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'City
of
Roses'

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Committed to Cultural Diversity



Tina Kotek

Lawmakers Advance COVID Relief Eviction moratorium extended through June

Oregon lawmakers passed four bills in a special session Monday, which includes \$800 million in relief to people struggling from the coronavirus pandemic, extending an eviction moratorium through June and allocating funds for renter and landlord relief.

"Make no mistake, if we do not pass this bill thousands of families will lose their homes in January and it will be on us," Rep. Julie Fahey, a Democrat from Eugene, said to her colleagues.

The special session was contentious. State police declared an unlawful assembly at the Capitol building

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2020 YEAR IN REVIEW Turmoil and Racial Progress



A photo from AP shows peaceful protesters laying down on the Burnside Bridge for nine minutes with their hands behind their backs to memorialize the time a Minnesota police officer used his knee to pin George Floyd's neck to the ground, a black man who died May 25 under the police restraint. Daily protests against systemic racism in law enforcement this summer marked a year of demands for advancing racial progress, with added turmoil coming from the coronavirus pandemic and its economic impacts, bad air quality from wildfires, people facing home evictions, homelessness, and growing hunger. See inside for a review of our top stories of 2020.

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Empowering Life with Art



Annabelle Araya, a first generation African American artist from Portland, reflects on the African Diaspora in her paintings.

A first generation African American artist from Portland is getting some deserved recognition for her paintings, works that uplift, empower and identify the state of our community.

Annabelle Araya was born in Eritrea and immigrated to Portland un-

der a refugee program. Her work has been selected for display in 2021 at the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art at Portland State University.

Araya is one of 20 Black Lives Matter artists the museum recently announced it was supporting by awarding them each a \$2,500 grant to use

their voice, experience and artistic expressions to reflect on social justice efforts in response to systemic racism.

"I want to keep hope alive through my art, to transition the state of mind of self awareness," Araya said. Her artistic medium reflects on the Diaspora of Africans to the Americas,

past to present.

"I touch past and present and convey the fluidity of the joys, sorrows, trials, tribulations and aspirations of my people. If you take note, I go from childhood to the natural progression to the elders. A very traditional African transition. We honor our elders."

Record Homeless Deaths

A new report shows that 113 people died in 2019 while lacking permanent housing in Multnomah County, an increase mainly due to an increase in people experiencing homelessness, more than in any previous year studied.

Innocent Killed in Gang Crossfire

Authorities said a Portland woman who was not the intended target was killed in a gang-related shooting last Thursday near North Vancouver Avenue and Stanton Street. Kelly Marie Smith, 53, was making deliveries as a food service contractor with her husband, when she was hit by crossfire bullets, police said. Her husband survived the attack.



Her husband survived the attack.

Mistakenly Shot Uber Driver Dies

An Uber driver who police believe was shot in a gang-style ambush that was

The Week in Review



when he was shot multiple times while behind the wheel of his white Honda Accord, authorities said.

Dispensary Worker Killed in Burglary

Crime Stoppers offered a \$2,500 reward last week for information leading to the arrest of a gunman who shot a marijuana dispensary worker



a case of mistaken identity, died from his injuries last week. The local resident, Dhulfiqar Mseer, an immigrant from Iraq, was about to pick up a fare around midnight on Dec. 12 in the Woodlawn neighborhood

during an armed robbery on Dec. 14 at Cured Green on North Lombard and Washburne Avenue. The victim was identified as Michael Arthur, 44.



First COVID-19 Vaccinations

COVID-19 immunizations began last week, kicking off a statewide effort that could see thousands of health care workers getting first doses. Officials expect to vaccinate more than 100,000 health care workers and long term care facility residents by the end of the month.

Death Blamed on Tent Candle

One person died last Wednesday when their tent caught fire along the I-405 on-ramp to the Fremont Bridge, according to Portland Fire & Rescue. The victim and another adult were sleeping when at some point, a candle used for warmth was knocked over and rapidly consumed the tent and its contents, officials said.



BLM Sign Draws Fine by City

Portland has fined a business owner \$292 for displaying a Black Lives Matter sign (week photo above) that violates the city's sign code. Someone didn't like the 42-foot long banner on Columbia Boulevard near the intersection with I-5 and filed a complaint, officials said.

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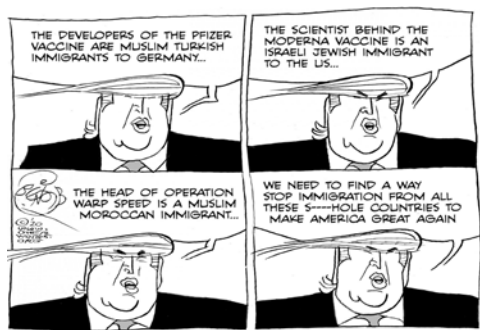


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LOCAL NEWS

Coach gets Disney Treatment

Keanon Lowe stopped a potential school shooting

Disney is making a movie about Keanon Lowe, the Black football coach and security guard credited with stopping a school shooting at Parkrose High School in May of 2019.

Lowe prevented a potential tragedy when he disarmed, and then hugged, a young student who brought a gun to school.

According to a brief announcement, Disney is making the movie about Lowe and the day he was able to peaceably confront the 18-year-old student who entered a classroom with a shotgun.

Lowe received national praise for delicately and successfully disarming the student in a powerful display of compassion. He was able to take



Keanon Lowe

the gun from the student and hand it to another staff member. By the time officers arrived at the scene, Lowe had detained the student in the hallway and comforted him with a hug. Thanks to his quick action, no shots were fired that day.

"When confronted with the test the universe presented me with, I didn't see any other choice but to act. Thank God, I passed," Lowe said after the incident.

The movie will be the latest recognition for Lowe's hero status. Over the past year, he has been awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor Citizen Honor, was selected as a CNN Hero and was named one of TIME Magazine's Heroes of the Year.

Lowe, who grew up in Portland and was a star football player at the University of Oregon, was recently hired by the UCLA football coaching staff as an offensive analyst.

Esteemed Pastor T. Allen Bethel Dies

Maranatha Church announced Monday the passing of Rev. Dr. T. Allen Bethel, an esteemed religious and civil rights leader who led the northeast Portland congregation as senior pastor for 26 years.

"It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of my dad, Rev. Dr. T. Allen Bethel," Monica Bethel and the Bethel family announced in a post on the church Facebook page. "As his favorite song says, 'My soul has been anchored in the Lord,' and we take comfort in knowing that his soul is now with the Lord."

Funeral arrangements were pending. He was 67.

Bethel was president of the Albina Ministerial Alliance's



Rev. Dr. T. Allen Bethel

civil rights organization. He also served on the boards of TriMet, the Oregon League of Minority

Voters, Warner Pacific College, the Oregon Trail chapter of the American Red Cross and the North Portland Bible College.

"The Rev. Dr. T. Allen Bethel was a prophetic voice who preached a message of fierce justice. He believed we had an obligation to free people from oppression. So Dr. Bethel championed police reform, an end to gun violence, and a better Portland for young people. He was a friend," the Rev. Dr. Chuck Currie wrote in a social media post.

"Dr. T. Allen Bethel was a strong and eloquent voice in Portland who brought grace and wisdom in his work for justice and a stronger community," wrote U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden.

MLK Tribute to Stream Live

Plans set for 36th annual program

"Bridge Over Troubled Water" will be the theme for this year's annual Martin Luther King Jr. tribute brought to the Portland metro area by the grassroots organization World Arts Foundation.

The 36th annual event will be a virtual event because of the public health restrictions on large gatherings that have resulted from the coronavirus pandemic. It will stream live on the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday, Monday, Jan. 18, from noon to 5 p.m. on multiple



Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

fronts, including www.worldartsfoundation.org, Open Signal (Comcast), KBOO 90.7, XRAY 107.1 FM, YouTube, Facebook and Twitch, organizers said.

The retrospective program draws on a legacy of the World Arts Foundation hosting the community event honoring Dr. King's work, and connecting local performing artists and community leaders to underserved communities of color since 1978.

Through a combination of archival footage and contemporary interviews, "Bridge Over Troubled Water" will draw inspiration from Dr. King's mission to ensure peace, social justice, civil rights, and human dignity for all.

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2020 YEAR IN REVIEW

CONTINUED FROM FRONT



Housing and a Backup Plan

Jan. 8 — Kymberly Horner, the new executive director of Portland Community Reinvestment Initiatives (PCRI), a nonprofit rooted in the African American community, picks up the mantle to a mission to see 1,000 new living units built in the next 10 years to alleviate the housing crisis.



Putting Kids and Families First

Jan. 22 -- Bahia Overton, the new leader for Portland's Black Parent Initiative, puts her focus on improving culturally specific solutions to the needs in the Black community and growing support for BPI programs to help Black kids and Black families become successful.



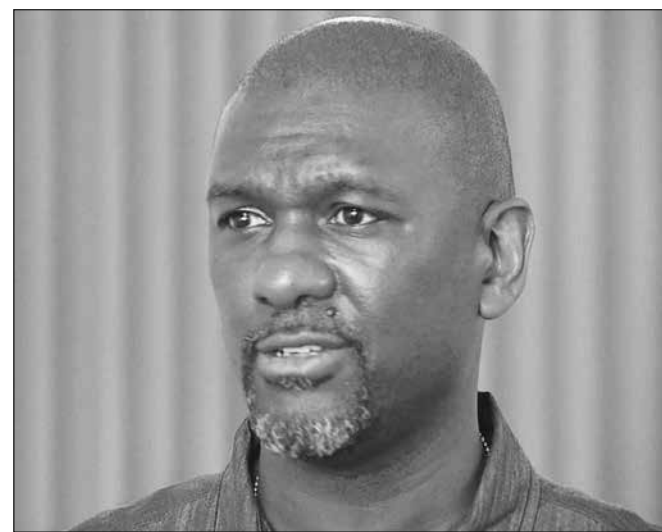
Kobe's Death Stuns World

Jan. 29 — Thousands of fans gathered outside the Staples Center in Los Angeles in an outpouring of grief and shock over the sudden loss of Kobe Bryant, the all-time basketball great who spent his entire 20-year career with the Los Angeles Lakers. Bryant died in a helicopter crash that also claimed his 13-year-old daughter Gianna and seven other people.



Concordia Shuts Down

Feb. 12 -- Goodness Adfope told the Portland Observer he was still in shock upon learning his school, Concordia University, a northeast Portland landmark of 115 years was going to close. The Lutheran-Church-Missouri Synod backed college, cited enrolment declines and poor finances for the decision to close without any prior warnings or notice.



Wrongful Arrest

Feb. 19 -- Michael Fesser, 48, of Portland, wins a \$600,000 civil suit against the city of West Linn for a wrongful arrest in a racially-motivated harassment case from 2017 involving West Linn Police, the Portland Police Bureau's gang enforcement team and his former employer A&B Towing.



Guilty on All Counts

Feb. 26 — A Multnomah County jury unanimously finds Jeremy Christian, 37, guilty of killing two passengers and critically wounding a third when he went on a racist tirade spewing hate against two young Black women and others on a Max train in 2017. The trial took four weeks and included chilling graphic video of the attack and gripping testimony from survivors.



Trying to Slow an Epidemic

March 18 — As Portland and Vancouver recorded their first deaths attributed to the worldwide coronavirus epidemic, Gov. Kate Brown issued an order to close all schools, limit crowds to 25 people or less and shut down restaurants and bars to take-out service only.



Coronavirus Threat Emerges

March 4 -- Portland area grocery stores saw toilet paper and cleaning supplies sell out as people become more aware of the threat of the coronavirus. Shopping at the Walgreens on Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., resident Levlie Okamnor told the Portland Observer she was worried that some people weren't taking the outbreak seriously enough.



COVID Closes Geneva's for Good

May 20 — Paul Knauls and Paul Knauls Jr., owners of Geneva's Shear Perfection, a legacy barbershop and salon located in the heart of Portland's African-American community, announced the closing of their landmark business due to economic losses caused by the coronavirus public health crisis.



Class of 2020: Year Cut Short

June 10 — The Portland Observer dedicated an entire issue to the Class of 2020, giving voice to graduating students at Jefferson High School who created all of the content with reflections on a school year cut short by the coronavirus pandemic, and their thoughts about a social justice uprising following the police custody death of George Floyd, a Black man in Minneapolis.



Racism at Every Step

May 20 — As Jeremy Christian awaited sentencing for his deadly and racist attacks on TriMet, Demetria Hester, a brave survivor from the violence, told her story to the Portland Observer, saying she wants the community, judge and jury to understand how the legacy of white supremacy impacted the case at every step and continues to feed racism in Portland and the nation.



Vandalism, Arson Hurts Cause

July 8 — Advocates for Portland's African American community spoke out against the vandalism and arson that has marred many of the protests over unjust police shootings and racial bias in the criminal justice system. "We have to be smart," said Joe "Bean" Keller, a Black father who lost his son to a police shooting in 1996 and who was leading a group to Washington, D.C. for the 57th anniversary of the March on Washington.

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Supporting Oregonians

COPING WITH PROBLEM GAMBLING

It's a Challenging Time, Especially for Those Who Struggle with Gambling
It's no secret that things aren't normal right now. Many of us are dealing with added stress for a variety of reasons and our typical coping mechanisms are more difficult to access or just downright unavailable. While we can all get

outdoors for a breath of fresh air, we're in the rainy season here in Oregon and the days are short and chilly this time of year. Physical distancing further limits our access to our support systems as well as the tried and true things we do to simply feel better. It's not insurmountable, but it sure is an uphill climb some days.

While feeling down or isolated is natural for anyone, it's especially true for those struggling with problem gambling. Without the support systems and predictability of a "normal" day-to-day routine, the urge to bet more than you can afford can quickly become almost irresistible.

Help is Available
Luckily, here in Oregon, help is available. Through the Oregon Problem Gambling Resource

(OPGR), gamblers — and those who love them — can get support from trained addiction counselors, often right from home. Treatment is effective. Professionals are ready and waiting to provide mechanisms to cope and to heal. And, best of all, it's free.

Why Wait?
Most people who get started with OPGR report that they only wish they had done so sooner. The program helps see you through some of the challenges ahead and gives you the confidence and the support structure to feel better. All it takes is a phone call, a text or an online chat to put you on the path toward the calm and the fulfillment you deserve.

For more information, visit
OPGR.ORG
OREGON PROBLEM GAMBLING RESOURCE



Kansas City Monarchs pitcher Leroy Satchel Paige warms up at New York's Yankee Stadium before a Negro League game between the Monarchs and the New York Cuban Stars on Aug. 2, 1942 in this file photo from AP. Major League Baseball has reclassified the Negro Leagues as a major league and will count the statistics and records of its 3,400 players as part of its history, the league announced Wednesday, saying it was "correcting a longtime oversight in the game's history."

Baseball Corrects Longtime Injustice

Negro Leagues re-classified Major League

(AP) — Willie Mays will add some hits to his record, Monte Irvin's big league batting average should climb over .300 and Satchel Paige may add nearly 150 victories to his total.

Josh Gibson, the greatest of all Negro League sluggers, might just wind up with a major league record, too.

The statistics and records of greats like Gibson, Paige and roughly 3,400 other players are set to join Major League Baseball's books after MLB announced last week it was reclassifying the Negro Leagues as a major league.

MLB said Wednesday it was "correcting a longtime oversight in the game's history" by elevating the Negro Leagues on the centennial of its founding. The Negro Leagues consisted of

seven leagues, and MLB will include records from those circuits between 1920-48. The Negro Leagues began to dissolve one year after Jackie Robinson became MLB's first Black player with the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1947.

Those leagues were excluded in 1969 when the Special Committee on Baseball Records identified six official "major leagues" dating to 1876.

"It is MLB's view that the Committee's 1969 omission of the Negro Leagues from consideration was clearly an error that demands today's designation," the league said in a statement.

The league will work with the Elias Sports Bureau to review Negro Leagues statistics and records and figure out how to incorporate them into MLB's history. There was no standard method of record keeping for the Negro Leagues, but there are enough box scores to stitch together some of its statistical past.

For instance, Mays could be credited with 16 hits from his 1948 season

with the Alabama Black Barons. Irvin, a teammate of Mays' with the New York Giants, could see his career average climb from .293 to .304 if numbers listed at Baseball-Reference from his nine Negro League seasons are accurate. And Paige, who currently is credited with 28 major league wins, should add at least 146 to his total.

While some have estimated Gibson slugged over 800 homers during 16 Negro League seasons, it's unlikely that enough records exist for him to officially pass Barry Bonds for the career record at 762.

Depending on what Elias and MLB rule, though, Gibson could wind up with another notable record. His .441 batting average in 1943 would be the best season mark ever, edging Hugh Duffy's .440 from 1894. Gibson's line came in fewer than 80 games, however, far short of the modern standard of 162.

"The perceived deficiencies of the Negro Leagues' structure and sched-

uling were born of MLB's exclusionary practices, and denying them major league status has been a double penalty, much like that exacted of Hall of Fame candidates prior to Satchel Paige's induction in 1971," baseball historian John Thorn said. "Granting MLB status to the Negro Leagues a century after their founding is profoundly gratifying."

MLB said it considered input from the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, the Negro League Researchers and Authors Group and studies by other baseball authors and researchers.

"All of us who love baseball have long known that the Negro Leagues produced many of our game's best players, innovations and triumphs against a backdrop of injustice," Commissioner Rob Manfred said in a statement. "We are now grateful to count the players of the Negro Leagues where they belong: as Major Leaguers within the official historical record."

Building Success in Skin Care, Beauty

Consultant achieves top ranking

BY SHIREEN HASAN

“Wow! “What a huge honor it will be to drive down Portland’s streets in a Pink Cadillac,” Minister Kim Meyers excitedly exclaimed, as she once again plans on taking the legendary trophy-wheels for a spin.

Courtesy of Mary Kay, Inc., the national cosmetic company, Minister Kim will have use of the car as a reward in recognition of her major success as an independent consultant for the company in the skincare and beauty industry, a profession the local African American resident has nurtured over the past 20 years and a prize she has won six times before!

Kim and her team of consultants are credited with grossing over \$4.1 million in retail sales due to their hard work and consistent drive. She is currently a Senior Sales Director with



Kim Meyers

May Kay with great aspirations to obtain the highest position in the company, National Sales Director.

Born and raised in the Bronx of New York, Meyers grew up in a ‘single mom’ household with a Christ-centered upbringing. She says her mother

instilled great values and morals while providing her a very structured childhood environment, with strong connections to family and relatives.

“Mother taught us that extending respect to others, you will get respect in return, and the more you give –the more is given back to you,” she said.

Minister Kim said she was a homebody growing up and once had aspirations of becoming a trial attorney, but instead had a calling to become an entrepreneur.

Entrepreneurship was not a tool used in her house, but she always knew that it was a tool readily available if someone chooses to use it, she said. So, when the opportunity presented itself, and because of the powerful words spoken to her by her husband, which included ‘Don’t Knock It’ ‘Until You Try It,’ her career decision turned to be a blessing.

Building her own business has boosted her self confidence. She credits adherence to the Golden Rule of “Do

unto other as you would have them do unto you” as her central guideline.

What she loves most about her work are the people that she comes in contact and travelling the world. She said the friendships she’s made can never be replaced.

She said her lifetime goals are to continue to seek Christ and to be used as a vessel to reach the broken, restore the shattered, and help heal the battered.

Minister Kim said no success would be possible without God. She gives special credit to her loving children, saying they are the heartbeat that keeps her breathing, and to her ‘amazing’ husband – for truly being the wind beneath her wings to support her for being herself and who pushed her into becoming an entrepreneur and a ‘she-ro’ for many to follow.

“My recommendation would be to always keep an open mind to any opportunities that come your way because it may be just what you need,” she said.

north by northeast

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Black Health Matters

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north by northeast

COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

North by Northeast Community Health Center is the only clinic in Oregon devoted to African American health. We provide welcoming, high quality health care to adults who have Oregon Health Plan. Since 2006, our priority has been to serve the local African American community and to reduce the deadly effects of high blood pressure and diabetes. We are accepting new patients, and if you're uninsured, we can help you get covered!

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

- Wear your mask
- Wash your hands frequently
- Maintain at least 6 feet of distance from people who do not live with you in your home
- Avoid crowded spaces

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2020 YEAR IN REVIEW



Passion for Giving Back

July 8 — Bill Jackson of Portland's African American community was honored by his employer PepsiCo for 50 years of service and for being a mentor to young people in the community as well as mentoring new hires at Pepsi. He was also credited for driving conversations on race in the workplace, making sure the topic is addressed in an appropriate manner and helping to ensure different perspectives have been considered.



Wall of Moms Enter Fray

July 22 — A wall of moms forming a human shield to protect Black Lives Matter protesters gained strength at nightly protests in Portland as President Trump took aim at demonstrations demanding justice in police officer involved shootings and sent federal police to the downtown U.S. courthouse.



Solidarity with Demonstrators

Aug. 5 — Faculty at over two dozen Portland area colleges and universities circulated a statement denouncing heavy-handed tactics used by Portland Police and by federal agents that have inflamed tensions in the streets and surrounding protests in downtown Portland and elsewhere in the city.



Beloved Boxing Coach Dies

Aug. 19 — Charles "Chuck" Lee Lincoln Sr., a beloved Portland boxing champion and coach, and father to his community, was being remembered after his death, on Aug. 7 at the age of 88. Lincoln coached hundreds of neighborhood kids who flowed through the doors of the Knott Street Center.



PSU to Disarm Campus Police

Aug. 19 — Two years after campus police killed a Black Navy veteran and father in a disturbance outside a campus area bar, Willie Halliburton, Portland State University's new campus safety chief, and a retired African American police officer, announced that PSU officers will no longer carry guns. The decision was part of a broader policy to re-image safety at PSU, one that works to dismantle systems of racism.



Dueling Protests Turn Deadly

Sept. 2 — Aaron 'Jay' Danielson, a supporter of a right wing group was killed in a confrontation, downtown, as dueling protests took place between social justice advocates and Patriot Prayer, a group that has clashed with left-wing protesters in Portland for years. Police Chief Chuck Lovell asked the public to give detectives time to do their work before drawing conclusions about the shooting.



Unhealthy at Best

Sept. 16 — Dense smoke coming from massive wildfires in Oregon blanketed the skies across Portland and the Northwest. Residents were advised to remain indoors due to hazardous air quality.



Lillard Buys Toyota Dealership

Oct. 7 — Infusing his personal style into business, Portland Trail Blazers point guard and NBA All-Star Damian Lillard becomes the new co-owner of a Toyota dealership in McMinnville.



A Hero for Community Health

Oct. 21 — Lessie Williams, a long time champion for community health from Portland's African American community is honored as a national hero by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for her work in Portland tackling racial disparities in healthcare for families most at risk.



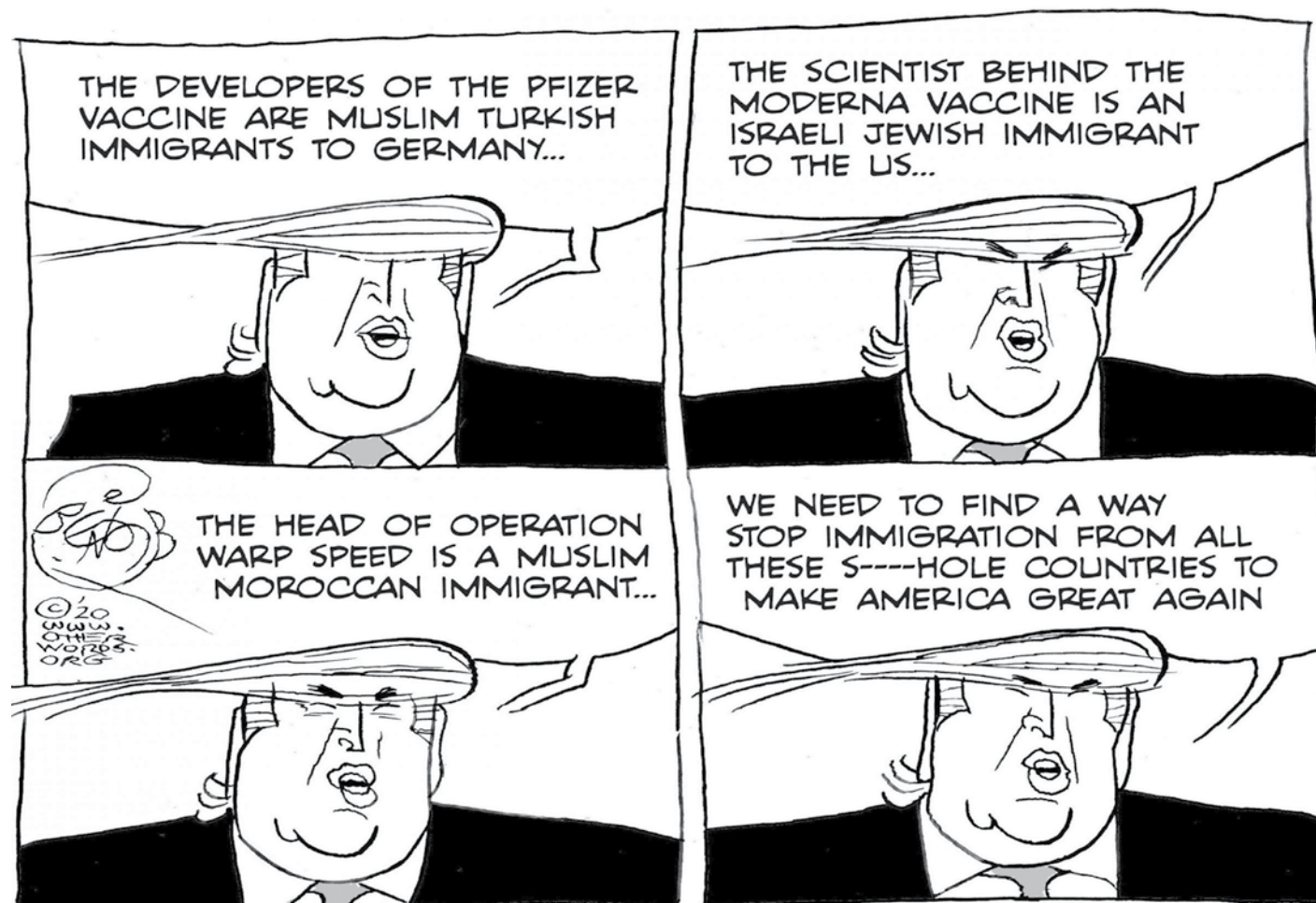
Family Fights for Home

Nov. 4 — An African American family with indigenous roots is locked in a dramatic struggle for the right to return to their historic home in one of Portland's most gentrified neighborhoods, a battle blamed on a sophisticated mortgage scam, capturing the hearts and minds of a growing community of allies pursuing racial and economic justice. One month later when police enforced an eviction order, a response by more militant activists closed the street with barricades and used guns to keep unwanted people out.

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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



Stoking Anti-Immigrant Sentiment: Lies should end with his presidency

BY JILL RICHARDSON

As Donald Trump finally prepares to be evicted from the White House, it's worth remembering how he first launched his campaign: by calling immigrants "murderers" and "rapists."



This was outrageous then. And there's more evidence now that it was, of course, patently false.

A new study finds that "undocumented immigrants have considerably lower crime rates than native-born citizens and legal immigrants across a range of criminal offenses, including violent, property, drug, and traffic crimes."

The study concludes that there's "no evidence that undocumented criminality has become more prevalent in recent years across any crime category." Previous studies found no evidence to support Trump's claim, but now we have better data than ever before.

Put another way, Trump was telling a dangerous lie.

Sociologists Michael Light, Jingying He and Jason Robey used crime and immigration data from Texas from 2012 to 2018 to find that "relative to undocumented immigrants, U.S.-born citizens are over 2 times more likely to be arrested for violent crimes, 2.5 times more likely to be arrested for drug crimes, and over 4 times more likely to be arrested for property crimes."

Unfounded accusations of criminality are a longstanding tool of racism and other forms of bigotry across a range of social

categories.

When anti-LGBTQ activist Anita Bryant wanted to discriminate against gays and lesbians in the 1970s, she claimed we molest children. More recently, when transphobic people wanted to ban trans women from women's bathrooms, they falsely claimed that trans women would rape cisgender women in bathrooms.

Consider how much anti-Black racists justified their actions in the name of "protecting white women" from Black men. In 1955, a white woman, Carolyn Bryant Donham, wrongly claimed that a 14-year-old Black boy, Emmett Till, grabbed her and threatened her. White men lynched Till in retaliation. More than half a century later, Donham revealed that her accusations were false.

In 1989, the Central Park Five — five Black and Latino boys between the ages of 14 and 16 — were wrongly convicted and imprisoned for raping a white woman. They didn't do it. In 2002, someone else confessed and DNA evidence confirmed it. (Trump, who took out full-page ads calling for their execution then, never apologized.)

Racism and bigotry are about power and status. Yet instead of openly admitting that they want to punish other people simply for existing, most bigots find reasons that sound plausible to the uninformed — even if the reasons are completely untrue. Bigotry is much easier to market if it can masquerade as fighting crime.

It wasn't just Trump himself. During the Trump administration, officials like the U.S. solicitor general argued before

the Supreme Court that undocumented immigrants are disproportionately likely to commit crime. Data: None. Claims: False.

As Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan famously said, "You are entitled to your opinion. But you are not entitled to your own facts."

So when you hear a claim that a particular group of marginalized people are criminals, question it. What is the evidence for the claim? What is the evidence against the claim? Why is the person making the claim, and how will they benefit if people believe them?

If someone cites research, who performed the research, and who funded it? Do the funders have a financial stake in the research findings? Was it published in a peer-reviewed journal? Is the data publicly available for others to replicate the findings?

In this case, the research debunking this racist lie was government-funded, peer-reviewed in a major journal, and the data is available to the public.

Hearing that particular group of people poses a threat to your safety can be frightening. But because such claims have been used throughout history to spread bigotry against marginalized groups, they should always be fact-checked.

In this case, the evidence is clear. Trump stoked anti-immigrant sentiment in the name of fighting crime, and his claims were baseless and false. The lie should end with his presidency.

Jill Richardson is a columnist *Other Words.org*, the distributor of this opinion piece.

Letter to the Editor

Grant Murals Decision

Thank you for mentioning the Grant Alumni Association's fundraising efforts to restore the Fletcher Memorial Murals (**Relics of Past Coming Down**, Dec. 9 issue). With permission, encouragement and support from Grants' former principal and from the Portland Public School district the Alumni Association undertook a successful campaign to match a \$100,000 donation from the Leo Lester Browne Fund in less than six months. The donations came from alumni and community members in amounts ranging from \$5 to \$10,000. Once the restoration was completed, an estimated \$30,000 to \$100,000 was to be used to support Grant's music education department.

The murals were paid for by Grant students and were dedicated in 1932 to honor William Fletcher, Grant's first principal. Carl Hoeckner, the artist who designed and painted the murals titled "Ideals of Education", was an advocate of social justice. He did not intend for his work to be historically accurate, but used symbolism to portray ideals. It is ironic that his paintings showing students striving toward knowledge and wisdom, Susan B. Anthony Ulysses S. Grant speaking of empowering women and ending slavery, and Native Americans coming together with pioneers in peace, would be thought to be repugnant. Even the title proclaims Ideals which means excellence not yet achieved. Similar depictions of Native Americans in war bonnets can be found in other district schools.

The Alumni Association is sensitive to the concerns of Grant's Native American students and has tried to present several options to address these concerns. One of the options is a masking treatment created by Nina Olsson, art conservator. However, the Association's requests to meet with the Superintendent and with each member of the school board was met with silence from all but three school board members.

The financial consequences to the taxpayers are considerable. Not only is the \$200,000 gift of the restoration and the money for the music education department lost, but the cost of removal is estimated to be \$215,000 which does not include such factors as an environmental study, scaffolding, lead paint containment, protective facing, storage containers. The size of the murals (20X25) makes finding a space for their display difficult and at best they will be stored somewhere and never seen again - a form of destruction.

The Grant Alumni Association has always advocated for a decision-making process that included all voices working together to find common ground that would serve as a model for other schools.

Bob Stayton, president of the U.S. Grant High School Alumni Association

Lawmakers Advance COVID Relief

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

as far-right protesters opposed to COVID-19 restrictions attempted to force their way in, with some demonstrators totting guns and others attacking authorities with bear spray.

Protesters banged their fists against the doors chanting, "Let us in" and others attempted to break glass doors leading into the Capitol building. The Capitol was closed to the public as part of COVID-19 safety measures. However virtual testimony about the bills was allowed earlier.

House Speaker Tina Kotek, a Democrat from north Portland, described the violence and damage to the Capitol as "disconcerting and frightening."

Senate President Peter

Courtney, who is Oregon's longest-serving lawmaker, said the protests "shook" him.

"It was sad today," Courtney said. "There was a lot of anger — real anger — a lot of meanness and a lot of open division, and I can't find a way to stop it."

The four bills that lawmakers passed were an eviction moratorium that includes \$200 million in relief for landlords and tenants, a restaurant relief package that includes a provision legalizing cocktails to-go, a bill that protects schools from some coronavirus-related lawsuits and a measure that will transfer \$600 million in to the state's emergency fund for COVID-19 and wildfire-response and recovery.

The bill that has dominated discussions focused on evic-

tions. With the federal and state eviction moratorium set to expire at the end of the year, the issue has been pushed to the forefront. Housing advocates have implored lawmakers to extend the moratorium, estimating that between 20,000 and 40,000 Oregon households could be at risk for eviction.

The bill extends the moratorium on residential evictions through June 2021. It also requires that tenants to submit a sworn statement that they've experienced financial hardship in order to be protected from eviction.

In addition, the bill allocates \$150 million for a Landlord Compensation Fund to pay landlords back rent owed, however landlords must forgo 20% of past-due payments.

--Associated Press

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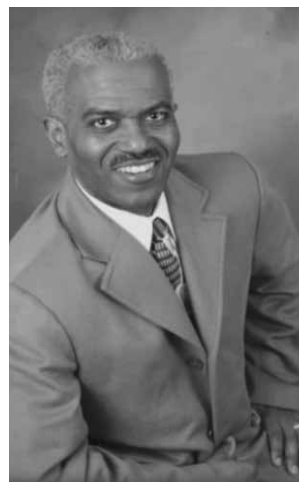
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Wait List Opening

Notice is hereby given that Vancouver Housing Authority will open the following waitlist on December 18, 2020:

The Elwood supportive housing development is for people exiting homelessness with behavioral health needs. The Elwood consists of 46 one bedroom units, located at 6317 NE Fourth Plain Blvd., Vancouver, Washington.

Applicants must be homeless, in need of supportive housing, and referred through the Council for the Homeless Housing Solutions Center (HSC). The HSC refers people in need of supportive housing who are interested in the Medicaid Foundational Community Support (FCS) program to Sea Mar-Community Services Northwest (CSNW). CSNW then works with that person to enroll in the FCS program and refers them to the waitlist. The first step to finding out if you are eligible is to contact the Council for the Homeless Housing Solutions Center for a housing assessment at 360-695-9677.

Applications will be selected from the waiting list based on preference. Among applicants with the same preference, applicants will be selected through a random lottery. Applications will be accepted starting December 18.

Vancouver Housing Authority welcomes qualified individuals/families of diverse backgrounds and, in accordance with various Federal and State laws or regulations, does not discriminate against anyone based on race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, disability, familial status, creed, veteran's or military status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status.

Vancouver Housing Authority will make reasonable accommodations to individuals whose disabilities require accommodation in order to enjoy full and equal access to our programs and services. This includes the application process, the informal hearing process and the residency period. Please contact a staff member if you need a reasonable accommodation.

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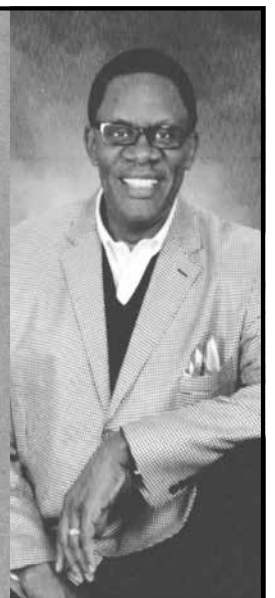
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Obituaries

In Loving Memory Terrance Lane Sanders

Terrance Lane Sanders was born Jan. 24, 1963 in Portland. He surrendered to the Lord and went on to Glory on Dec. 11, 2020. He was preceded in death by his father, Phillip Sanders Sr. and Rose Sanders.

Terrance leaves behind his wife, Tracie Sanders and three children, Timothy, Terran and Terrance Jr.; one brother, Phillip G. Sanders Jr.; five sisters, Dewanda Cook-Weaver, Beverly Sanders, Angela Sanders, Phyllis Sanders and June Safford; two daughters-in-law, Aejeanna Vansapp-Rodriguez and Courtney Markle; his grandchildren, times and bad he always kept a great attitude. He lived Qwynton, Jhordyn, Ashton, Fabian, Royal, Kashis, by his mantra which he always told us, "Keep It Mo-Gianna, Justin, Ellyanna and Josiah; and a host of vin!" He will forever be loved, cherished and missed.



nieces and nephews from Seattle to Portland and all across the country.

Terrance worked tirelessly in the Seafood processing industry and was a retired truck driver from 1985 until 2014.

He was known by all of his friends and family as "T-Bone" and absolutely loved and cherished his circle of friends and family. He was an avid dog lover and loved all of his canine companions (Oscar, Duke, Romeo, Sadie, Houston, Boodrough and Woody). He was also a big music lover. He absolutely adored Jazz music. You would always hear him playing his favorite Jazz album, "Tokyo Blue" by Najee.

Terrance loved life and loved the people in it. Through good times and bad he always kept a great attitude. He lived by his mantra which he always told us, "Keep It Mo-Gianna, Justin, Ellyanna and Josiah; and a host of vin!" He will forever be loved, cherished and missed.

Devoted Mother and Community Leader Remembered

Maggie Lee Gibson, a devoted mother and community leader, departed this life on Dec. 15, 2020.

She was born March 11, 1942 in Belzoni, Miss. to the late Rev. Orange and Lonzella Hooker. She moved to Portland in 1961 in search of better opportunities for her family.

Family members described her as a "Very traditional and a classy woman. The glue that held her family together. Humble, spiritual, gentle and peaceful. A kind-hearted angel, beautiful soul and a true servant of the Lord."

Mrs. Gibson received her GED from Portland Community College in the mid 1970s. She worked at St. Vincent De Paul Daycare Center, St. Andrews School as a teacher's aide, and as an imaging technician at Regence Blue Cross Blue Shield for 32 years, retiring after never missing a day of work in 2006.

A community activist, she volunteered to serve many causes, including her neighborhood watch program, Franciscan social ser-



Maggie Gibson

vices, and Habitat for Humanity.

In 1999, she was named to the Distinguished International Academy of Nobel Achievement, nominated by the Oregon Chapter Epsilon Sigma Alpha, a worldwide philanthropic sorority. In 2000, the Maggie Gibson Plaza, an affordable housing complex and retail space at Northeast 17th and Alberta, was named in her honor. The same year she received a community service award from the Portland Observer bestowed in

memory of Joyce Washington, the newspaper's late publisher.

She was preceded in death by her loving parents; husband Lesty Gibson; sons Larry Gibson and Carl Gibson Sr., brother Lawrence Hooker, sister Lonzella (Cherry) Hooker, and sister-in-laws Minnie and Pocket Browder.

She leaves to cherish her loving memory, daughter Tamra Gibson; sisters Evalena Hooker, Virginia Hooker and Martha Brown; brothers Cornelius Hooker, Orange Hooker Jr. and Gary Hooker; and brother-in-laws Bill Gibson and McKinley Gibson.

Survivors also include nine grandchildren, Jameka Gibson, Lesty Gibson, Carl Gibson Jr., Antonio Rivers-Gibson, Lashawn Larry, Antonio Richard Jr., Aiya-na Calicott, LaKeisha Kennendy, Donnell Kennedy; 11 great-grandchildren, Amiyah, Rakyah, My'Kel, Tashiana, Ty'Heir, Successfull, Dejah, Sade', Antonio III (Tre'), and Tah'jai, Lesty Jr.; and a host of nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.



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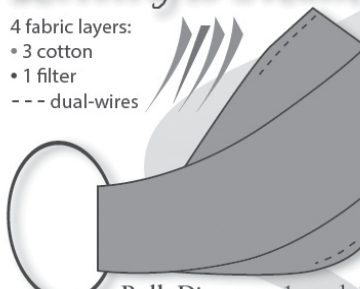
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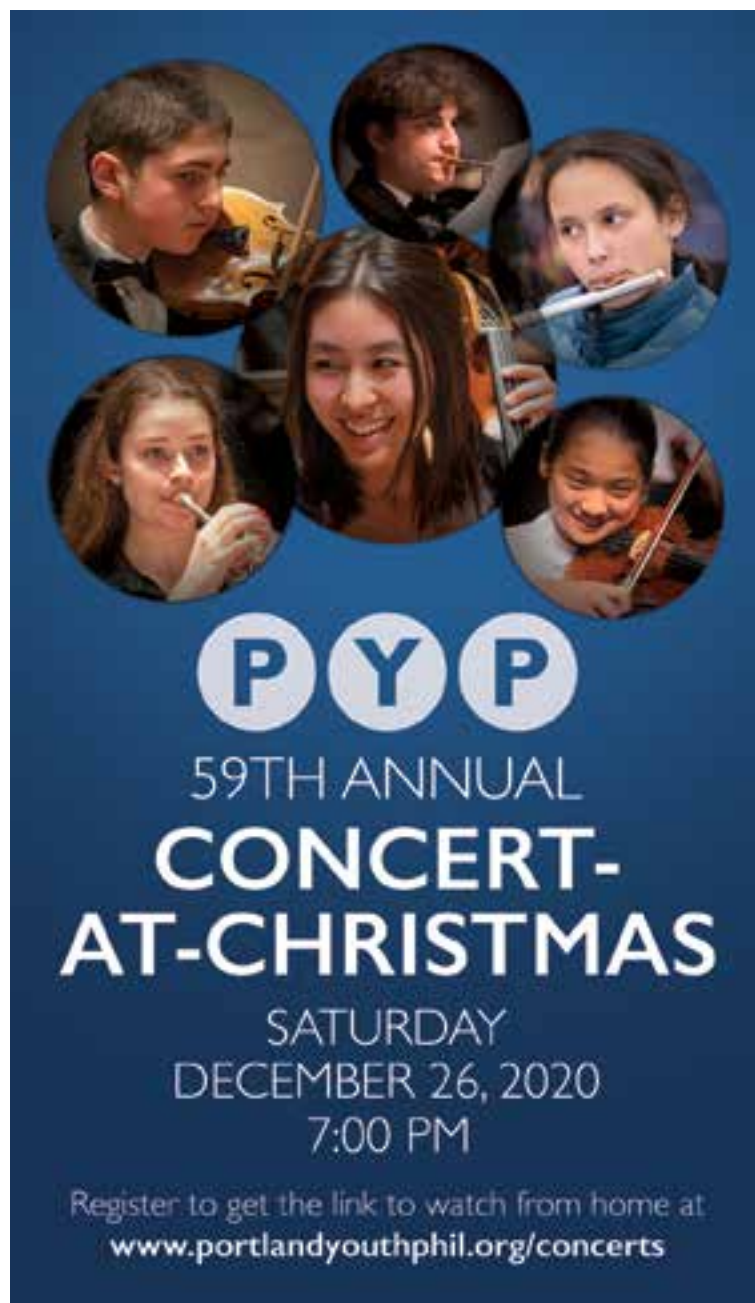
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**History is Made!**

Nov. 18 -- Democrat Joe Biden defeated President Donald Trump in the November General Election and will become the 46th president of the United States on Jan. 20. Kamala Harris also made history as the first woman and first Black vice president, an achievement that comes as the U.S. faces a reckoning on racial justice.

**50th Anniversary Issue**

Nov. 18 -- The Portland Observer celebrated its 50th anniversary with a special commemorative issue that highlighted its years of informing and uplifting the African American community and other communities of color as the state's oldest Black-owned newspaper, a tradition it plans to carry on for many years to come.

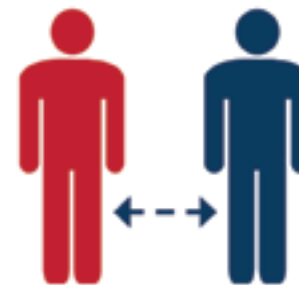
**Tensions Boil into Unrest**

Nov. 4 -- Tensions boiled over into unrest when right-wing protestors supporting police confronted Black Lives Matter protestors in Hazel Dell, north of Vancouver, after a candlelight vigil to honor Kevin Peterson Jr., a Black man killed one night earlier by Clark County sheriff's deputies conducting a drug sting operation.

**COVID Danger
Moves to Extreme**

Dec. 9 -- Multnomah County adopted Gov. Kate Brown's new health and safety measures for Oregon counties most at risk for spreading the coronavirus, moving into the extreme risk category.

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