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12



John David Washington is excellent in 'Tenet,' his biggest film yet. (Photo courtesy Warner Bros.)



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NAACP Scholarship Announcement



Amira Folsom was awarded the Dr. Cynthia Harris scholarship



Deja Preusser was awarded the Dr. Harriet Adair scholarship



Eedasso Wotcha was awarded the Dr. Matthew Prophet scholarship



Jayla Pride was awarded the Hon. Avel Gordly scholarship



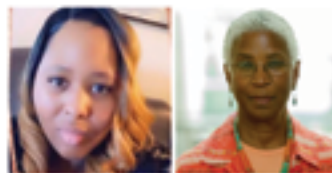
Lisa Amani was awarded the Deborah Harris scholarship



Mito Smith was awarded the Nkenge Harmon Johnson scholarship



Ristom Habtemariam was awarded the Dr. Ernest Hartzog Scholarship



Sade Rivers was awarded the Donna Maxey Scholarship



Taji Chestimet was awarded the Hon. Lew Frederick Scholarship



Taylor Greene was awarded the Hon. Margaret Carter scholarship

The Portland branch of the NAACP is proud to have awarded its first college scholarships in over 20 years. For the 2020-21 school year, 10 scholarships, worth \$2,000 each, were given to incoming freshmen who identify as Black or African American. The scholarship program has been a longtime dream of branch President E.D. Mondainé, who has pledged that twice as many will be awarded next year.

The scholarships were given in the names of prominent Black community members, including several who were instrumental to the success of the Portland NAACP over the years. Those include the late Cynthia Harris, a former Jefferson High School principal and NAACP 1st Vice President who chaired the membership committee; as well as the late Deborah Harris, a longtime community advocate and NAACP Parliamentarian.

None of this could have been done without countless hours of dedication from the Education Committee and the specially-formed Scholarship Committee. The branch wishes to thank Nichole Watson, past Education Chair, and Renee Anderson, for seeing the scholarship process through to completion.

It is an especially hard time to be a recent high school graduate right now, with one's entire future in limbo, regardless of any prudent planning. The Portland NAACP is proud to have played any hand in helping make the start to college a little more manageable for these talented young people.

We couldn't do any of our work without community support. Please visit www.pdxnaacp.org to learn more about our prominent Black community leaders, and to get involved.

Fighting to Save the World

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

opera house, holding the audience hostage and preparing to blow up the place. A counter group of combatants intervenes. One of the potential saviors is known simply as the Protagonist (John David Washington, *BlacKkKlansman*). As he tries to thwart mass murder, he notices a curious event: A hole in the side of a seat seems to refill itself with debris.

At first, it seems like a minor occurrence. Then he realizes that the hole is an example of a bizarre force. A reversing of the flow of time. Like a bullet reentering a chamber after it's been shot from a gun. In the wrong hands, it's a power that can become lethal.

This "time inversion" phenomenon comes under the watch of a secret organization dubbed

Tenet. Quickly Protagonist finds himself embroiled in global intrigue, a dark underworld that includes arms dealers, physicists, mad scientists and people eager to end humankind.

Along the way he partners up with Neil (Robert Pattinson, *The Lighthouse*), mingles with a tall rich art dealer named Kat (Elizabeth Debicki, *Widows*) and exchanges bitter remarks with Kat's evil, jealous, filthy rich Russian oligarch husband Andrei (Kenneth Branagh, *Dunkirk*). He meets a weapons trafficker Priya (Dimple Kapadia), connects with operative Mahir (Himesh Patel, *Yesterday*) and joins forces with a soldier named Yves (Aaron Taylor-Johnson, *Nocturnal Animals*). Is it enough to stop World War III? You decide.

John David Washington has crossed a bridge. He's no longer

just the son of a superstar actor. He is a superstar actor. Seconds after he's on screen, you get the deal. He is as confident, adventurous and acrobatic as Tom Cruise in the *Mission Impossible* series. As cool and debonair as any of the Bond men. As his character becomes more poised and powerful, you become more assured that you are watching the blossoming of an actor who can dominate scenes that should have been stolen by veterans like Kenneth Branagh and Michael Caine.

As a director, Christopher Nolan is both an artist and a visionary. He brings a flow, choreography and timing to the film that is like an engineer building a race car. His scriptwriting is innovative too. The film's ability to wrangle the most absurd or obtuse notions of physics into a plausible plotline is amazing.

Some movie fans are still skeptical about venturing into a theater to see gems like *Tenet*. Those fears are basic survival instincts kicking in during a very unpredictable pandemic. That said, the ideal way to watch Christopher Nolan's extraordinary but flawed

sci-fi/action/thriller and John David Washington's brilliant performance is on a screen the size of the Titanic.

Dwight Brown is a film critic for the National Newspaper Publishers Association, the Black Press USA.



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