



**Positive Body Images
Brand Formed**
*Fashions always
an interest to local
entrepreneur*
See story, page 5



Clocks Spring Forward



*Daylight Savings
Time begins Sunday
when clocks move
ahead 1 hour.*



PO QR code

The Portland Observer

Volume XLVV • Number 5



'City
of
Roses'

www.portlandobserver.com
Wednesday • March 10, 2021

Committed to Cultural Diversity



Wearing a mask and pointing to his watch in a "Dame Time" pose, Portland's Damian Lillard is depicted in a new Portland mural to remind people to wear masks in solidarity against COVID-19. The artwork at Northeast 28th and Alberta was created by Portland artist and muralist Kyle Holbrook who poses in front of his creation.

Mask Up Portland Mural reminder to wear masks

A new Portland mural with the likeness of Damian Lillard has the Blazers All Star guard wearing a mask and checking his watch in one of his celebrated "Dame Time" poses, a public service message to remind people

to keep wearing masks to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

The creation by Portland artist and muralist Kyle Holbrook was recently unveiled on the side of a building

at Northeast 28th and Alberta. It was sponsored by the Moving Lives of Kids mural project, which put out similar messages in 18 cities across the country to continue to wear masks in the battle against COVID-19.

In-Person Learning by Month's End Schools called back with new COVID protocols

(AP) – Gov. Kate Brown and legislative leaders announced Monday that they plan to spend up to \$325 million in state and federal money to help fill the gaps in students' pandemic-year learning with summer programs.



Oregon Gov. Kate Brown boards a school bus to observe how teachers and staff were preparing for the return of in-person learning. The governor has issued a new executive order mandating that all public schools provide universal access to in-person learning by the month's end for students up to fifth grade and by mid-April for older students. (AP photo)

The largest expenditure will be \$90 million for grants that will add summer enrichment activities for students in grades K-8. Another \$72 million will be for grants districts can use to help high school students catch up over

the summer.

Last week, Brown issued a new executive order man-

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Portland senior Barbara Bender answers the door for non-profit Store to Door employee Nancy Murphy as she delivers an order of groceries and information about how to get vaccinated for COVID-19. Nonprofits, churches and health care outreach workers are scrambling to reach older people who are falling through the cracks in efforts to receive a COVID-19 vaccine. (AP photo)

COVID Vaccines Allotted for Seniors

Oregon Convention Center gears up for 45,000 doses

The Oregon Health Authority says that at least 45,000 COVID-19 vaccine doses will be allotted specifically for Portland metro area seniors over the next three weeks at the Oregon Convention Center.

One key is getting people 65 and older to register their name on the Get Vaccinated Oregon website,

getvaccinated.oregon.gov. That starts a process where the person will receive an email or a call to set up their vaccine appointment. Younger people and others not yet eligible for a vaccine will be notified when the criteria for appointments opens to other groups.

It's all part of new process set up in partnership with All4Oregon, a

COVID-19 mass vaccination site created with the collaboration and leadership of Kaiser Permanente, Legacy Health, OHSU, and Providence.

By combining vaccine supply, as well as the doctors, nurses, and clinical staff, health care providers

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

High School Student Highlight

Senior excels toward graduation

Zoe Holman, a senior at Franklin High School graduating this year, is striving to be the best she can even during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Zoe got her early education at Creston Elementary, a K through 8th grade school, but was able to skip the 7th grade because she was so advanced in her studies. She has carried a 4 point GPA all the way from her middle school years to high school.

At Franklin, she has served as an assistant leader of the Black Student Union and played volleyball and tennis. Right before the



Zoe Holman, Franklin High School senior pandemic, she also got a part time job and is currently working and doing online school.

Zoe plans on continuing her education in Oregon and trying to pursue her dream job of working in the film industry. She has already created a film with other Franklin students on the Open Signal Media You Tube channel. She also interviewed two students at Kelly Elementary school in regards to Black Excellence in Portland.

Congratulations Zoe!

The Week in Review

Feds Dismiss Protest Charges

It was reported last week that federal prosecutors have dismissed more than one-third of cases stemming from last summer's violent protests in downtown Portland when protesters clashed with federal agents. The dismissals run counter to the tough talk coming from U.S. Department of Justice last summer.

Arson Fire at PPS Headquarters

An arson fire on Saturday at the Portland Public Schools administration building on North Dixon Street is under investigation. At about 3:15 a.m., Portland Fire and Rescue encountered three PPS vehicles on fire in a parking garage. Preliminary information is that the suspect or suspects gained entry to a fenced area on the property, started the fires, and vandalized the building.

Remembering Vernon Jordan

Vernon Jordan, who rose from humble beginnings in the segregated South to become a champion of civil rights, died March 1 at the age of 85. The former head of the National Urban League and the United Negro College Fund was the face of Black America's modern struggle for jobs and justice.



Harry and Meghan Tell All

Prince Harry and his American wife Meghan rocked the British monarch Sunday with a litany of devastating allegations in their eagerly awaited interview with Oprah Winfrey. The couple painted a picture of a royal family so stubbornly rooted in its ways that it left a young, bi-racial couple alone to fend off racist abuse and their own troubled mental health.



All Star Greatness

Damian Lillard added another shot to his resume of clutch moments during Sunday's NBA All-Star Game when he hit a halfcourt three to seal a 170-150 win for Team LeBron over Team Durant. Lillard finished the game with 32 points, the most by a Blazers player in an all-star game. In addition, third-year Blazers guard Anfernee Simons won the Slam Dunk Contest.

Quanice Hayes Settlement

The city of Portland is poised to pay \$2 million to the family of Quanice Hayes, a Black teenager who was shot and killed by Portland police four years ago as they were looking for a burglary suspect. Lawyers for the family argued that Hayes, 17, was not a threat when killed while on his knees unarmed and moving forward in an effort to lie prone on the ground in response to officer commands.



Trial Begins in Floyd Death

The trial of a former Minneapolis police officer charged in George Floyd's death forged ahead with jury selection Tuesday. A looming appellate ruling, however, delayed the proceedings and could halt the case for weeks or even months as the state tries to add a third-degree murder count against the officer.

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

Black Health Matters

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FOOD



LOCAL NEWS

Madison Renamed

Leodis V. McDaniel was a beloved Portland educator

Portland Public Schools is renaming Madison High School as Leodis V. McDaniel High School for a well-known and admired black educator who died in 1987 while serving as principal of the northeast Portland school.

The unanimous decision last week by the Portland School Board followed the recommendation of the Madison school community and a recommendation by the district superintendent.

McDaniel, a Black man who served as the school's principal in the 1980s, earned praise for embracing his administrative duties with the singular purpose of fairness to all. He was said to be well-known for his kind demeanor, contagious laugh, absolute integrity, and his instinctual ability to deeply connect with all people.

The new name will become active this coming fall when the school is scheduled to open in a newly remodeled building. The school was originally named after James Madison, the fourth U.S. president, when it was founded in 1957. But Madison's ties to slavery were cited as reasons for the



Leodis V. McDaniel at Madison High School in the 1980s. The northeast Portland school will be renamed Leodis V. McDaniel High School in honor of the highly respected Black educator who died in 1987.

name change under a new district policy that takes into account the district's desire to eliminate systemic racism and discrimination.

The high school formed a renaming committee that engaged in several community outreach efforts and gathered nearly 2,500 comments to consider a new name

that fits the schools' stated values of community, respect, education, equity and diversity (CREED).

Prior to becoming principal at Madison, McDaniel worked as a science teacher at MacLaren School for Boys, a counselor at

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Hardesty Subject of False Report

Police say she was not involved in recent hit-and-run

BY MICHAEL LEIGHTON
PORTLAND OBSERVER EDITOR

Mayor Ted Wheeler has called for a formal review into the events surrounding a report of an alleged hit-and-run crash on a Portland street that falsely named Portland City Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty as a suspect.

"What happened to Commissioner Hardesty is wrong and unacceptable," Mayor Wheeler said. "It's a reflection of broader systemic racism and it must be addressed. We need to get to the bottom of it as soon as possible. No one should be subjected to false accusations publicly."

Hardesty, a lifelong champion for police accountability in Port-



Jo Ann Hardesty

land, and the city's first Black female member of the City Council, was relieved to see the truth prevail, but said she was frustrated by the unnecessary burden put on her office to disprove a completely false accusation.

"Now the Portland Police Bureau has admitted what we knew all along – I was not involved in any way with any hit and run incident and am not a suspect. While I am relieved to see the truth pre-

vail, this incident brings up a number of urgent questions," she said. "How did this false information get leaked to the Oregonian and fringe right wing media groups?"

Hardesty called on those who made the accusations to take responsibility and apologize, "I hope those that brought this harm to me and my office today will feel compelled to do the same."

Earlier she called the allegations a partisan spear campaign involving a prominent Republican and other opponents to her demands for more police accountability.

"I'm telling you today, these allegations are false, and to be frank, these allegations are very suspicious," Hardesty said.

In a podcast on Thursday morning from the Coalition to Save Portland, a pro-police group and posted to Facebook, Jeff Reynolds, a former chair of the Multi-

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Madison Renamed

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Adams High School, and then as vice-principal at Madison. He was one of only a handful of Black High school principals in Oregon in the 1980s and was tasked with leading Madison through desegregating and bussing.

"His sudden death in 1987 left the Portland community reeling and his school heartbroken," the renaming committee said.

To this day, McDaniel's impact

lives on with a \$10,000 annual scholarship in his name awarded to a senior at the school who has struggled.

The renaming also marks the second time this year the board voted to change a school's name.

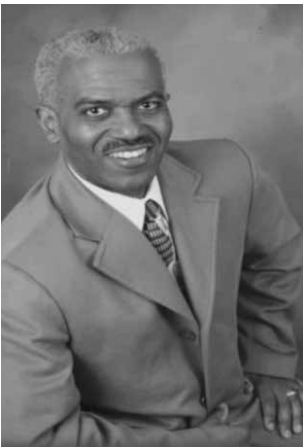
In January, Woodrow Wilson High School in southwest Portland was renamed after Ida B. Wells-Barnett, a Black investigative journalist and activist who was born into slavery during the Civil War in 1862.



PHOTO COURTESY
MULTNOMAH COUNTY
COMMUNICATIONS

Bishop Stewart Minnieweather was the first to get his COVID-19 vaccine during a community clinic last Friday, Feb. 19.

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BIPOC-focused Vaccine Clinic Held

Hundreds of seniors turned out for COVID shots

Multnomah County's Communicable Disease program teamed up with the REACH Program, Highland Haven and community part-

ners to vaccinate nearly 400 seniors in the county's first large event for elders in communities experiencing the highest rates of COVID-19 infection, hospitalization and death.

The Feb. 19 clinic at the Highland Christian Center, a historically Black and diverse congregation in east Portland, focused on providing free and low-barrier COVID-19

vaccines to elders 70 and older from Black and African American, immigrant and refugee, indigenous and other communities of color.

Eligible residents had to sign up for slots and complete a health screening before arriving at the clinic. At the door, specially assigned

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

Hardesty Subject of False Report

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

nomah County Republican Party and two others, Angela Todd and Gabriel Johnson, reported "breaking news" of a hit-and-run they said came from Portland Police.

The trio were gleeful to report Hardesty's alleged involvement, repeating the allegations as fact and not offering much respect or

credit for her history of navigating for police reforms on behalf of the Black community and others.

Hardesty made clear she could not be a suspect in an auto wreck, because she has not driven for months, as her car has been disabled and parked in the same spot for the last six months with a dead battery.

"As you all know, I use Lyft when I'm going somewhere I

can't walk," said Hardesty. "I've become an avid pedestrian since the COVID-19 pandemic began."

"When you have taken on police accountability issues for as long as I have, you come to expect these kinds of attacks. I've experienced them in the past, and I expect I will continue to experience them in the future," the city commissioner concluded.

In-Person Learning by Month's End

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

dating that all K-12 public schools provide universal access to in-person learning by the month's end for students up to fifth grade and by mid-April for older students.

The state's coronavirus case numbers have fallen sharply in recent weeks, allowing greater

access to the classroom under COVID-19 prevention protocols.

State education officials have until March 19 to revise their guidelines for in-person instruction to help districts facilitate the return of students, Brown said.

"It's very positive and definitively a step in the right direction — and frankly, it's about time. Clearly, it's been hard for districts to figure out what's going to be best for their students, and it's taken a long time," said Katie Chrisman, who has a child each in elementary school, middle school and high school in the Portland suburbs.

Her children "haven't had a ton of suffering, but they're definitely not thriving — and for me, that's been the biggest concern," she said.

Rylee Ahnen, spokesman for the Oregon Education Association, the state's largest public school employees union, said in a statement that teachers support returning to the classroom if it can be done safely.

The union understands the frustrations of both school districts and parents, he said, as everyone navigates how to return to class. He added that most districts were already planning to some sort of in-person learning in the coming weeks.

"We hear, understand, and share the frustration expressed by many in our communities about the uncertainty this pandemic has caused for our public education system," he said.

The union represents 44,000 K-12 teachers across Oregon.

Oregon started vaccinating teachers in January ahead of seniors, but the state health department can't say for sure how many educators have been vaccinated because it does not track the profession of recipients. The union also could not say what percentage of teachers have received the vaccine.

Portland Public Schools, the state's largest district with 49,000 students in 81 schools, was already planning to bring elementary students back in April.



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Positive Body Images Brand Formed

Fashions always an interest to local entrepreneur

The Portland metro area has a new mobile clothing business boutique that can bring fashions promoting a positive self body image directly to your door.

Faith Brown is the chief executive officer and owner of LadyLike LLC, a clothing line business on wheels that pledges to deliver everything you need from the latest trends to celebrity-inspired looks, to everyday staples and that ultimate party piece.

"We believe style should be accessible to all, whatever your budget or body type," Brown told the Portland Observer.

"I've always been into fashion for as long as I can remember," she said. "Throughout my school days, I always wanted to dress differently, and wear things that were not as appealing to others, which is one of the main reasons why I think I always stood out."

Launched last summer, the LadyLike boutique



Faith Brown has formed her own mobile clothing line boutique called LadyLike LLC on the foundation of promoting positive self body image. "We believe style should be accessible to all, whatever your budget or body type."

caters to all women, from dresses to lounge wear, from sizes XS to XXXXL.

"I made sure to include all sizes for women with different shapes. I want to make sure that all of these ladies know that every body is beautiful," the new chief executive officer and founder explained.

Brown also gives credit to her friend TyAn-

na Paschall for helping her with marketing and branding.

As a mobile boutique, business transactions can take place everywhere. The turnaround time for inquiries online are usually 24-48 hours, 7 days a week. For more information, and to reach Brown, visit Ladylikellc.com, call 971-295-6865 or email Lady20Like20@gmail.com.

Supporting Oregonians

COPING WITH PROBLEM GAMBLING

It's no secret that things aren't normal right now. Even with brighter days on the horizon, we all still have added stress for a variety of reasons. While we can all get outdoors for a breath of fresh air, we still need to be aware of appropriate precautions. 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.

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For more information, visit **OPGR.ORG**
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PROBLEM GAMBLING AWARENESS MONTH
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Elevating Racial Justice and Police Reforms

Governor hires new public safety director

Oregon Gov. Kate Brown is elevating the pursuit of racial justice and police accountability reforms by her appointment of a Black law enforcement officer to lead the state office of Public Safety Standards and Training.

Officials said Jerry Granderson will begin his new duties on March 22 after nearly 23 years of service with the FBI, most recently in Illinois where he also served as an FBI academy instructor focused on leadership, ethics and contemporary policing courses.

"His background in law enforcement and public safety—with a blend of field, training, program management, and leadership experience—makes him uniquely suited for this position," Brown said in a statement.

"I look forward to his leadership, especially as we work collaboratively to improve the training and certification of Oregon law enforcement officers and as we answer the resounding calls from Oregonians for much-needed racial justice and police accountability reforms," Brown said.

Police training is currently under heightened scrutiny amid a



Jerry Granderson

social movement to reform law enforcement in the wake of the 2020 police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

Oregon's public safety director oversees an agency budget of over \$55 million and works with a board to develop training and certification/licensing standards for more than 41,000 public and private safety professionals. The position carries an annual base salary of \$162,216, according to the governor's office.

The agency certifies and li-

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Black Media Host Achieves New Heights

Tra'Renee Chambers to produce Sunday talk show

In celebration of Black History Month and Women's History Month, Tra'Renee Chambers, an Emmy Award-winning television and radio host, will officially launch her own weekly televised show on Sundays on KATU-TV, Channel 2.

"Situations & Conversations with Tra'Renee," is the name for the new 4:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. broadcast, debuting this Sunday, March 14 and believed to be the first Portland news, entertainment and public affairs TV show to be hosted and produced by an African American woman.

Chambers said her goal is to address racial justice issues, give voice to topics of the underserved and communities of color and inspire the community to elevate its consciousness with what she calls her "Five E's": Elevate, Educate, Empower, Enlighten and Entertain. The new show initially launched on YouTube on Feb. 4. In addition to airing on KATU, the program will also be available on YouTube, Facebook and Instagram.

Chambers was formerly the host of KATU's weekday lifestyle program "Afternoon Live" from its debut in September 2016 until August 2020. During that time, she was the only African American



Portland media host Tra'Renee Chambers has launched her own weekly TV show on KATU Channel 2 starting Sunday, March 14 at 4:30 p.m.

woman to host a TV talk show in Oregon and won an Emmy for Best TV Host. As she moves ahead to a new show, she plans to continue to speak with purpose and elevate and entertain every step of the way.

"As an African American woman in the Portland market, I have always wanted to use my platform to give voice to the underserved and the disenfranchised. Combining my expertise as a licensed social worker with my roles in TV and radio, provides me with a unique opportunity to empower, educate and enlighten the community," she said.

"This has been a lifetime focus of mine that comes from, and is influenced by, the racism my Grandmother faced in her lifetime, the racism my father has faced and the racism my family and I have faced. The Black Lives Matter movement of 2020 thankfully elevated these issues to the national forefront, but these are not new issues to me or my family."



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Vaccine Clinic

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

navigators helped guests sign in, complete further screenings, answer questions, and provide any needed interpreter services.

From there, nurses and paramedics administered the vaccine doses. Meanwhile, other medical staff watched over all of the newly vaccinated people for a short observational period, usually 15 to 30 minutes.

Joyce Harris, a retired teacher and lifelong community activist, was among the first to receive her vaccine Friday morning.

Minutes after arriving, Harris and her husband had already received their shots and were sitting in the observation area, waiting to head home.

The past year has been rough for

them, Harris says. She spends much of her time in community service, volunteering with nonprofits and serving on community boards. And month after month, she feels like she spends every waking hour on Zoom.

African American people experience higher rates of disease, hospitalization and death from COVID-19. But the rapid pace of vaccine development, coupled with a history of racism in healthcare, have made some people wary of being among the first to get the shot.

It was the first culturally specific clinic REACH helped organize, and McGee said she was proud and inspired by the enthusiasm of the Public Health team who work long hours to stand up many other community vaccine clinics throughout the week.

Thanks to the Multnomah County communications team for this story.

COVID Vaccines Allotted for Seniors

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

have created a structure for providing available vaccine to eligible Oregonians in the greater Portland metro area.

Not everyone who is eligible will be able to get vaccinated right away, but the appointments are filled as quickly as supply allows.

Seniors in Clackamas, Colum-

bia, Multnomah and Washington counties who have registered already through the Get Vaccinated Oregon tool should keep an eye on their email inboxes and check all folders, including spam and trash, officials said.

The state expects to have enough doses on hand for 70% of adult Oregonians to receive their first dose by April 21.



PHOTO BY BEV STANDISH

Since its founding in 1924, the Portland Youth Philharmonic has provided young musicians with a challenging opportunity to explore their creativity while receiving the highest quality music education possible.

Supporting Young Musicians

The inspiring accomplishments of young musicians from Portland will be front and center when the Portland Youth Philharmonic hosts its annual “Meet the Musicians” breakfast fundraiser, a virtual event this year because of COVID-19 safety protocols.

Friends, supporters, and alumni of the youth orchestra will gather online on Wednesday, March 17 at 8 a.m. for the live stream presentation, which will include a world premiere performance of Chicago-based composer James Stephenson’s *Green* by the group’s chamber orchestra, Camerata PYP. Tune in by visiting portlandyouthphil.org/breakfast.

A few weeks later on Saturday, April 10, the Youth Philharmonic will present another virtual performance, PYPFEST Vol. 2: *The Orchestra Strikes Back*, a premiere of Stephenson’s full Suite of Suites, alongside nine other new compositions from other musicians.

On Saturday, June 5, 2021, the orchestra will conclude its 97th season with PYPFEST Vol. 3: *Return of the Orchestra*, premiering another 9 new compositions, including from PYP alumnus Kevin Walczyk.

E-tickets to the April and June performances are now available on a “pay what you can” fee structure at portlandyouthphil.org/concerts.

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



PHOTO COURTESY ANDREA LONAS PHOTOGRAPHY

The civil rights exhibit ‘Nevertheless, They Persisted: Women’s Voting Rights and the 19th Amendment’ draws visitors to the Oregon Historical Society in downtown Portland.

COVID Protocols at Museum

Special hours are also planned for Spring Break

The Oregon Historical Society has re-opened its downtown museum and museum store on weekends until further notice. The facility will also open for special hours during the week of Oregon’s spring break, Tuesday, March 23 through Sunday, March 28.

Following the guidance and requirements of the Oregon Health Authority for indoor entertainment establishments, the historical society venue has implemented important safety protocols for the health

of its staff and visitors.

The museum is currently featuring the civil rights exhibit “Nevertheless, They Persisted: Women’s Voting Rights and the 19th Amendment,” as a marquee event through Dec. 5.

“Experience Oregon” a permanent exhibit, allows visitors to learn about the countless people, places, and events that have shaped Oregon. A full schedule of upcoming virtual programs is also available by visiting ohs.org/events.

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PHOTO COURTESY VANCOUVER PARKS AND RECREATION

Volunteers from the Black community, the Boys and Girls Clubs of Southwest Washington and Vancouver Urban Youth Program, close out Black History Month by planting trees at Bagley Community Park.

Cultivating Community Pride

Tree plantings honor legacy of Black leaders

Black History Month was celebrated in Vancouver with tree plantings at Bagley Community Park.

Volunteers from the Black community, Boys & Girls Clubs of Southwest Washington and the city's Urban Youth program, worked in small groups on Feb. 27 to plant 24 trees while follow-

ing COVID-19 safety guidelines. They were joined by Vancouver Mayor Anne McEnerny-Ogle, Urban Forestry Commissioner Clif Barnes and Parks and Recreation Advisory Commissioner Matthew Kuntz.

The annual tree planting event began in 2006 and honors the legacy of many Black American lead-

ers by encouraging civic engagement and cultivating community pride. This year's ceremony began with an acknowledgement recognizing the Cowlitz and Chinook tribes. Vancouver Parks and Recreation Special Events Coordinator and Urban Youth leader Johnie Tucker also shared a brief history of George Washington Bush, a

Black pioneer who was one of the earliest permanent settlers in the Washington Territory.

In addition to aesthetic improvements, increasing the urban tree canopy helps the environment by off-setting carbon dioxide produced by cities, and the root systems that trees develop are useful in stormwater management.

OPINION

Sugarcoating America's Shameful History

Truth of our history has been written in blood

BY OSCAR H. BLAYTON

The American news media constantly reminds us that the false narrative by Donald Trump and his supporters claiming that Joe Biden did not fairly win the 2020 presidential election is "The Big Lie." But The Biggest Lie, which much of the American news media continues to perpetuate, is "This is not who we are" whenever the notion of white supremacy produces a horrific act of violence or destruction.

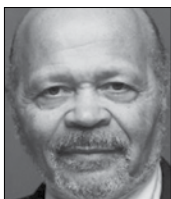
There were those who said "This is not who we are" when neo-Nazis marched through Charlottesville, Va., with tiki torches, spewing vile racist and anti-Semitic chants.

There were those who said "This is not who we are" when armed white rioters stormed the Michigan state Capitol while white supremacists plotted to abduct and possibly execute that state's governor.

There are those who continue to say "This is not who we are" each time another unarmed person of color is murdered by a police officer intoxicated by a militarist law enforcement culture.

And there were those who said "This is not who we are" when predominantly white insurrectionists invaded the U.S. Capitol to disrupt democracy in the United States by voiding the free and fair election of Joe Biden as the 46th President of this nation.

How much more murder, may-



hem and raw hatred must be put on full display before Americans finally admit this IS who we are?

As much as America tries to sugarcoat its shameful history, the truth of our history has been

written in indelible bloodstains over many centuries and from sea to sea. Before America was even America, the extermination of Native Americans by Europeans settlers set the tone for the destruction of people and land in the name of civilization and progress.

This has always been a civilization backed up by lethal force, under the guise of law and order, that punishes and executes anyone who appears to be a threat to white supremacy. In the minds of many whites, because Black people were brought here to build and maintain a white Christian country, we are allowed to remain here for only as long as we serve their needs.

To claim that this characterization is far-fetched is to deny the bones of our ancestors at the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean and scattered across every inch of this land. This nation was founded upon rape and murder and there are those who wish it to continue this way. The death of George Floyd speaks clearly to this point.

Every murdered innocent testifies to the fact that this is who we are. Every individual of the First Nations who dies for lack of proper health care testifies to the fact that this is who we are. Donald Trump could not have gotten away with locking children in cages if this despicable display of inhumanity was not cheered on by millions of supportive bigots. Franklin Roosevelt could not have gotten away with herding innocent

and loyal Japanese Americans into concentration camps without the tacit approval of the majority of Americans, including those of Italian and German ancestry.

There are many white Americans who know this country's major problems are all about race. A large portion of America's white people have a maniacal fear of people of color, who they deem to be "the other," and who they believe want to deprive white people of what they have. But what does the poorest and least educated white person have besides his whiteness? Abandoned by the wealthy elitist of their race, these wretched of the earth are positioned as pawns to barricade the doors to opportunity against people of color. These loyalists of white supremacy diligently carry out their charge without realizing that the only way they can carry out this mission is to remain outside the doors themselves.

Many of the first Europeans who populated this land were from the prisons of England. There are estimates that approximately 10 percent of migrants to America between 1718 and 1775 were British convicts.

The character of the American people is not so saintly as to warrant a blind faith in our goodness in the face of racial hatred

and race-based violence and murder on display every day. Many Europeans who came to America's shores were fine people, but the proof is in the pudding – and we need to put an end to the biggest lie and stop denying that this is who we are.

Oscar H. Blayton is a former Marine Corps combat pilot and human rights activist who practices law in Virginia.

Letter to the Editor

On Gun Violence Spike

I read with interest the excellent Letter to the Editor by Sam Sachs of Portland's No Hate Zone ("Our Gun Violence Crisis") and the Charleston Loophole story ("Taking Aim at Gun Law") in the Portland Observer's Feb. 24 issue. The spikes in gun violence in Oregon and across the country need addressing now. With the Biden-Harris Administration now in office, we have a good opportunity to stop the bloodshed!

There are far too many guns available in our society. People in the U.S. are 25 times more likelihood to die via gun violence and mass shootings than people in other industrialized countries. In Portland, there were over 800 shootings in 2020 amidst a 27-year-high in gun deaths. Nationwide, Black men between the ages of 16-34 comprise about 30% of the 40,000 gun deaths each year, while representing

only 2% of the population.

The Portland Gray Panthers is taking action by supporting a boycott against Walmart to get the large corporate citizen to stop its outsized sales of guns and ammo. One in five bullets sold in the U.S. is sold by Walmart.

Two excellent civic leaders -- Keith Wilson, a Portland trucking business owner, and Pastor Matt Hennessee of the Vancouver Avenue First Baptist Church – were supportive of our efforts to reduce gun violence when they spoke at a Panthers community forum last month.

As we know, there has been a logjam in Congress preventing the passage of sensible gun laws, including a ban on assault weapons and high capacity magazines. In 2017, U. S. Rep. John Lewis of Georgia, the late African American civil rights lead-

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Creating Community Leaders

FOR 12 YEARS AND COUNTING



The Portland Community College's Men of Color Leadership Program is an innovative program designed to foster educational success for men of color. Students who participate experience an atmosphere of unity and community, strive for academic excellence, and engage with a one-of-a-kind social justice curriculum.



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On Gun Violence Spike

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

er, organized a peaceful sit-in for sensible gun laws inside the U.S. Capitol with 170 elected Democratic Party officials, but new legislation was stalled with Republican opposition.

It is also important to note that mass shootings, like the slaughter of Black parishioners at the AME Baptist Church in Charleston, S. C. by a white racist consumed by hate, are a uniquely 'American' public health problem.

When mass shootings happened in New Zealand and in Canada, both countries took quick action to ban assault weapons and ban high capacity magazines. The U.S. lags far behind in addressing this problem.

At our February forum, the question was asked, "How does gun violence impact elders?" The answer is both directly, and indirectly. The mass shootings at the South Carolina church, at a mosque in New Zealand, and at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh, each targeted vulnerable elder church goers.

Vulnerable targets also include the young, like the students who were shot and killed at Columbine, Sandy Hook, Parkland and other schools. It doesn't matter in a gun-saturated society whether innocent victims are praying in church, or studying in the classroom, gun violence impacts us all.

As the late Sen. Robert F. Kennedy said, himself a victim of gun violence in 1968, if we want to 'seek a newer world,' we need to mitigate -- and to halt -- the public health menace of gun violence in our society.

Lew Church, Portland Gray Panthers coordinator

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Elevating Racial Justice and Police Reforms

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

censes police officers, corrections officers, parole and probation officers, liquor control regulatory specialists, emergency dispatchers, criminal justice instructors, private security providers, private investigators, and polygraph examiners in the state. It also runs a

basic police academy.

Granderson, 57, served as a FBI field agent in Illinois, working on narcotics, domestic terrorism and organized crime investigations and as a program manager for the FBI's international law enforcement training academies in Botswana, Hungary, El Salvador and the United Arab Emirates.

He holds a bachelor's degree in fine arts and a master's degree in international relations from Western Illinois University. He is a veteran of the U.S. Army, having served in the 82nd Airborne Division and 12th Special Forces Group of the Army Reserves.

--Associated Press contributed to this story.

FOOD FEATURE

Pasta Primavera

Ingredients

- 10 oz. dry Barilla Penne Pasta
- Salt to taste
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 1/2 medium red onion, sliced
- 1 large carrot, peeled and sliced into matchsticks
- 2 cups broccoli florets, diced
- 1 medium red bell pepper, sliced into matchsticks
- 1 medium yellow squash, sliced into quarter portions
- 1 medium zucchini, sliced into quarter portions
- 3 - 4 cloves garlic cloves, minced
- 1 cup (heaping) grape tomatoes, halved through the length
- 2 tsp dried Italian seasoning
- 1/2 cup pasta water
- 2 Tbsp fresh lemon juice
- 1/2 cup shredded parmesan, divided
- 2 Tbsp chopped fresh parsley



Instructions

1. Bring a large pot of water to a boil. Cook penne pasta in salted water according to package directions, reserve 1/2 cup pasta water before draining.
2. Meanwhile heat olive oil in a 12-inch (and deep) skillet over medium-high heat.
3. Add red onion and carrot and saute 2 minutes.
4. Add broccoli and bell pepper; saute 2 minutes.
5. Add squash and zucchini then saute 2 - 3 minutes

or until veggies have nearly softened.

6. Add garlic, tomatoes, and Italian seasoning and saute 2 minutes longer.
7. Pour veggies into now empty pasta pot or a serving bowl, add drained pasta, drizzle in lemon juice, season with a little more salt as needed and toss while adding in pasta water to loosen as desired.
8. Toss in 1/4 cup parmesan and parsley then serve with remaining parmesan on top.

Coconut & Squash Dhansak

Ingredients:

- *1 tbsp vegetable oil
- *500g butternut squash (about 1 small squash), peeled and chopped into bite-sized chunks
- *100g frozen chopped onions
- *4 heaped tbsp mild curry paste
- *400g can chopped tomatoes
- *400g can light coconut milk
- *mini naan bread, to serve
- *400g can lentils, drained
- *200g bag baby spinach
- *150ml coconut yogurt, plus extra to serve



Instructions

1. Heat the oil in a large pan. Put the squash in a bowl with a splash of water. Cover with cling film and microwave on High for 10 mins or until tender. Meanwhile, add the onions to the hot oil and cook for a few mins until soft. Add the curry paste, tomatoes and coconut milk, and simmer for 10 mins until thickened to a rich sauce.

2. Warm the naan breads in a low oven or in the toaster. Drain any liquid from the squash, then add to the sauce with the lentils, spinach and some seasoning. Simmer for a further 2-3 mins to wilt the spinach, then stir in the coconut yogurt. Serve with the warm naan and a dollop of extra yogurt.

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