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Capturing Strength, Vulnerability
Film by black producers gets online premier

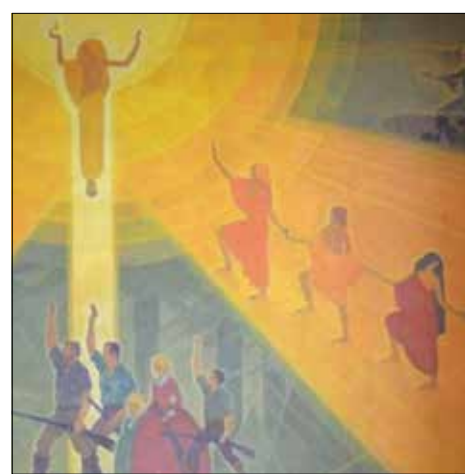
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Judge, page 7**



**Relics
Coming Down**

*Grant murals
seen as
promoting racist
culture*

See story, page 2



The Portland Observer

Volume XLVIV • Number 26



'City
of
Roses'

www.portlandobserver.com
Wednesday • December 9, 2020

Committed to Cultural Diversity



PHOTO COURTESY OF MULTNOMAH COUNTY

A health care worker tests for COVID-19 at an outdoor site in east Portland.

COVID-19 Danger Rises to Extreme

Any activity
outside home now
deemed a risk

Multnomah County is complying with Gov. Kate Brown's latest orders on preventing the spread of the coronavirus.

The Portland area moved into the governor's new extreme risk category last Thursday. It means even more restrictions to stop the disease from multiplying, aligning it with the risks for the rest of the Portland Metro area and a large number of other counties in Oregon.

While the new measures are part of a risk-reduction framework, any activity outside your home carries risk of spread of COVID-19, officials said. And while news of several vaccine trials signals hope, it will take well into 2021 or beyond until the risk is reduced enough to return to pre-COVID-19 behaviors, according to public health experts.

"We are still facing potential spread that can overwhelm our health care in the next few weeks," said Dr. Jennifer Vines of the Multnomah County Health Department,

"We can all do our part by limiting how much we mix with people outside our households, regardless of formal restrictions."

Health authorities say everyone should avoid the "three Cs": Crowded spaces where you are around many people; close contact settings where people take off their masks and have close conversations; and confined space, which means any enclosed area with poor ventilation.

Instead, people are urged to protect one another by wearing a mask indoors and out whenever they are with anyone outside their household; wash hands frequently; maintain six feet distance and open windows and doors often to improve air flow.

Multnomah County has a unique role in the state as it is home to most of the state's hospital beds, and the only specialized trauma and burn centers in the state. What happens in the rest of the state impacts our local community as people come from across the state to seek this specialized care, officials said.

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PHOTO COURTESY MICRO ENTERPRISE SERVICES OF OREGON (MESO)

Collaborating artists Latoya Lovely and her son "J" celebrate the near completion of a new mural celebrating diversity on the side of the Micro Enterprise Services of Oregon building (MESO) at Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Shaver Street.

Black Innovators Celebrated

New mural pays tribute to diverse business community

Portland's Black community and support for artists of color are celebrated with the creation of a new public mural to replace another

mural that celebrated diversity on the side of the Micro Enterprise Services of Oregon building (MESO), a nonprofit provider of

small loans and business help born out of the Black United Fund.

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Relics of Past Coming Down

Grant murals seen as promoting racist culture

Historic mural art from Grant High School's auditorium that many students saw as relics of a racist culture narrative are coming down.

The Portland School Board has approved Superintendent Guadalupe Guerrero's recommendation to remove the two larger than life works depicting Native Americans and white settlers on each side of the school's auditorium stage.

The decision at the Nov. 17 school board meeting came more than a year after the student-led Indigenous Peoples Student Union made a request to remove the 90-year-old murals. Both students and community members have called the murals hurtful to Native Americans and other students for portraying stereotypes deemed historically inaccurate.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



90-year-old murals depicting Native Americans and white settlers will be removed from Grant High School's auditorium after the school district determined they were problematic for not rising to standards for promoting racial equality and social justice.

The Week in Review



Red House Eviction Enforced

At least seven people gathered to support a local Black and Indigenous family on North Mississippi Avenue fighting a foreclosure of their historic home over claims of fraud and deceit were arrested for trespassing early Tuesday when law enforcement officers worked to "re-secure" the "Red House" and adjacent property where protesters have camped for months.

Remedies for Police Violations

One week after U.S. District Judge Marco A. Hernandez found the city of Portland in contempt of his restrictions on police use of less-lethal impact munitions during protests, the judge has set a Jan. 8 hearing to determine what "practical remedies as opposed to punitive" ones to impose. The judge's order came in response to a suit filed by Don't Shoot Portland, a Black-led nonprofit that advocates for social and racial justice in the city.

Call for Justice in Vancouver

About 200 demonstrators gathered Sunday in Hazel Dell, northeast of Vancouver, to protest the death of Kevin Peterson, a 21-year-old Black man who was fatally shot by Clark County sheriff's deputies during a drug sting operation on Oct. 29. Organizers made speeches calling for justice for Peterson, and his father, Kevin Peterson Sr. thanked the crowd for their support, including donations that have created a fund for his daughter.



Tolbert to Lead Vancouver NAACP

Jasmine Tolbert, a Vancouver native and long time champion of social justice issues, has been elected the new president of the Vancouver NAACP.

On Nov. 21, the local chapter held an election for officers. Members overwhelmingly elected Tolbert who previously served as branch vice president. In other positions, Joseph Hernandez was elected the chapter's new vice president; Ruby N. Lewis as secretary and Bryant Enge as treasurer.



Jasmine Tolbert

Tolbert is a graduate of both Clark College and Washington State University-Vancouver and serves on the Board for the YWCA of Clark County. She is also a member of WSU Vancouver's Equity Diversity Advisory Board.

In her statement for election as Vancouver NAACP president, she pledged her commitment to racial equity.

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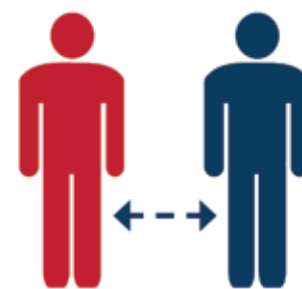
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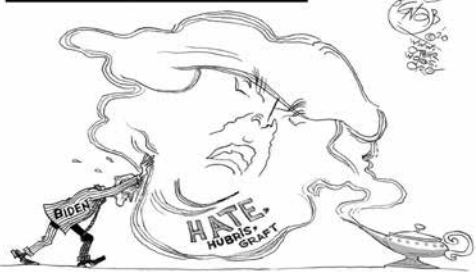
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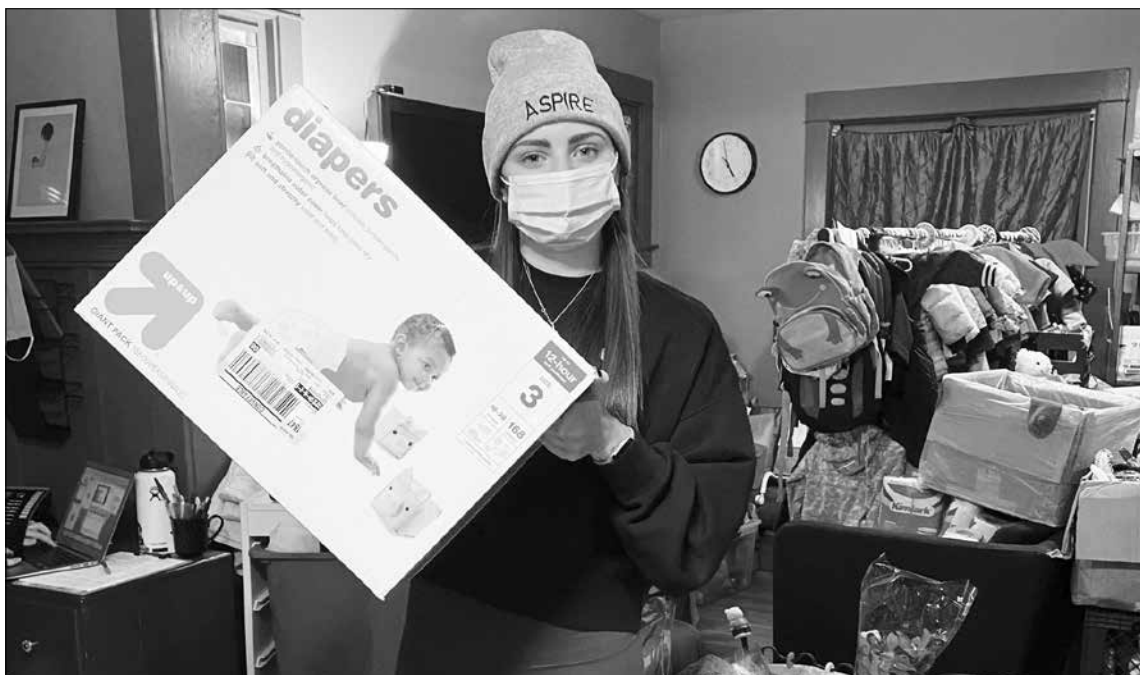
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LOCAL NEWS

‘Safe Moms, Safe Babies’



Free diapers and baby supplies are made available to young families impacted by COVID-19 with the help of Jane Stockbridge, one of the interns working at the Mother and Child Education Center, 1515 N.E. 41st Ave., a home that was converted into a free resource center for pregnant moms and new mothers. It is one of four Northeast Portland organizations receiving donations of over 2,000 diapers and baby supplies to be distributed to families impacted by COVID-19, the wildfires and economic hardships.

Supplies go to families impacted by COVID-19

BY MICHAEL LEIGHTON
PORTLAND OBSERVER EDITOR

Four northeast Portland organizations have received donations of over 2,000 diapers and other baby supplies for distribution to families impacted by COVID-19, the recent wildfires and other economic hardships.

“This is a huge blessing. Just one box of diapers goes a long way,” Maura K. White, executive director of the Mother and Child Education Center, told the Portland Observer.

Working out of a converted home at 1515 N.E. 41st Ave., the Mother and Child center is small, a grassroots nonprofit staffed mostly by volunteers that provides free resources 6 days

a week for pregnant moms and mothers.

White said the center has been able to remain open during the coronavirus pandemic by following public health safety procedures and operating from the open space of the center’s front porch.

The other organizations receiving baby donations are the Genesis Fellowship Church Food Pantry, Friends of Seasonal & Service Worker and the Northeast Emergency Food Program. The help was made possible because of the efforts of another nonprofit, the National Urban Housing & Economic Community Development Corp. (NUHECDC) which launched the “Safe Moms, Safe

Babies” drive to provide free diapers, baby wipes, shampoos, talc-free powders, baby washes, and lotions to needy families.

Carlene Jackson, NUHECDC Board President, said the help is badly needed, citing the more than 400,000 Oregonians who have lost their jobs because of the coronavirus outbreak.

“This is a bit beyond NUHECDC’s usual mission of fighting poverty by providing affordable housing, free skill training, and job placement, but we are all feeling the pain and impact of the coronavirus and wildfires, Jackson said. “It is important for us to step up to the plate and be part

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Dynamic Justice Activist Joins PSU Walidah Imarisha to lead Center for Black Studies

Walidah Imarisha, Portland author, teacher and criminal justice activist, has recently been hired full-time by Portland State University’s Black Studies Department as an assistant professor and the new director of the Center for Black Studies.

Ethan Johnson, who chairs the Black Studies Department, said the activist and writer is a welcome addition to his department.

“She is a super dynamic person and I am so pleased to have her in Black Studies,” Johnson said.

Imarisha has also taught creative writing in the masters of fine arts program at Pacific



Walidah Imarisha

Northwest College of the Arts, at Stanford University, Portland State University and Oregon State University. She also created the Oregon Black History Timeline, available on YouTube, exploring key moments in Oregon black history.

She also continually connects with people who are incarcerated in Oregon, connecting with Black leaders within the prison system. Her years of volunteer activism in the state’s prisons led her to write “Angels with Dirty Faces: Three Stories of Crime, Prison and Redemption,” which won the Oregon Book Award in 2017.

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COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

North by Northeast honors and celebrates Black History Month

Black Health Matters

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Black Innovators Celebrated

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

The organization is in its last round of fundraising to complete the dramatic new scene at the corner of Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Shaver Street. The artwork showcases and honors diverse innovators and the role Black-owned small businesses play in Portland.

The artwork was created under the direction of Black artist and muralist Rodolfo Serna. Joining him in completing the mural are five other artists of color: Latoya Lovely, Alex Chiu, Kyra Watkins, Adia Gibbs, and protégée Emmanuel (Manny) Dempsey. Black community historian Kimberly Moreland is also a consultant and volunteer working on the project.

Earlier this year, MESO set a goal to raise \$15,000 to create the mural. A Go Fund Me campaign was a little more than \$5,000 away from that goal last week, organizers reported. The donations provide stipends for the artists' time

and talent as well as pay for paint, scaffolds, and other supplies, organizers said.

The new mural also pays tribute to a previous mural that honored African American heritage on the south side of the MESO building, the former administrative offices for Irvington Covenant Church. That mural, which had to be replaced in 2009 to repair cracks in the building, was a much loved part of the community.

The new artwork, focusing on Black businesses, past, present and future, already is proving to be as popular as the original, with MESO receiving positive comments from Portlanders who have viewed the colorful addition to the neighborhood.

"It has been a surreal experience to pay tribute to the Black entrepreneurs in Oregon through this mural. Entrepreneurship is in our blood and I hope that the mural inspires the younger generation to follow the footsteps of their elders," said Felicia Wells-Thomas,

MESO community liaison manager.

People interested in making a donation to support the MESO mural and the artists creating it can do so by visiting the MESO Mural Go Fund Me site ([gofundme.com/f/meso-mural](https://www.gofundme.com/f/meso-mural)) or by contacting Felicia Wells-Thomas at fwells@mesopdx.org. All donations are tax-deductible.

MESO began as a grassroots initiative in 2005 under the Black United Fund of Oregon. Since then, it has expanded its services and coverage area to more than 3,000 small businesses, with a focus on entrepreneurs of color, women and low-income individuals. Approximately 600 entrepreneurs MESO works with each year access services from the nonprofit's main office at 4008 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. and its satellite offices in Beaverton, Gresham's Rockwood neighborhood, Happy Valley, and in several counties in Oregon and Clark County in Washington state.

COVID-19 Danger Rises to Extreme

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

"I know that Multnomah County residents are looking for clarity and

certainty. Unfortunately, we are going to be in this crisis for the foreseeable future. We are constantly weighing our options as we focus

on what is best for the overall health and welfare of our community," said Multnomah County Chair Deborah Kafoury.

Staying healthy is more important than ever

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During the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, it's even more important to take care of your health. Now is the time to get screened for one of many common health issues. Being screened by your provider — even when you're not feeling sick — is important. Screenings help find problems sooner, so you can start dealing with them. They can also give you peace of mind, when a health screening shows you're fine.

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careoregon.org/connect-to-care



RETIREMENT ANNOUNCEMENT *of* **Dr. Johnny Pack IV** Pastor of the Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church

It is with heavy hearts as well as great joy that we the Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church announce the retirement of our much beloved Pastor, Dr. Johnny Pack IV. It is with heavy hearts and sadness because we never really thought we would come to this point. Nevertheless, we are here and were not fully prepared to say good-bye. Pastor Pack has made lasting impacts on many who came in contact with him. He has touched the lives of people from all walks of life. We wish to thank Pastor Pack for all that he has done

at and for Fellowship. We want him to know that he will be truly missed.

Pastor Pack has served as senior pastor for 33 years. His journey began October 14, 1987 at the Masonic Lodge Hall located at 735 Northeast Killingsworth Court. The decision to retire was announced to a portion of the Fellowship Church family on October 5, 2020. Pastor Pack preached his last sermon "The Man behind the Pulpit" on Sunday, October 25, 2020. He gave us these words to remember, "If God Hire you Can't Nobody Fire You" at the



33rd Church Anniversary Celebration.

Pastor Pack's 33 years of service has been tireless, dedicated and sacrificial and will always be remembered in the history of Fellowship. He has been through "Trials and Tribulations", "Contrary Winds" have blown but he stood fast on the promises of God

and we stood by our Pastor. The great joy of retirement is he gets to have many months of "Celebration, Rest and Relaxation" because he no longer has to wait until July. Our hope and prayers are with him, Angela and Angel as they transition from Oregon to Texas. They will be leaving this December.

There is so much more we would like to say about Pastor Johnny Pack IV but "All Cannot Be Told." We ask that the city, metro-area churches, District and State join with us in wishing Pastor Pack and his family God speed.

Maretha Hart
Church Clerk

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COVID-19 Testing Expands

Multnomah County teams up with PCC

The Multnomah County Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH) Program, in partnership with Multnomah County Communicable Disease Services and Portland Community College, have begun to host a free, weekly, flu vaccine and COVID-19 testing drive-thru clinic at the college's Cascade Campus in north Portland.

The testing will be offered in the campus parking lot just off North Albina Avenue, one block north of Killingsworth Street, every Wednesday through March 31, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Residents are invited to drive through, bike or walk up to receive a free flu vaccination. COVID-19 testing is also available at no cost for anyone with symptoms or anyone who has had recent close contact with a person with COVID-19.

Black and African American residents, other people of color and people without health insurance or a regular health care provider will be prioritized. The clinic has capacity to serve about 200 people each week. Call to schedule your appointment at 503-988-8939.

The PCC-REACH clinic comes in addition to Multnomah County's standing low-barrier COVID-19 testing sites at the East County Health Center, Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization and Latino Network's Rockwood location.

"Multnomah County's REACH Program works to support a culture of Black health," said REACH program manager Charlene McGee. "We want to help peo-



PHOTOS BY MOTOYA NAKAMURA/ MULTNOMAH COUNTY

Registered Nurse Jaelyn Tanga administers flu vaccines and COVID-19 tests at a drive-thru clinic on PCC's Cascade Campus.

ple protect themselves, their families and their community. Flu vaccine is a safe public health intervention that prevents illnesses, so that our healthcare systems aren't overwhelmed with patients. Getting a flu vaccine this year is more important than ever, given the COVID-19 pandemic."

The CDC recommends that everyone

6 months of age and older get a flu shot every flu season. Though anyone can get sick with the flu, it is especially dangerous for people 65 and older, pregnant individuals and those with pre-existing conditions like diabetes, heart disease and asthma. These same groups are also at risk for serious illness with COVID-19.

Due to centuries of racist systems,

Black people experience higher rates of chronic disease, putting them at higher risk of complications from both flu and COVID-19.

The initiative is part of REACH's flu vaccine campaign, launched to empower trusted voices in the Black community to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9



A diverse team of healthcare professionals conduct a flu vaccine and COVID-19 testing drive-thru clinic at Portland Community College's Cascade Campus in north Portland. The free service started last week and will take place each Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. through March 31, supplementing other testing sites in Rockwood and east county to reach Black and African American residents, other people of color, and people without health insurance or a regular health care provider.

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

OPINIONATED JUDGE

BY
DARLEEN ORTEGA



Recognizing Pearls Others Would Miss

Black women bring strength, vulnerability to film 'Ash Land'

I'm not at all tempted to minimize the suffering of 2020, much of it wholly preventable and also disproportionately felt by communities of Black and indigenous people and people of color. But moments of crisis often contain gifts, ushered in by those souls who are



Kamilah Long (from left), Cyndii Johnson and Banna Desta are actors and screenwriters of color working with Black Director Shariffa Ali in the new short film "Ash Land," premiering Friday, Oct. 11 on the Oregon Shakespeare Festival's digital platform.

creative and spiritually sensitive enough to find them. The new short film, "Ash Land," to premier on the Oregon Shakespeare Festival's digital platform this Friday, is just that sort of gift, in more ways than one.

It only makes sense that this particular film, the first for director Shariffa Ali, grew from conversations-during-pandemic-lockdown between its director, actors Kamilah Long and Cyndii Johnson, and screenwriter Banna Desta, all women of color. What they created--perhaps channeled is a better word--working with a majority BIPOC produc-

demical-lockdown between its director, actors Kamilah Long and Cyndii Johnson, and screenwriter Banna Desta, all women of color. What they created--perhaps channeled is a better word--working with a majority BIPOC produc-

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We want to see our community stay safe and healthy during the COVID-19 pandemic. Please:

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Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

Five things Black Panther Taught Us

Chadwick Bozeman showed kingship on-and-off big screen

BY CUPID ALEXANDER
FOR BLACK MALE ACHIEVEMENT
PORTLAND

"Is this your King!" screams Killmonger, played by Michael B. Jordan in the Marvel Blackbuster "Black Panther," as he anti-heroically lifts T'Challa – aka the Black Panther – played by Chadwick Boseman, above his head before depositing him into the a flowing river, seemingly plunging T'Challa to his death and simultaneously claiming the fictitious Wakandan Kingdom as his own.

Watching the cinematic artist-ry unfold, it is an oddly positioned move, as the movie's namesake - Black Panther - is seemingly dispensed of callously, easily and early into the film. And as disheartening as this is to see, you know that the greatness of "The Black Panther" is yet to come. Even if you're unsure of how it will happen.

Life and art seem to imitate each other. And much like the character he portrayed on screen, Chadwick Boseman was a king among men...



Chadwick Boseman in a scene from the Marvel superhero juggernaut "Black Panther" (Photo courtesy Marvel Studios-Disney)

a superhero.... a living legend, who even upon his celestial entrance, remains an ever looming and larger figure. Stories of his actions, his class, indeed his Kingly manner, are being ever revealed, all while we reflect on his life.

And if there is one thing that is clear, Chadwick Boseman, the man, displayed kingly 'tenets', which were brilliantly activated in his portrayal of T'Challa. These tenets, which we at Black Male Achieve-

ment Portland have noticed, align parallel to our own mission, vision, and values, are guides to leadership that we feel are great to outline.

From the beginning of the film, Black excellence is steeped in big ideas, big dreams and both the physical and artistic representation of just that, a larger than present life idea of the future. We see these dreams manifested in everything

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12



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December 16th at 12 p.m. (Somali and Spanish interpretation provided)

To learn more about the program, visit:

ODOT Program Website WSDOT Program Website



To apply between Dec 1-18, visit:

Community Advisory Group: tiny.cc/IBR-CAG

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'Safe Moms, Safe Babies'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

of the solution, and keeping babies and moms from needy families safe is something we can all do."

Reducing a mother's exposure to COVID-19 is NUHECDC's strategy for keeping mothers healthy. Increased stress can weaken the immune system, making a mother more susceptible to getting sick.

Also, having to make extra trips to the store to get diapers can be expensive, time-consuming, exhausting, and can expose her to the novel coronavirus. By making free diapers avail-

able at the food pantry or emergency aid shelter where a mother already goes, mothers should experience less physical and financial distress.

Private donations and a grant from the Siletz Tribal Charitable Contribution Fund were used to purchase the diapers and baby supplies. Additional donations are always needed and any other groups and individuals who can help are urged to donate by accessing NUHECDC's website at [NUHECDC.org/donate](https://www.nuhecdc.org/donate) and by a check through the mail.

For more information, visit NUHECDC.org or call 503-477-7387.

COVID-19 Testing Expands

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

support vaccine education and delivery. The intent is to increase vaccination accessibility for the Black, African American and African immigrant and refugee residents.

"Portland Community College is proud to partner with Multnomah County and offer flu vaccines and COVID-19 testing, especially as pandemic cases continue to spike in Oregon," said Brooke Loyd, PCC's

Emergency Preparedness manager. "Our collaboration will help to protect the most vulnerable Oregonians as we head into the winter months."

Flu shots are also available at doctor's offices and clinics and retail pharmacies. Those without a regular doctor can call the Multnomah County Primary Care Clinics at 503-988-5558 to enroll and become a patient to receive the flu vaccine and access to other services.

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OPINION

Black Voters Saved Our Democracy

Now Biden needs to return the favor

BY TRACEY L. ROGERS

America owes its Black citizens so much.

During a pandemic that has killed Black people at disproportionate rates, we still managed to save our democracy by getting out the vote in what may have been the most contentious presidential election in modern history.

Considering what we were up against — an administration that has put the lives of the American people in danger as COVID-19 spreads like wildfire — there was no choice but for Black people to show up at the polls in droves. Our lives depended on it.

Even President-elect Joe Biden acknowledged in his victory speech that "the African-American community stood up again for me." Recent exit polls showed that 87 percent of Black voters backed the Biden-Harris ticket.

The odds were stacked against us, including voter suppression the likes of which we haven't seen in decades. In Georgia, Black voters sometimes waited 10 or 11 hours to cast their ballots.

But Black people proved resilient once more in our fight to preserve the Union — a Union that too often has failed to return the favor.

Joe Biden said he would have our backs in his administration. But given his authorship of the controversial 1994 crime bill that led to a deeply racist mass incarceration crisis — and Biden's hostility to defunding the police 26 years later — I will manage my expectations.

Let's not forget, too, that Black voters overwhelmingly backed former president Bill Clinton, who then went on to sign the 1994 crime bill into law, among other laws that deepened racial disparities in this country.

Still, 55 years after the Voting Rights Act was passed, Black people continue to cast ballots as a unified front because there is always so much more at stake for us. Health inequities, racial inequality, economic wealth gaps, and a lack of representation in government keeps the Black community stuck in a vicious cycle of marginalization.

And yet, even when history relentlessly reminds us that Black lives don't matter, we continue to reclaim our legacy as the backbone of American democracy.

Biden's historic win in Georgia, for example, may well have marked a turning point. Stacey Abrams' founding of Fair Fight, along with dedicated work by countless grassroots volunteers, ensured many more Americans had a voice in our election.

These extraordinary efforts are necessary in part because — in spite of a pandemic, recession, and ev-

erything else — most white voters stuck with President Trump.

In fact, if it wasn't for non-white voters — from our Latinx brothers and sisters in Nevada to our Indigenous siblings in Arizona — we may have seen different results. According to the same exit polls, 57 percent of white voters cast a ballot for Donald Trump, making this a very tight race.

Joe Biden may have won the presidency. But so too did white supremacy, xenophobia, and corruption. And as the violent pro-Trump protests that broke out in the capital recently show, we are indeed a nation divided.

But there's still plenty to find encouraging. In my home city of Philadelphia, I witnessed Black voters standing in long lines with lawn chairs and prepared lunches, dressed for inclement weather, just to participate in democracy. It was a proud moment.

Time will tell if the Biden-Harris administration returns the favor by showing up for us. In such a closely divided country, they can't afford not to.

Tracey L. Rogers is an entrepreneur and activist living in Philadelphia. This op-ed was distributed by OtherWords.org.

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INVITATION TO BIDS

METRO PARKS AND NATURE Glendoveer Parking Lot Improvements ITB 3884

The Parks and Nature 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 Parking Lot Improvements at Glendoveer Golf Course located at 14015 NE Glisan Street, Portland, OR.

Sealed bids are due no later than 2:00 p.m., January 14, 2021, via <https://bidlocker.us/Home/BidLockerUS>

First Tier Subcontractor forms are due from all bidders within two hours of the bid due time or the bid will be considered non-responsive.

A voluntary pre-bid conference for all potential prime contractors is scheduled on December 10, 2020, at 9:00 am. in the parking lot at Glendoveer Golf Course. Interested sub-contractors are also invited. All attendees are required to RSVP at bidsandproposals@oregonmetro.gov.

The east Glendoveer parking lot is in poor condition and in need of repair. The scope of this project is to bring it up to conformance for City of Portland zoning and ADA and building code standards, including but not limited to: demolition and tree protection, erosion control, asphalt paving, concrete paving and surfaces, ADA parking spaces and signage, parking lot striping, wheel stops, and planting.

All bidders submitting a bid for public improvements over \$50,000 certify that they will pay and comply with the minimum prevailing wage requirements of ORS 279C.800-279C.870 and if applicable 40 U.S.C.276a.

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

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. **Metro Local Contract Review Board Rules require all Bidders to follow and document a specific outreach effort to State-certified Minority, Emerging, Women-owned and Service Disabled Veteran owned Businesses. Certification of good faith compliance and a declaration of any actual utilization pursuant to both programs are required at the time of Bid Opening.**

Metro and its contractors will not discriminate against any person(s), employee or applicant for employment based on race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, religion, disability, political affiliation or marital status. Metro fully complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes and regulations in all programs and activities. For more information, or to obtain a Title VI Complaint Form, see www.oregonmetro.gov.

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Relics of Past Coming Down

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

The district determined they were problematic for not rising to Portland Public Schools standards for promoting racial equality and social justice.

Guerrero said the district would work with students and others to design new artwork for the space which underwent a major renovation during Grant High School's remodel. The controversial murals most recently had been covered up by screens and can be taken down in sections, school officials said.

The Grant Alumni Association had been raising money to restore the murals and some felt they were not racist. The district says it is open to requests received by other arts organizations to relocate the murals for display outside of a school environment.

Tolbert leads Vancouver NAACP

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

"This work cannot be done alone and I'm excited to work with many members in the community to move the equity needle forward," Tolbert said.

Former Vancouver NAACP President Bridgette Fahnbulleh did not run for re-election but will still chair the branch's ACT-SO Committee, which provides a forum through which youth of African descent demonstrate academic, artistic and scientific prowess and expertise, thereby gaining the same recognition often only reserved for entertainers and athletes.

Founded in 1909, the NAACP is the nation's oldest and largest nonpartisan civil rights organization.



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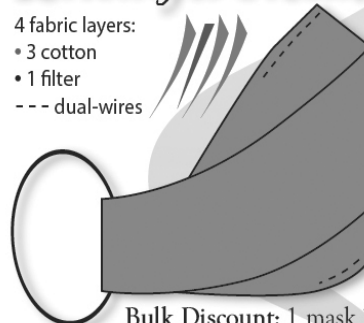
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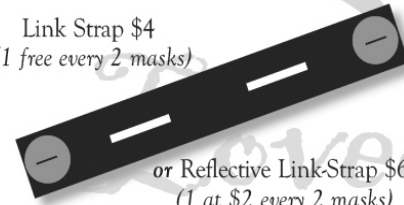
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Recognizing Pearls Others Would Miss

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

tion team and crafted through a workshop process, reflects the sort of listening that is most possible among women of color, who may be best equipped recognize the pearls that others would miss.

The film engages a meditation examination of a particular woman's experience of transformation. The depth of this depiction owes much to a generous gift of unusual authenticity from Long, who appears as a woman living alone in rural southern Oregon (the credits call her only "She"). With every gesture, breath, and movement, Long conveys sorrow and suffering that have in some ways disassembled her. "She" then experiences a visitation from a younger woman (Johnson, denoted as "Her"). Their interaction embodies the stuff of awakening, a moment of recovery and reclamation for "She" in connection with "Her."

It feels important that this transformation occurs in rural southern Oregon, site of Oregon's original Black exclusion laws and a Ku Klux Klan stronghold well into the 20th century. "She" is planted here, alone and not alone. The trees, the water, the rocks, the bees--we expe-

rience them speaking to her in every frame. And both women communicate as much with their bodies as with their words--Long embodies anger, struggle, anguish, resolution, reembodyment; Johnson captures hope, playfulness, tenderness, and curiosity that the older woman has forgotten how to embody.

The film was produced as part of Oregon Shakespeare Festival's ongoing commitment to supporting artists during the pandemic. Ali directed the world premiere of "The Copper Children," which opened and then quickly closed at the beginning of the pandemic and ended up delaying her return to New York when OSF offer a residency with O!, its digital platform. Desta's screenplay, likewise, was part of OSF's new commissioning initiative. Both Ali and Desta have roots in east Africa, and OSF's investment in all these artists of color contains signs of hope for a future OSF rising from the ashes of this pandemic under the visionary artistic leadership of Nataki Garrett.

How fitting that the project these BIPOC women and their collaborators (including producer Adrian Alea) created offers such a resonant meditation on a Black woman's spiritual trans-

formation. I was struck while watching it of the vast array of Black women's experience that films have not even attempted to depict. This film offers an opportunity to sit deeply with strength and vulnerability that we rarely see and don't think to be curious about--indeed, it is the kind of strength and vulnerability that is too dangerous for an individual woman to show in everyday life even while it powers so much of the best things happening in the world. The film goes deeper in 15 minutes than most full-length films ever attempt to go.

"Ash Land" will air on OSF's digital platform (osfashland.org/digital) beginning on Dec. 11. It's worth several viewings--and watch for more digital art commissions from OSF in 2021, and more work from the production company formed to house the collaboration between Ali and Alea, Alialea, which has another film in the works.

Darleen Ortega is a judge on the Oregon Court of Appeals and the first woman of color to serve in that capacity. Her movie and theater review column Opinionated Judge appears regularly in The Portland Observer. Find her review blog at opinionatedjudge.blogspot.com.



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Heroes American Café owner John Jackson in downtown Portland. The small business was one of eight Black-owned firms hit hard by COVID-19 receiving marketing and technology help from Comcast. (Photo courtesy Comcast)

Comcast Lifts Up Black Businesses

Eight Black-owned, small businesses in Portland are recipients of new Comcast RISE awards, allowing them to receive consulting, media and creative production services from Effectv, the advertising sales division of Comcast Cable, or technology upgrades from Comcast Business based on their specific needs.

The financial help is part of Comcast's broader announcement of more than 700 businesses that were selected as winners in the first round of Comcast RISE.

The award recipients in 285 cities in 29 states include a diverse roster of small business from restaurants and salons, to professional services and retail shops.

Comcast RISE awardees in Portland were Zen Nail Spa; American Heroes Café; Amalfi's Restaurant; Raap Counseling and Consulting; Cottontails Personal Styling; Batter On Deck food truck; Meals for Heels and Third Eye Books.

"It's great to see Comcast, a leader in technology and entertainment, focus on the economic

divide. I'm honored to be a recipient of this new program to give Black-owned small business a much-needed boost," said Heroes American Café Owner John Jackson.

The next phase of Comcast RISE, a multi-year, multi-faceted initiative launched in October to help strengthen small businesses hard hit by COVID-19, will open eligibility to include Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC)-owned, small businesses. They can apply at ComcastRISE.com.

IQ Credit Leadership Changes

Kelly Schrader, the president and chief executive officer of Vancouver-based iQ Credit Union, is departing the Northwest financial institution to pursue a new philanthropic opportunity, and Eric Petracca, currently iQ Credit Union Chief Operations Officer, will be the incoming president and CEO, company officials announced Monday.

Schrader was instrumental in the credit union's rapid growth over her 4 years tenure, including officially surpassing \$1.5 billion in assets and expanding into the Portland market with the opening of the Williams Avenue and St. Johns iQ Credit Union branches.

Through her passion for philanthropy, iQ's foundation raised more than \$160,000 to support children in local communities.



Kelly Schrader

Her focus on employee development led to more than 340 employees promoted from within iQ, officials said.

Petracca began his career as a teller at Lacamas Community



Eric Petracca

Credit Union. Over the years, he grew his career and held leadership positions in many of the credit union's departments. He currently serves on the board of the Clark County Parks Foundation.

Five Things

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

from the description of the city and its potential ability to help the world, to how each of the characters defines redemption, even

amidst mistakes.

You witness the inevitability of their dreams, fueling and driving their responses to tragedy as they formulate a plan predicated on bold and big moves. It is that plan which ultimately protects them such that the harm of seeing T'Challa tossed over a cliff, does

not become the trauma that would continuously disconnect them.

Chadwick Boseman, you were once king, you will forever be king. May you be welcomed with open arms to your eternal rest as we posthumously induct you into the Portland Chapter of Black Male Achievement.