



Black History Month



PO QR code

The Portland Observer



'City of Roses'

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Committed to Cultural Diversity



Sen. Lew Frederick, D-Portland

Black Voices Grow Power in Salem

Frederick leads most diverse group of lawmakers

BY BEVERLY CORBELL
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The Legislative session currently underway at the State Capitol in Salem is historically important this year with its growing number of elected lawmakers of color giving focus to issues long supported by the Black community, says Sen. Lew Frederick, the Legislature's most senior Black lawmaker and a long time civil rights activist.

"To some extent, Black history is key to what's going on now," Frederick said, in an interview with the Portland Observer. "The murder of George Floyd and issues related to the COVID virus have made a big difference. We have focused our attention on the disparity that the black community has had for centuries," he said. "It's no longer something someone made up, a chip on your shoulder. People have seen what's going on and what's taken place."

This year, several new bills, many with racial impacts, have been introduced to address education, police accountability, housing, science, agriculture, basic civil rights and more.

Frederick, a former Portland Public Schools communications leader and television journalist, is chief sponsor of 55 bills this session, including 18 on education, 12 on criminal justice, four concerning mental

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



Multnomah County District Attorney Mike Schmidt, in his first year of office after being elected on a platform to address racial disparities in prosecutions and police accountability, defends new policies promoting fairness and equity.

Elevating Justiceⁱⁿ Portland

New DA defends policies; says Black lives matter

BY BEVERLY CORBELL
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Multnomah County District Attorney Mike Schmidt was elected as a racial justice reformer last May, just a week before the death of George Floyd at the hands of police in Minneapolis. He started the job early, in August, when the current officer holder stepped down. The top law enforcement official in the county has had his hands full ever since.

Nationwide demonstrations and social unrest were more than pronounced in Portland this summer following Floyd's death, putting a spotlight on the city as massive demonstrations gathered, night after night, protesting police violence and other racial impacts in the criminal justice system.

Schmidt ran a platform to address racial disparities in prosecutions and police accountability, but has come under criticism for letting some protesters arrested for non-violent offenses get "off easy." He has defended the civil rights of peaceful protesters, saying they delivered a lesson to law enforcement and the public that should have been learned decades ago: That black lives matter.

"They matter even when the movement for racial justice drifts from the daily news cycle. They matter when we're distracted," Schmidt said in a recent speech. "They

matter when those of us with power to do that hard work of making them matter. I will carry with me those values that those words represent every day of my administration."

As DA, Schmidt is charged with prosecuting crimes, but he says the criminal justice system has adhered to many wrong policies, like mandatory sentencing, the war on drugs, its effects on people living in poverty, and those with addictions.

To correct those policies, Schmidt has pledged to form a Conviction Integrity Unit in his office, to look at the effects of the criminal justice system after conviction and sentencing.

"Everybody knows that justice doesn't end there," he said in an interview with the Portland Observer. "There is justice for victims, but also for the person prosecuted."

Even after a person convicted of a crime has served his or her time, there are many barriers to fully re-entering society, Schmidt said.

"We can help with reducing barriers, like forgiveness of fines and fees that trap people in cycles of poverty. We really need to move forward and help families," he said.

In keeping with his belief that black lives matter,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

Supremes Co-Founder Mary Wilson Remembered

Music legend helped establish Motown sound

(AP) -- Mary Wilson, one of the original members of the Supremes, the 1960s group that helped establish the Motown sound and propelled Diana Ross to superstardom, died Monday. The cause was not immediately clear. She was 76.

Wilson died Monday night at her home in Nevada and the cause was not immediately clear, said publicist Jay Schwartz.

Wilson, Diana Ross and Florence Ballard made up the first successful configuration of The Supremes, Motown's first and most commercially successful girl group. Ballard was replaced by Cindy Birdsong in 1967, and Wilson stayed with the group until it was officially disbanded in 1977.

The group's first No. 1, million-selling song, "Where Did Our Love Go," was released June 17, 1964. Touring at the time, Wilson said there was a moment when she realized they had a hit song.

"I remember that instead of going home on the bus, we flew," she told The Associated Press in 2014. "That was our first plane ride. We flew home. We had really hit big."



Mary Wilson, founding member of The Supremes, Motown's first and most influential girls group, is pictured during a 2014 portrait session at Capitol Records in Los Angeles. Wilson died Monday at 76 years old. (AP photo).

It would be the first of five consecutive No. 1s, with "Baby Love," "Come See About Me," "Stop! In the Name of Love" and "Back in My Arms Again" following in quick succession. The Supremes also recorded the hit songs "You Can't Hurry Love," "Up the Ladder to the Roof" and "Love Child."

Ross tweeted on Tuesday, offering her condolences to Wilson's family. "I am reminded that each day is a gift," she said, writing "I have so many wonderful memories of our time together."

Berry Gordy, who founded the Detroit-based Motown Records, said he was "extremely shocked and saddened to hear of the passing of a major member of the Motown family, Mary Wilson of the Supremes." His statement Monday night, according to Variety, said "The Supremes were always known as the 'sweethearts of Motown.'"

Wilson, Ross and Ballard were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1988.

Wilson, in a recent YouTube video posted Saturday, said she was excited to celebrate Black history month, her upcoming birthday (March 6) and teased fans with the announcement that Universal Music had plans to release some of her music.

Attention, Multnomah County renters!

Your eviction moratorium protections have changed

Starting February 1, 2021, Multnomah County renters will be covered by the Oregon statewide eviction moratorium, which protects tenants from eviction for nonpayment or without cause until June 30, 2021. The repayment grace period also ends on June 30. This means that renters will have until July 1, 2021, to pay back the money they owe.

You must take action to stay protected

To be protected from eviction for nonpayment or eviction without cause, sign and return the "Declaration of Financial Hardship for Eviction Protection" form to your landlord stating that you are unable to afford your rent.

Get the form

You can download the form at multco.us/covid-eviction. You can also pick up a paper copy of the form at any Multnomah County Library location.

Return the form soon

You can return the form to your landlord in person or by mail. You can also take a photo of the form and send it to your landlord by email or text message.

Renters are encouraged to submit the form to landlords as soon as possible. Although landlords are required to give their renters information about the moratorium protections with a copy of the declaration form, you are encouraged to submit the form even before receiving the notice.

Learn more at multco.us/covid-eviction



Rosa Parks is arrested in 1955 in Montgomery, Ala., after she refused to give up a seat on a bus reserved for white people. A year later, city officials were ordered to desegregate Montgomery's buses and Rosa Parks sealed her place in U.S. history.

TriMet Honors Rosa Parks

Transit agency ushers in first annual Equity Day

TriMet held its first annual Rosa Parks Transit Equity Day last Thursday to honor the late civil rights leader's birthday and the agency's commitment to social justice.

No fares were collected on the date for all buses, MAX, WES

or LIFT. Transit partners Portland Streetcar and C-TRAN also did not collect fares to honor the woman who sealed her place in history in 1955 by refusing to give up a seat on a bus reserved for white people.

Rosa Parks was born on Feb. 4, 1913 in Tuskegee, Ala. Her demonstration in segregated Montgomery, Ala., gave way to the Montgomery Bus Boycott

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

The INSIDE



SPORTS

page 6



METRO

page 10



page 11

OPINION



Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



page 13-15

CLASSIFIED/BIDS

pages 14-15

LOCAL NEWS



Moderna COVID-19 vaccines are prepared at a drive-thru clinic in Portland. Gov. Brown, following public health guidelines, opened up vaccines to people 80 years or older this week, but reservations for the shots quickly outpaced supply. (AP photo)

Vaccine Signups Outrun Supply

Hard hit elderly begin to receive shots

(AP) — Appointments to receive the COVID-19 vaccine in Oregon were quickly booked Monday, as residents who are 80 years and older became eligible to receive doses of the scarce and highly anticipated vaccine.

Seniors in Oregon have waited weeks to receive the vaccine, after the original eligibility date was delayed and then Gov. Kate Brown decided to prioritize educators ahead of the elderly.

The elderly have been the hardest hit group in state when it comes to the virus — people 60 years and older account for 90% of Oregon's COVID-19 deaths.

On Monday, seniors 80 and older began to receive shots. Eligibility will expand to younger age groups each week: 75 and older starting Feb. 15, 70 and older starting Feb. 22 and 65 and older starting March 1.

The Oregonian/Oregon Live reported Monday that every available appointment for seniors in the Portland area was booked within the first two and a half hours they were eligible. All appointments at the Oregon Convention Center and Portland International Airport's red economy parking lot for the next week -- through Tuesday, Feb. 16 -- were taken.

Last week, Oregon health officials warned that as 168,000 elderly Oregonians become eligible there could be issues.

In preparation for the increase in eligible people, Brown announced Friday that 30 additional National Guard members would be deployed to help field 211 calls and texts from seniors signing up and seeking information on vaccinations.

Officials from 211info, Oregon and Southwest Washington's information referral line for health and human services, said earlier this month that their call volume had gone from 400 calls a day before the pandemic to 1,800 calls a day during the vac-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

Officials Respond to Spike in Shootings

Chief moves officers; mayor supports new team

Portland Police Chief Chuck Lovell and Mayor Ted Wheeler have announced moves to combat a spike in shootings and violent crime.

Lovell on Thursday said he is moving officers from traffic, K-9, narcotics and other units into street patrol to pursue immediate investigations in response to shootings and help process crime scene evidence.

At a news conference, Lovell said he regrets the Portland City

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



Chuck Lovell

The Portland Observer

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PUBLISHER: Mark Washington, Sr.

EDITOR: Michael Leighton

Office Mngtr/Clasfids: Lucinda Baldwin

CREATIVE DIRECTOR: Paul Neufeldt

OFFICE/ASST/SALES: Shawntell Washington

Black Voices Grow Power in Salem

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

health, three on civil rights and two labor bills.

When Frederick was first elected to the state House in 2009, he was the only African American out of 60 representatives, and the late Jackie Winters was the only African American senator. But today, the Legislature's Black, Indigenous and People of Color caucus, or BIPOC, includes a dozen lawmakers, including Native Americans, Latinos, African Americans and Vietnamese. One of its newest members, Kayse Jama of southeast Portland, appointed last month to fill a vacant seat, is a native of Somalia and the first Muslim member of the Senate.

"Now that we have 11 other members of the Oregon Legislature who are people of color, we clearly made our views and desires known to the rest of the legislature. Twelve members is more than ever before," Frederick said.

The Portland lawmaker anticipates joining Jama and two other

Black lawmakers, Sens. Janelle Bynum, representing southeast Portland and Happy Valley and Jim Manning of Eugene and Junction City, on putting bills forward that deal specifically with racial issues, some that have been important issues for a long time.

"Some bills I've been working on for 11 years," Frederick said. "Bills on excessive use of force, bills related to African American history in school curriculums, bills that deal with use of force and discipline issues as well as training and recruitment."

Frederick said he's also working on "more subtle" bills that have to do with over-testing in schools, bringing more teachers and counselors of color into schools, and reducing class sizes.

Frederick also supports reparations for descendants of slaves and last month proposed a state bill to pay people who could prove a heritage in slavery, a \$123,000 annuity, annually paid for the life of the applicant. Some press reports, even national ones, got the proposal wrong by conflating annuity with annual, he

said. Under an annuity, recipients would receive a portion of the total each year, not the entire sum each year. For example, a \$100,000 annuity for a 65-year-old would pay out about \$500 per month in lifetime income.

"The real key is that we are going to start talking about reparations," he said. "Not just in an academic setting or around the dinner table, but to look at how to craft reparations."

On the national level, Frederick says he supports U.S. Rep. Barbara Lee's reparations bill in Congress. He wants to hear more on how Congress could approve reparations and how a financial system might be created to deal with that, "That's where the annuity comes in."

As a member of the state transportation committee, Frederick is also keeping a close eye on the I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project, which has been controversial in the past. The project seeks to undo some of the harm to the Black communities that were obliterated by the construction of the Interstate freeway in

the 1960s that cut through neighborhoods displacing many Black residents and local businesses. The area was also decimated by the construction of the Oregon Convention Center and the expansion of Legacy Emmanuel Hospital.

"The proposal is just to change exit ramps, but not increasing lanes," Frederick said. "The Albina Vision group calls for the freeway to be covered so we can put housing on top." Those discussions are ongoing, he said, and goes back to a bill approved by voters in 2017 to increase taxes on gasoline and gasoline engines with the condition that congestion problems in the Rose Quarter section be addressed.

Frederick said he feels a little cynical about some of the recent interest in the project.

"Some folks decided because they discovered environmental impacts on the African American community, to use that as leverage to stop the project from taking place," he said. "Those folks could have stepped forward 10 years ago and did not. Now they

are stepping forward as though they are saving the Black community, but in most cases they are not Black folks, but a group of white folks saying, 'I really care about you.' It's a cynical approach that I reject and I am insulted by. In some cases they are truly sincere; others I'm not sure about."

Another example of detachment from Black concerns was when a group was pushing the use of electric scooters to the Legislature.

"The guy giving the pitch looked straight at me, and said how this would help the low-income community," Frederick said. "I said I didn't think that was true. They think they are trying to help, but they're being patronizing."

In other transportation issues, Frederick said he would like to see a high-speed rail between Portland and Vancouver and beyond.

"If we had a high-speed rail a lot of people would be using that instead of driving along I-5," he said. "We could also do Portland to Eugene, and I would like to see it go all the way to the California border."

TriMet Honors Rosa Parks

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

and led to a U. S. Supreme Court decision that bus segregation was unconstitutional. Just over a year after Parks' act of defiance, city officials were ordered to desegregate Montgomery's buses and Rosa Parks sealed her place in U.S. history.

TriMet Board of Directors member Keith Edwards, who is a lifelong advocate for civil rights, an electrician and union leader, and member of Portland's African American community, proposed the special no fares day of recognition for Parks.

In January, the TriMet Board passed a resolution which declared her birthday as a day to acknowledge her role in the civil rights movement. It changed TriMet code to allow for fares to not be collected on Feb. 4 this year and years to come.

"When people wonder why fares are not being collected on this day, we'll be able to tell them that Rosa Parks is being honored," said Director Edwards. "This is her birthday, and she's the mother of the civil rights movement. She moved the country by use of a bus in a great social effort to bring about equity and equality."

In unison with the civil rights movement, Rosa Parks' courageous demonstration greatly



Keith Edwards

contributed to the passing of the Civil Rights Act, a landmark federal law adopted in 1964. The law bans discrimination on the basis of race, skin color or national origin.

TriMet has been a longtime advocate for respecting civil rights and promoting the value of the diverse community it serves. Leaders of the agency point to its adoption of policies to ensure that equity guides decisions around fares and service, evaluating all proposed changes to avoid unnecessary negative impacts on people of color and low-income populations.

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Documenting Oregon's Black History

State awards grant to designate historical properties

Properties in Oregon related to Black history will be documented under a new program to recognize and preserve historic places throughout the state related to the African American experience.

The effort was given a recent push thanks to \$30,000 in grant funding to the State Historical Preservation Office from the Underrepresented Communities program administered by the National Park Service.

The project will research historic places throughout the state related to African American history and create materials that can be used as a resource for people preserving and sharing this important history and making it is easier to nominate properties to the National Register of Historic Places.

The state preservation office applied for the grant in recognition that African American history is present throughout the state, but it is not well documented or recognized, officials said.

"Encouraging the representation of Oregon's diverse history within the National Register program is a major goal of the Oregon Preservation Plan," notes Christine Curran, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer. "This grant will move us forward in that effort and we are excited to see the results."



PHOTO FROM PORTLAND BUREAU OF PLANNING SUSTAINABILITY

The historic Mt. Olivet Baptist Church is one of the oldest properties in Portland related to the African American experience. The church's historic black congregation moved several decades ago to a new location in north Portland, but still owns the old church site just one block from Northeast Broadway in the Albina community.

A similar project by the city of Portland and other groups garnered new information and several listings of historical black properties within the city. The new project will expand the reach outside of Portland, officials said.

The effort also is a continuation of work over the last several years in collaboration with Oregon Black Pioneers to document these places. The state historical preservation office plans to hire a consultant to complete the project which is also funded in part

by the Oregon Cultural Trust.

People who have information to share about African American history in their communities, are encouraged to submit it through an online tool by visiting MakeOregonHistory.org.

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Vaccine Signups Outrun Supply

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

cine rollout — overwhelming the hotline.

Health officials have encouraged Oregonians to text, call or email 211 or 1-866-698-6155 for information about receiving the vaccine. People can also text

ORCOVID to 898211 to receive updates.

On Monday, the health authority launched an online tool, getvaccinated.oregon.gov, where caregivers or family members of Oregon seniors can go to help their elderly family member sign up for a vaccine.

Elderly people living in Clackamas, Columbia, Marion, Multnomah or Washington counties are urged to use the state's vaccine information chat bot tool, on the oregon.gov website, to schedule vaccine appointments.

Along with mass vaccination

sites, vaccines will also be administered to local practices and public health facilities, drive-thru centers, mobile sites and 133 pharmacies across the state.

"In coming days, we know there will be more demand for vaccinations and for answers to questions than we may be able to provide," Oregon Health Authority Director Patrick Allen said Monday. "My promise to older Oregonians is this: if you want a vaccination, you will get one. But it may not be tomorrow, this week or even two weeks from now. But you will get one."

Officials Respond to Spike in Shootings

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Council getting rid of the Gun Violence Reduction Team axed last year under criticism it targeted Black men. Lovell said he believes it helped prevent shootings.

Wheeler said he supports creating the new 24-hour, seven-day-a-week Portland police team led by a sergeant with four officers and two detectives to respond to shootings. His remarks came more than a month after

Lovell proposed such a team.

The city recorded 55 homicides in 2020, the highest number in 26 years. Forty-one of those resulted from gun violence.

Police efforts to stem the violence have also been hampered by the loss of 100 officers who have left the Portland Police Bureau over the past year. Most of the officer retired and have not been replaced. The department has about 900 officers.

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Elevating Justice in Portland

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Schmidt said there has been progress in civil rights, but that we still have a long way to go. He pointed to work he had with leaders like the late state Sen. Jackie Winters, a Black representative from Salem who built her roots in business in Portland, to look for solutions to systemic racism.

"This summer drove home for me the fierce urgency we all need to feel around this work, but there is more left to do," he said.

Schmidt, who served as a deputy district attorney in Multnomah County for 12 years before taking on the top job and served as executive director of the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission, said Conviction Integrity Units are being used in 45 jurisdictions across the country to improve racial justice outcomes.

According a draft proposal for its creation here, "CIUs are well-established vehicles for reviewing and, when necessary and appropriate, seeking to overturn

convictions when there is evidence of actual innocence, prosecutor or law enforcement misconduct, or other considerations that undermine the integrity of the conviction."

The CIU as Schmidt proposes will add a deputy DA to work on questionable convictions, and a second one to work on expunging records of eligible people and look at fine and fee forgiveness where appropriate.

Schmidt said the unit will also pursue legislative changes to allow petitions to bring people back to court for re-sentencing, allowing the accused to have their sentences reviewed "when they are no longer necessary for public safety and are needlessly long or punitive."

The proposal also includes hiring one paralegal and bringing in law students to help with the extra work, as the draft proposal states, "to promote the concept that the work of pursuing justice for a prosecutor does not stop at sentencing, but continues on in the pursuit of maximizing legitimacy for public safety."

Schmidt said he is also working with Portland Police Chief Chuck Lovell to look at ways to make the criminal justice system more accountable.

"I want to build trust and accountability in the system beyond a conviction and a sentence," he said.

But that doesn't mean Schmidt is soft on crime.

"No amount of property damage or violence is acceptable," he said.

Schmidt is also concerned with excessive juvenile incarceration, pointing to the negative impacts of mandatory sentencing laws as another impetus for the creation of the Conviction Integrity Unit.

In his election acceptance speech, he referred to a clemency petition from a young man who committed armed robbery as a

teenager, and who in the many years since has completed every rehabilitation program available to him. It pointed to someone that will have to spend the last months of his incarceration in an adult prison under current laws, which Schmidt says is just wrong.

He went on to say "Multiple studies have shown that a juvenile who enters the adult system is immediately vulnerable to violence and pro-criminal peer pressure. For this young man, the sentence not only fails to fit the crime, it may make us all less safe."

Schmidt said that before going to law school, he taught high school in New Orleans for two years and observed the "school-to-prison pipeline" first-hand, which opened his eyes and expanded his perspective on justice issues.

According to the Annie E. Casey Foundation, there are 60,000 young people sent to jail by juvenile courts, with nearly half in long-term correctional facilities. "There's compelling evidence that locking up low-risk youth offenders doesn't reduce further offences," the foundation website states. "It wastes taxpayer dollars, and exposes young people to high levels of violence and abuse."

Because studies show that Black children and other children of color are more likely to be disciplined and expelled from school, they become fodder for the prison pipeline. According to the Equal Justice Initiative, as of 2015, African American young people comprised 44 percent of juvenile prison populations, while they are only 16 percent in the general population.

"New Orleans it was very eye-opening, to see that criminal justice system, and growing up, what it meant for me — a white kid in upstate New York — not getting worked up about the principal calling police on me," Schmidt said. "It was just detention."

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SPORTS

Brady, Defense Propel Super Bowl Win

Buccaneers win in a blowout

(AP) — Tom Brady put together another vintage performance on football's biggest stage Sunday night delivering Tampa Bay to its second Lombardi Trophy, and first since 2003, with a 31-9 victory over Patrick Mahomes and the Kansas City Chiefs.

Brady, the Super Bowl's MVP for the fifth time, and at age 43, was in control from beginning to end, going 21 of 29 for 201 yards with three touchdowns — all to some old buddies from his previous New England team — two to Rob Gronkowski and another to Antonio Brown.

By going 16 of 20 in the first half, Brady also added a record to his mile-long list as the first player in Super Bowl history to complete 80% of his passes and throw for three touchdowns in any half.

Tampa Bay's young defense also got a lot of credit.



Tampa Bay Buccaneers inside linebacker Devin White (45) breaks up a pass intended for Kansas City Chiefs running back Darrel Williams (right), during the second half of the NFL Super Bowl 55 football game, Sunday, Feb. 7 in Tampa, Fla. (AP photo)

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15



At the end of the day, our goal is to leave a positive, lasting impression on improving the Pacific Northwest. We honor Black History Month and acknowledge the legacy of celebrating, supporting and actively being a part of our local Pacific Northwest BIPOC communities.

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The Links Honor Black History

Portland's chapter of The Links, Inc., a not-for-profit Black women's service organization dedicated to racial and social uplift of people of African descent through charitable work, is sponsoring virtual running and walking events during Black History Month to support scholarships to students in the African American community.

The group's second annual Race to Equality 5K, 10K, Half Marathon, and 54 mile Selma-to-Montgomery Challenge are online events this year because of the coronavirus pandemic. Each runner or walker will receive an

official Race to Equality finishers' technical shirt, a 4 inch medal, a buff (great to use as a mask when needed) and a swag bag.

In addition, \$10 from each entry will be donated to the Portland Links to provide educational programs and provide scholarships to local young adults of color.

The cost to register for Race to Equality is \$55. Overall and age group awards will be provided to top finishers and all runners/walkers will receive a finishers' certificate. Race distances must be completed by Feb. 28. To register and for more information, visit racetoequality.raceroster.com.



An Alabama state trooper grabs a woman as police break up the 1965 Selma to Montgomery civil rights march pressing for voter registration rights for Black Americans across the South. The violent response by police became known as "Bloody Sunday." (AP photo)

PLANS CHANGE. DREAMS DON'T.

Josh Griffie knows the difference. He was a teenager with big plans. Then he was diagnosed with an autoimmune disorder. His soccer career? Over. His other plans? Rearranged. But when one path closes off, Josh sees two more in its place. "One of my biggest strengths is my ability to adapt, dream and persevere," he says.

Despite chronic health issues, he started a photography business in Portland, then landed an internship and a job at Nike. Soon he'll finish his business administration degree online through Oregon State Ecampus. And he's ready for whatever comes next.

ecampus.oregonstate.edu/josh



Intel Oregon Renews Social Justice, Community Pledge

Intel Oregon is renewing its commitment to strengthening communities by being a responsible corporate leader, including supporting social justice in Black and other minority communities.

Headquartered in the Portland suburb of Hillsboro, Intel Oregon is the home and heart of the company's research and development. While its reach is global, its success depends on healthy, inclusive Oregon communities, company officials said.

In a new Intel Oregon RISE report, the tech giant describes their record of hiring from local schools, community colleges, and universities; investing in addressing our community's needs; and spending billions each year with Oregon-based businesses.

"We know our success depends on our meaningful connection to

healthy, inclusive Oregon communities, so we've included highlights in this Oregon RISE Report about investments we're making in Oregon's innovative job creators, STEM education, tech equity, social justice, renewable energy, habitat restoration and more, said Courtney Martin, Intel's Oregon public affairs director.

"To us, leadership in business and social values matters. That's just another reason why we're committed to working with others to create a better, more inclusive and sustainable recovery right here at home," Martin added.

To read the full Oregon Rise Report and the many stories of Intel's community commitment, and to let them know what you think, visit intel.com/content/www/us/en/corporate-responsibility/oregon-rise-report.html.

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Celebrating Black Composers

Reimagining the classical music experience, Chamber Music Northwest presents a virtual concert in recognition of Black History Month featuring musical selections by a trio of illustrious Black composers.

The Catalyst Quartet: Uncovered, recorded at the Cleveland Institute of Music, will premiere on Saturday, Feb. 13 at 7 p.m. PST and can be streamed through Saturday, Feb. 20 on CMNW.org.

The Grammy-award winning musicians will perform the music of three of the most talented Black composers of the 20th Century, Coleridge-Taylor, Price, and Perkinson; along with selec-



The Grammy-award winning Catalyst Quartet will present a concert in recognition of Black History Month featuring musical selections by three of the most talented Black composers of the 20th Century.

tions from the quartet's upcoming CD release Uncovered, which strives to highlight works by classical composers previously overlooked because of their race or gender. Tickets are \$20.

Get Paid for Firefighter Training

Clackamas Community College is participating in a program where students are paid to train as wildland firefighters.

A limited number of trainees can earn \$16-\$18.50 an hour while receiving their wildland firefighter and wildland fire chainsaw certifications. To qualify, participants must be at least 18 years old, be unemployed or underemployed, and have a valid driver's license. Members from the BIPOC (Black, indigenous and people of color) community are highly encouraged to apply.



Clackamas Community College is participating in a government-sponsored program where students are paid to train as wildland firefighters.

"If you like the outdoors and want to be part of a high-performing team, this training could be for you," CCC

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

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www.interstatebridge.org



PHOTO COURTESY PORTLAND PARKS & RECREATION

Students participating in Portland Parks and Recreation's EAGLE caddies program last year at the Rose City Golf Course in northeast Portland included (from left) Ava Arias, Lilly Varner, Kennedy Phillips and Daysi Narruhn. Sign-ups for new enrollees for 2021 are now underway.

Portland Parks & Recreation is currently recruiting high school freshmen interested in the game of golf to enroll as EAGLE caddies, a program that offers opportunities for summer employment at area golf courses and a pathway to higher education for youth from lower income families.

The Early Adventures in Golf for a Lifetime of Enjoyment program is a cooperative venture between the city, the Western Golf Association's Evans Scholars Foundation, and Portland public and private high schools. A limited number of positions are available, and students who are

Early Adventures in Golf

EAGLE program offers employment, scholarships

Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC), female/non-binary, immigrants or refugees, and youth from families earning lower incomes are encouraged to apply.

"The EAGLE caddie program offers valuable work experience and a pathway to higher education for young lower-income Portlanders," says Portland Parks Commissioner Carmen Rubio. "I applaud Portland Parks & Rec-

reation for facilitating this fabulous program and encourage all eligible high school freshmen to apply."

Since 1989, more than 70 students have received full tuition and housing for college via the Evans Scholarship, a value that is more than \$100,000 over four years.

Officials said students do not need experience in the game of golf to apply as an EAGLE caddie. Participating

students are paid an hourly wage as golf caddies on Portland Parks Golf courses during summer and receive work credit hours with mentors who monitor students' progress and help guide their success.

"The EAGLE program is a wonderful way for young people from diverse backgrounds to gain professional experience, learn about golf, and to see firsthand the other wonderful opportunities

available with Portland Parks & Recreation," says PP&R Director Adena Long. "Dozens of students have had great success during and after being EAGLES. The program is a great way to advance equity, promote higher education, and expand the game of golf to the next generation of players."

The deadline for EAGLE applications is May 7. For complete details on the program, visit portland.gov/parks/sports/eagle-caddie-scholarship or contact PP&R's Carolyn Lee at carolyn.lee@portlandoregon.gov or 971-930-6762.

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

Building Back Better for Black America

Can Biden succeed where Obama fell short?

BY DEDRICK ASANTE-MUHAMMAD AND TYLER BOND

Twelve years ago, the inauguration of America's first Black president had many Americans believing that a future free of racial discrimination and inequality was finally within reach.

This year, as Obama's former vice president Joe Biden takes office amid a surge in far-right violence, it's clear we have a long way to go — not just to build a safer country for all of us, but to close the vast racial wealth divide.

Despite Obama's historic victory, his administration made

little to no progress in bridging this divide.



Over Obama's presidency, median Black wealth never returned to even its modest \$10,700 from before the Great Recession. By 2013,

it had dropped to just \$1,700 — virtually nothing — even as white wealth rebounded.

In fact, the racial wealth divide in the latter half of the Obama presidency was the largest it's been in the last 30 years. Income inequality remained virtually unchanged, too. In 2007, Black Americans earned about 60 percent as much as whites. By 2016, that had fallen to 58 percent.

In the aftermath of the Great Recession, homeownership — the key source of wealth for most

middle-class families — decreased for most Americans. But new Black homeowners were hit hardest, driving the Black homeownership rate down from 49 to just 44 percent, nearly 30 percentage points lower than the rate for white Americans.

Of course, the failure to bridge racial economic inequality is not unique to the Obama presidency. Whether under Trump, Clinton, or either Bush, there has been little to no progress in bridging the economic divide for African Americans in wealth, homeownership, and income.

This lack of progress should be a wake-up call: Bold action is necessary. That's why we're calling on President Biden to announce a White House Office of Racial Economic Equity.

This office should develop a government-wide audit to rigorously assess all significant economic

policies and programs for how they affect racial inequality. This office should also issue a public report with actionable reforms and legislative proposals for Congress.

Biden's inauguration, just two days after Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, was almost 60 years from the date when Dr. King delivered his famous "Letter from a Birmingham Jail," that bemoaned that moderation was the "Negro's great stumbling block in the stride toward freedom."

He was right. In the 21st century, we have seen Black progress go from a "stride toward freedom" to being stuck in economic apartheid. Moderate reforms by Democrats — along with often open hostility from Republicans — have corresponded with decades of failure in addressing racial economic inequality.

Biden is the the 45th white man to take the presidency. Unlike Obama, or his own vice president Kamala Harris, his inauguration did not make racial history. Still, Biden has the opportunity to do what the Obama administration and every other administration has failed to do over the last 40 years.

Opening a White House Office of Racial Economic Equity can steer the country toward greater opportunity and financial security for African Americans. It is way past due to finally "Build Back Better" for Black America.

Dedrick Asante-Muhammad is the chief of race, wealth and community at the National Community Reinvestment Coalition and an associate fellow of the Institute for Policy Studies. Tyler Bond is an intern at NCRC.

Letter to the Editor

The clock counts down from five as he crosses half court and is immediately met by his defender. Four, he crosses over and peels around the screen set by his teammate. Three, as the defensive help rushes at him, he stops, elevates, and lets the shot fly. Two, the ball rotates through the air as he watches with confidence. One, the ball tears through the bottom of the net. Zero, the fans erupt in their seats, his teammates sprint towards him to celebrate, three points are added to the scoreboard. Damian Lillard turns knowingly as he taps his wrist, Dame Time.

It's a familiar scene for Lillard fans, but less familiar is his place within the music industry as a rapper under the moniker Dame D.O.L.L.A. Though many players in the league rap, Lillard is unanimously regarded as the best, with a smooth flow constructed with impressive rhyme schemes, Dame raps like Jay Z with a Bay Area sensibility. Raised in Oakland, Calif., his roots are evident in his music. The name of his debut album, *The Letter O*, is a clever homage to his life: his upbringing in Oakland, his college years in Ogden, UT, and his professional career in Oregon. With that much thought placed into the title of an album, it's not surprising his lyrics are just as rousing, but more importantly, they're inspiring, commonly promoting a

message of positivity.

Hip hop today is dominated by ego driven, toxic masculinity and females twerking for camera time. Positive messages are rarely heard, but we've all heard of Damian Lillard. With his status he could easily make braggado-

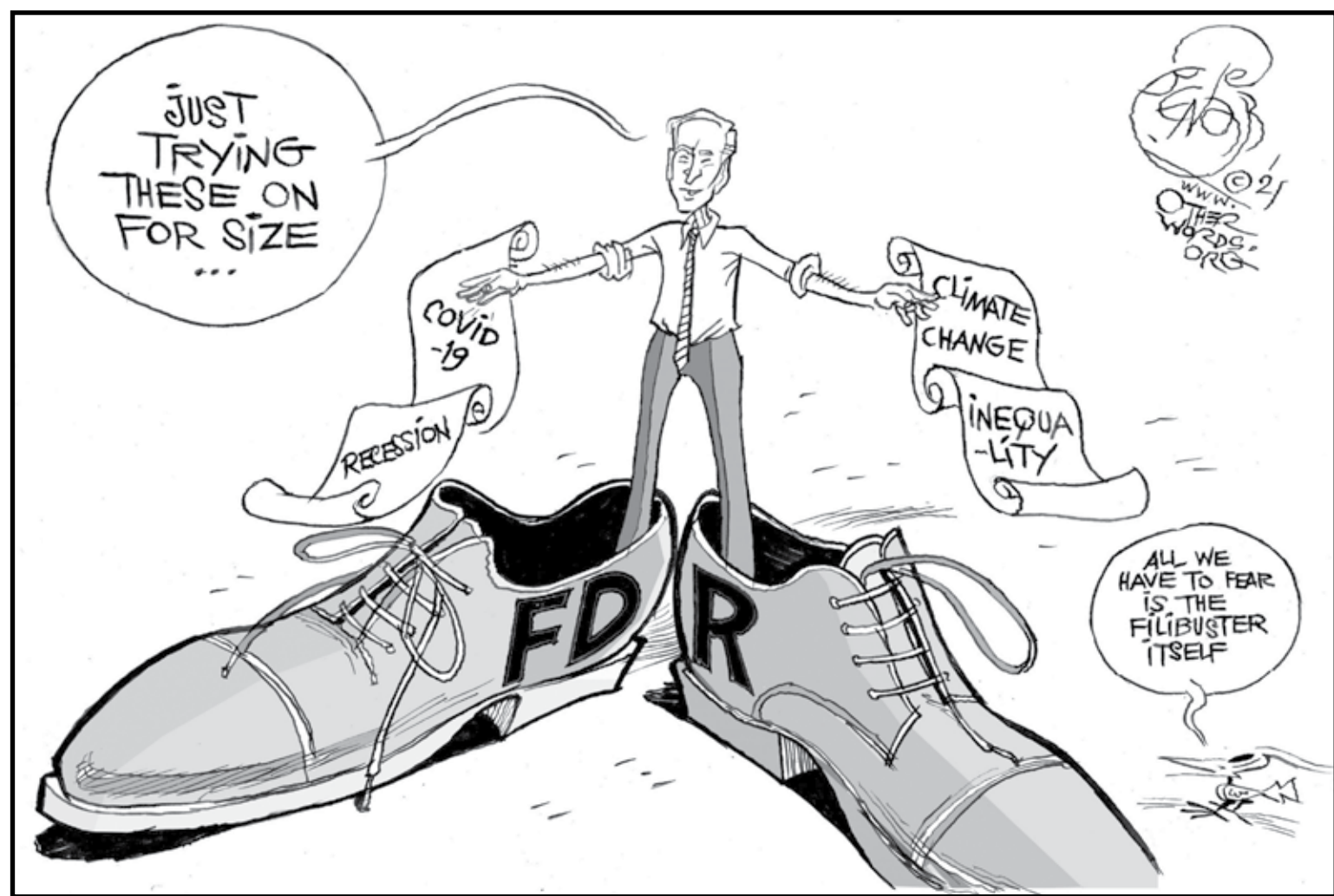
cios music, but instead he creates something uplifting. Messages of unity and humility abound as evidenced in "Loyal to the Soil", a popular track, where he raps "do a lot for others, not for credit or to soak in, but to have an impact on the direction that they go in".

Lillard's Positivity

After a tumultuous year where the divide in humanity was made obvious and society was left on shaky ground, it's important we all work towards taking a positive step forward. Whether Dame's intention was to make a positive impact or that's just his

style, it's an outlook that needs to be expressed more. We all need to stay motivated, stay humbled, and lend a compassionate hand to our brothers and sisters. We should all listen to some Dame D.O.L.L.A.

Dylan Koller, Portland





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Worship in Pink volunteers working with Susan G. Komen Oregon and Southwest Washington on breast cancer prevention in Portland's African American community gather for a group photo during a training summit in 2017.

Komen Closing Portland Operations

Breast cancer prevention group has strong community ties

After almost three decades of serving the breast cancer community from its headquarters in Portland, including developing deep bonds in the African American community, Susan G. Komen Oregon and Southwest Washington is closing its doors for good on March 31.

The decision followed an announcement by the national Susan G. Komen organization to consolidate its 61-affiliate network and all operational services to Dallas, Texas. All services and programs to Oregon and southwest Washington from Komen in the future will be provided from the national team in Dallas, officials said.

"This change is incredibly difficult," Alice Fern, the chapter's marketing and communications manager told the Portland Observer. The last day for the majority of local staff will be Feb. 19, with key staff to oversee the logistics of the consolidation and transition of local programs through March.

Last spring, in an effort to continue to serve the community as

long as possible and in preparation for the national consolidation, the local chapter closed their physical office space in downtown Portland and began to work remotely, reduced salaries, and made tough personnel changes.

"We know this change is upsetting; we deeply empathize with you," said Andrew Asato, chief executive officer for Susan G. Komen Oregon and Southwest Washington. "This organization has been a place of support, friendship, and family during some of the hardest times in our lives, and it is with a heavy heart that we deliver this news."

The local Komen team has proudly served the African American community with multiple initiatives to promote breast cancer prevention, treatment and education over its tenure in Portland. It recently celebrated its 10th anniversary of Worship in Pink, a breast cancer education program based in the Portland-metro faith-based community, mostly focused on churches historically serving

Black congregations.

Each year, since 2011, Worship in Pink has had between 25-40 participating churches of all faiths, as well as hair salons, barber shops, and community organizations helping to promote the program.

As the Komen chapter prepares its transition, it has pledged \$200,000 to eight of its community partners, including Worship in Pink and another outreach to the Black community, the African-American Initiative, to either continue the work Komen Oregon and Southwest Washington began or further enhance their own work.

After March 31, Komen national will direct the activities in the Portland area, continuing to have a presence and offer support through national programs for years to come, officials said. In addition, all money raised in the Oregon and southwest Washington region will go to Susan G. Komen in Dallas and benefit national programs and services.



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Get Paid for Firefighter Training

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

fire instructor Jeff Ennenga said. "You can help rebuild the community damaged by wildfires and gain lifelong skills."

Employment will begin April 1, followed by a 120-hour comprehensive paid certified training program. For more information, call the Workforce Development Department at 503-594-6246 or

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

The Beauty, Power of African Cinema Cascade Festival goes online during pandemic

Not even a global pandemic can stop the Cascade Festival of African Films. The beloved celebration of African cinema at Portland Community College has returned for its 31st annual run, with screenings now through March 10, and for the first time presented entirely online at africanfilmfestival.org.

"While we can't gather in person this year, I know that the beauty and power of these films will bring us together even in virtual space," said festival director Tracy Francis.

Free and open to the public, the longest-running African film festival in the United States this year features a curated collection of 25 films by African directors from more than 15 nations, live interviews with filmmakers, community conversations, and a virtual marketplace of local vendors and more.

"Obviously, films are meant to be enjoyed in a theater, and our festival is meant to bring fans of African film together from across our region, but I think this year's unique circumstances will make this a festival to remember," Francis added. "People will be able to watch from the safety of their own homes, and our online format will be able to reach fans of African cinema anywhere in the world."

The festival kicked off last Friday with the film "You Will Die at Twenty," a visually stunning masterpiece from Sudan, and for the first time ever will close out its run with a drive-in screening of "Farewell Amor" at 7 p.m., Saturday, March 6. Attendees



The epic historical drama "Hero," based on a West Indian man born in Trinidad who was a World War II hero and an activist for African Independence movements, highlights one of the 25 on-line films featured at this year's Cascade Festival of African Films.



Inspired by true events, "Subira" tells the story of a free-spirited young Kenyan girl and her fisherman father who opens her young mind to a world of possibilities that extends beyond the single role that her strict Islamic culture has consigned to her as a woman: marriage.

will be able to enjoy the throw-back fun of a drive-in movie while remaining socially distant within their own vehicles.

Other film highlights include "The Ghost and the House of Truth," a thriller from Nigeria by festival favorite Akin Amotoso; the epic historical drama

"Hero," highlighting the pan-African movement; "When We're Born," an uplifting musical from Egypt; and an imaginative surreal journey from Angola, "Air Conditioner."

Visit africanfilmfestival.org for a full calendar of films and director appearances.

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CALL FOR BIDS

CITY OF CAMAS PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

CITY PROJECT NO. T1030

NW 12TH AVENUE IMPROVEMENTS

(NW 12th Ave from NW Benton St to Division St)

Sealed bids will be received by the City of Camas, Administrative Services, 616 NE 4th Avenue, Camas, Washington, until 10:00 A.M., on Wednesday, February 24, 2021, and will then and there be publicly read for the construction of the improvement.

All Bid Proposals shall be accompanied by a Bid Proposal deposit in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or surety bond in an amount equal to five percent (5%) of the amount of such Bid Proposal. Should the successful Bidder fail to enter into such contract and furnish satisfactory performance bond within the time stated in the most recent version of the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) Standard Specifications for Road, Bridge, and Municipal Construction (standard specifications), the Bid Proposal deposit shall be forfeited to the City of Camas.

Free-of-charge access to project bid documents (plans, specifications, addenda, and Bidders List) is provided to Prime Bidders, Subcontractors, and Vendors by going to Builders Exchange of Washington (BXWA) at www.bxwa.com and clicking on "Posted Projects", "Public Works", and "City of Camas". This online plan room provides Bidders with fully usable online documents with the ability to: download, view, print, order full/partial plan sets from numerous reprographic sources, and a free online digitizer/take-off tool. It is recommended that Bidders "Register" in order to receive automatic email notification of future addenda and to place themselves on the "Self-Registered Bidders List". Bidders that do not register will not be automatically notified of addenda and will need to periodically check the on-line plan room for addenda issued on this project. **ELIGIBLE BIDDERS MUST BE LISTED ON THE SELF-REGISTERED BIDDERS LIST. INELIGIBLE BIDS SHALL BE RETURNED TO BIDDERS UNOPENED.** Contact Builders Exchange of Washington at (425)258-1303 should you require assistance with access or registration. Hard copies of the bid documents can be purchased using the BXWA Online Print Ordering System. Contact Ronda Syverson, City of Camas, at (360)817-7256 or rsyverson@cityofcamas.us with any questions related to obtaining bid documents.

The improvement for which bids will be received follows:

Bid opening on Wednesday February 24, 2021, at 10:00 A.M. at the Camas City Hall Front Steps located at 616 NE 4th Avenue, Camas, Washington 98607. Sealed bids will be received by the City of Camas Administrative Services (in front of City Hall), 616 NE 4th Avenue, Camas, Washington 98607, until 10:00 A.M.

Statement of Work:

This contract covers work to be performed on NW 12th Avenue (from NW Benton St. to Division St). The work includes construction of 535 LF of 8" D.I.P. water main and 1" copper water services, removal of existing asphalt pavement and cement treatment of road base; removal and installation of concrete sidewalk, curb ramps, traffic curb, and asphalt pavement; traffic control and any other related items.

For questions, please contact Allen Westersund, (360) 448-9903 or awestersund@cityofcamas.us at the City of Camas.

The Contractor is obligated to pay the higher of the two wage rates determined by the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries Prevailing Wages, Rates for Clark County, effective February 24, 2021, Davis Bacon General Decision Number: WA20210001, effective January 22, 2021.

Project Funding:

This project is financed through the Community Development Block Grant Program with funds obtained from the U.S. Department of Housing and

Urban Development. The contract will be subject to regulations of the Departments of Labor and Housing and Urban Development.

Attention is called to Federal provisions for Equal Employment Opportunity, HUD Section 3 requirements, and the minimum wages as set forth in the contract documents

American Made:

In an effort to maximize the creation of American jobs and restoring economic growth, the City of Camas encourages the use of products and services that are made in the United States of America whenever and wherever possible.

Disadvantaged Businesses:

The City of Camas encourages the solicitation and recruitment, to the extent possible, of certified minority-owned (MBE), women-owned (WBE), emerging small (ESB) businesses, and other disadvantaged companies in the construction of this project.

Civil Rights Act:

The City of Camas is an Equal Employment Opportunity employer.

The City of Camas, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252, 42 U.S.C. §§ 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, all contractors will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of the owner's race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, income-level, or Limited English Proficiency in consideration for an award.

The Contractor will comply with all federal, state and local laws prohibiting discrimination on the basis of age, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, race, creed, color, national origin, disability, or familial status. These requirements are specified in Section 109 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 USC Section 5309); Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title VII (42 USC Section 2000e); Civil Rights Act of 1968, Title VIII (Fair Housing Act) (42 USC Sections 3601 - 3639); Executive Order 11063 (Equal Opportunity in Housing); Executive Order 11246, as amended (Equal Employment Opportunity); Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 (42 USC 4151, et seq.); Americans with Disabilities Act (42 U.S.C. 12101, et seq.); and Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968, and 24 CFR 570.601.

The Contractor will not discriminate against any resident of the project service area by denying benefit from or participation in any block grant funded activity on the basis of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, age, marital status and familial status. (Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title VI; Civil Rights Act of 1968, Title VII; Architectural Barriers Act of 1968; Americans with Disabilities Act; Section 109, Housing and Community Development Act of 1974; Section 504, Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended).

E-Verify Requirements:

Per City of Camas Ordinance No. 2626, as a condition for the award or renewal of any contract after January 1, 2012, the Contractor shall enroll in the E-Verify program through the United States Department of Homeland Security and thereafter shall provide the City with a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (issued by Homeland Security), submitted with their bid proposal, affirming their enrollment and participation in the program. The Contractor shall be required to continue their participation in the program throughout the course of their contract with the City. Prime contractors shall require and verify that each of their subcontractors and lower tiered subcontractors are also enrolled and participants in the E-Verify program. This is intended to be used exclusively for employees hired after award and for the duration of the contract with the City of Camas. Please go to the Engineering page of the City

of Camas web site at www.cityofcamas.us for additional information and to view Ordinance No. 2626.

E-Verify, is an Internet based system operated by the Department of Homeland Security in partnership with the Social Security Administration at no charge. E-Verify has been determined to be a suitable means for determining employment eligibility of new hires and the validity of their Social Security numbers. Please visit the Department of Homeland Security's web site at <http://www.dhs.gov/index.shtm> and select E-Verify to learn more or to enroll in this program.

Indemnification:

The Contractor shall defend, indemnify and hold the City of Camas, its officers, officials, employees and volunteers harmless from any and all claims, injuries, damages, losses or suits including attorney fees, arising out of or in connection with the performance of this Agreement, except for injuries and damages caused by the sole negligence of the City of Camas.

However, should a court of competent jurisdiction determine that this Agreement is subject to RCW 4.24.115, then in the event of liability for damages arising out of bodily injury to persons or damages to property caused by or resulting from the concurrent negligence of the Contractor and the City, its officers, officials, employees, and volunteers, the Contractor's liability hereunder shall be only to the extent of the Contractor's negligence. It is further specifically and expressly understood that the indemnification provided herein constitutes the Contractor's waiver of immunity under Industrial Insurance, Title 51 RCW, solely for the purposes of this indemnification. This waiver has been mutually negotiated by the parties. The provisions of this section shall survive the expiration or termination of this Agreement.

Insurance Requirements:

The Contractor shall obtain and keep in force the following policies of insurance, unless otherwise indicated in the bid documents. Automobile Liability of \$1,000,000 covering all owned, non-owned, hired, and leased vehicles; Commercial General Liability of \$2,000,000 single limit and \$2,000,000 aggregate; and, if applicable, Professional Liability insurance of \$1,000,000.

This document and all associated public records will be released where required by the Public Records Act, Chapter 42.56 RCW (the "Act"). To the extent that public records then in the custody of the Contractor are needed for the City to respond to a request under the Act, as determined by the City, the Contractor agrees to make them promptly available to the City. If the Contractor considers any portion of any record provided to the City under this Agreement, whether in electronic or hard copy form, to be protected from disclosure under law, the Contractor shall clearly identify any specific information that it claims to be confidential or proprietary. If the City receives a request under the Act to inspect or copy the information so identified by the Contractor and the City determines that release of the information is required by the Act or otherwise appropriate, the City's sole obligation shall be to notify the Contractor (a) of the request and (b) of the date that such information will be released to the requester unless the Contractor obtains a court order to enjoin that disclosure pursuant to RCW 42.56.540. If the Contractor fails to timely obtain a court order enjoining disclosure, the City will release the requested information on the date specified.

The City of Camas expressly reserves the right to reject any or all Proposals and to waive minor irregularities or informalities and to Award the Project to the lowest responsive, responsible bidder as it best serves the interests of the City.

Jennifer Gorsuch
City Clerk

Brady, Defense Propel Super Bowl Win

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

Rookie safety Antoine Winfield Jr., and second-year linebacker Devin White had the team's sixth and seventh interceptions of the postseason, and the Bucs limited Kansas City's high-scoring offense

to 350 yards and no touchdowns.

Coach Bruce Arians credited defensive coordinator Todd Bowles' game plan, which mixed and tried to disguise coverages and force Mahomes to hold the ball long enough for Tampa Bay's pass rushers to make the Chiefs' quarterback un-

comfortable.

At 25 and coming off his first Super Bowl win, Mahomes had Chiefs fans thinking this would be the beginning of a dynasty. It still could be. But this year, Brady reminded everyone why he's the undeniable standard at the position and in this game.



Social Media Venture Emerges

Platform grounded to Portland community

Celebrity scoops and talented performances by the local Black community are coming into greater focus thanks to the rise of an online platform called P-Town Media (ptownmedia.com).

Founded by Asa Spade (Pritchard), the entertainment news and performance site aspires to be the heart, ears and mind of the city of Portland.

"Portland has long felt the absence of a holistic platform that can bring in all the updated reports on the latest city buzz. Such a crisis inspired us to launch P-Town Media to tap into the pulse of what is happening across the city and bring all the insights right at your fingertips," Spade said.

The platform features a TV section showcasing talented African-American performers in Portland, shining a light on the city's indie artists.

"We aim to be 'the' destination for Portland Black excellence. There are many untapped



Rashod White, Jayvin Harper and Asa Spade are the Portland creators behind an entertainment and celebrity social media venture called P-Town Media.

talents across the city that cannot make it big given lack of exposure. We are committed to bring them that needed large exposure by featuring their promising performances on our portal. We are here to boost local African-American talents and push the rich culture and heritage of Portland before the world," Spade said.

The local entrepreneur is further committed to bringing exposure to the gourmet restaurants run by the African-American community in the city. In that light, the site houses a special section where it offers a highly curated list of the best of Black-owned eateries around.

For information about P-Town Media, visit ptownmedia.com.

CLASSIFIED/BIDS

At **Multnomah County Health Department**, we take pride in improving the health and well being of the community. It takes diverse staff to help facilitate that understanding and take action. We need you to bring your unique perspective and experience to our team! We're currently hiring a **Health Policy Analyst Senior** with African American/Black cultural competency.

This position will manage policy development that leads to racial equity by redressing the leading causes of preventable illness and death using a combination of change strategies. This position will serve as the African American/Black community policy specialist on behalf of the Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion unit by providing a high level of equity based research, detailed data analysis, advocacy, development/engagement and outreach regarding public health policies, related strategies, and socio-economic issues.

If you are interested in learning more and applying, please visit the job posting here: https://multco.wd1.myworkdayjobs.com/Multco_Jobs/job/Northeast-Portland/Health-Policy-Analyst-Senior--African-American-Black-Culture-KSA_R-4340

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

METRO

Safety Consultation Services

RFP 3898

Bid Date: March 2, 2021 at 2:00 pm (PST)

Metro is inviting proposals for Safety Consultation Services.

Electronic proposals only are due no later than March 2, 2021 at 2:00 pm (PST) to <http://bidlocker.us/a/oregonmetro/BidLocker>. Details are provided in the solicitation document.

Metro operates two solid waste transfer stations, two household hazardous materials recycling centers, a latex paint recycling center. As such, Metro has contracted for safety, health and environmental services to supplement the efforts of the in-house safety staff. Contracted services have included; hazardous waste and emergency response operations training (HAZWOPER), with annual refresher with emergency response drills and incident command training. Contractors have also provided asbestos awareness training and industrial hygiene services to include; noise levels monitoring, potential employee exposure monitoring, and the evaluation of emissions sources for new and existing process equipment.

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

Metro may accept or reject any or all proposals, 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 and emerging small businesses to access and participate in this and all Metro projects, programs and services.

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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