



## Hospitalizations Stay High

Drop in Covid-19 cases not expected until February

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## Faith Leaders Try Again

Gun control ballot title approved

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PO QR code

# The Portland Observer

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'City of Roses'

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Committed to Cultural Diversity

## A Black Doctor for Better Health

### NxNE clinic introduces new medical director

By BEVERLY CORBELL  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

It's no secret that in Black communities African Americans have not received the same level of medical care as whites, and suffer accordingly.

Black women face a much higher risk of dying from pregnancy complications than white women, for example, with maternal mortality rates of 41.7 per 100,000 live births, compared with 13.4 per 100,000 for white women. And Black babies survive at a much lower rate as well, with death rates of 10.62 per 1,000 live births, compared with 4.68 per 1,000 live births for white babies, according to public health records.

Other disparities find Black Americans are more than twice as likely as whites to die of diabetes, and also have higher rates of the



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/PORTLAND OBSERVER PUBLISHER

Dr. Jill Ginsberg (right) introduces Dr. Gina Guillaume as the new medical director for the North by Northeast Community Health Center (NxNE) in northeast Portland, Oregon's only medical facility devoted to African American and Black health.

disease, at 13.4 percent of the population as opposed to 6.4 percent for whites. High blood pressure and asthma are also much higher among Black populations.

Dr. Gina Guillaume, who this week becomes the first Black medical director of the North by Northeast Community Health Center (NxNE) in northeast Port-

land, has made it her mission to empower patients of color to take control of their health.

A native of the Bahamas who received her medical degree from Howard University and who completed a fellowship at Harbor UCLA Medical Center to concentrate on community medicine, Guillaume wants her new role

to help create spaces for Portland's Black community "to grow healthier, not only physically, but mentally and spiritually," she said.

Research shows that when Black patients get to see a Black doctor, it can lead to better health outcomes. When patients get culturally competent care, not only are they more likely to follow the

care steps, but they're more engaged, health experts say.

NxNE has already made history as Oregon's only medical facility devoted to African American and Black health. The center was founded in 2006 by its current and outgoing medical director, Dr. Jill

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

## Police Bias Continues Pattern, Activists Say



A photo from AP shows a vigil for Kevin Peterson Jr. in Hazel Dell on Oct. 20, 2020, a day after he was shot and killed by Clark County sheriff's deputies in a drug sting case. The Vancouver NAACP and ACLU claim that while the vigil took place, police looked the other way when the Black Lives Matter supporters were attacked by members of the Proud Boys and other white supremacists.

### Vancouver NAACP, others call for federal investigation

By MICHAEL LEIGHTON  
PORTLAND OBSERVER EDITOR

The Vancouver NAACP backed by Black community supporters have requested a federal Justice Department investigation into the Vancouver Police Department and the Clark County Sheriff's Office, claiming years of racial profiling, discriminatory policing, excessive force, and disturbing favoritism to known white supremacist extrem-

ist groups.

The request was co-endorsed by the ACLU of Washington, ACLU of Oregon, as well as 19 other organizations during a video news conference last week.

"We've made this request due to a pattern of excessive and deadly force against communities of color and some of our most vulnerable residents, said Vancouver NAACP President Jasmine Tolbert. "This disparate policing causes lasting harm for residents and undermines public safety for the community at large."

Vancouver and Clark County law enforcement officers have

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12



# The Week in Review

## New Prosecutors Hired

Multnomah County District Attorney Mike Schmidt has hired four new prosecutors to support investigations involving firearms. The addition was made possible by a \$1 million investment from Multnomah County to fight gun violence.

## Running for City Council

Former Oregon State Rep. Akasha Lawrence Spence announced that she is running for the Portland City Council, citing both an urgent need and an opportunity to make sure that our city's recovery is just, centering those who have been most impacted by the health and economic crises of the last two years."



## Racism in Complaints

A new report by the city auditor finds Portland's complaint-driven property maintenance system has led to a disproportionate number of financial penalties for Portland homes in racially diverse and gentrifying neighborhoods.

## School Employees Bonuses

Portland Public Schools announced last week it was awarding bonuses to all PPS employees who refer a successful applicant to the school district, and a retention bonus for all PPS teachers and educators. It comes amid a national staffing shortage worsened by the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Feds Call for Body Cameras

The U.S. Justice Department recommended that Portland police wear body cameras if they are on tactical, traffic or crowd control operations. The city currently doesn't use the cameras, but has been in negotiations with the police union over how the cameras would be used and when officers could review footage.

## Man Drives Into Crowd

A Portland man was arrested Sunday after driving his vehicle into a small crowd and hitting a police officer on Sunday on Northeast Sandy Boulevard where it intersects with Prescott Street. The officer and a woman were hospitalized for non-life threatening injuries.

## Bipartisan Win for Biden

President Joe Biden signed his hard-fought \$1 trillion infrastructure deal into law Monday before a bipartisan, celebratory crowd on the White House lawn, declaring that the new infusion of cash for roads, bridges, ports and more is going to make life "change for the better" for the American people.

# Union Gospel Thanksgiving Meals



Union Gospel Mission has started to cook 100 turkeys in order to be prepared to serve more than 900 Thanksgiving meals.

Meals will be provided during the week of Thanksgiving starting Sunday, November 22 those living downtown, in camps all over Portland and on the east side of the mission's overnight shelter.

Donations of pre-baked, packaged

pumpkin pies and coffee (ground or whole bean) are still needed. Pie and coffee can be dropped off at 3 N.W. Third Ave. Financial donations are also encouraged and can be made online at [ugmportland.org](http://ugmportland.org).

Union Gospel Mission provides meals and care for the homeless and operates LifeChange -- a transformative recovery community for men, women and children. For more information, call 503-274-4483.

## AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM MEDICARE



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HIS NAME IS

GEORGE

ONE MAN'S LIFE AND THE STRUGGLE FOR RACIAL JUSTICE

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## LOCAL NEWS



PHOTO COURTESY OHSU

The weather is cooling and people are likely to gather for the holidays, increasing the risk of spreading the coronavirus. Although hospitalizations remain stubbornly high, health experts at Oregon Health & Science University do not expect a serious spike in the next few months.

### Hospitalizations Stay High

Major drop in Covid-19 cases not expected until February

The number of Oregonians hospitalized with COVID-19 has reached a plateau that will stay above 400 patients a day through the holidays before it drops demonstrably in the new year, ac-

cording to the latest updated forecast from Oregon Health & Science University.

The forecast shows that hospitalizations won't drop below 200 until the beginning of February – about a month longer than last week's forecast.

The updated figures reflect survey data revealing that Oregonians are tiring of measures to reduce transmission, such as gathering indoors with people who don't

live in their households.

The highly contagious coronavirus delta variant continues to find a substantial pool of Oregonians – an estimated one in five – who aren't yet immune through vaccination or recent infection, health officials said.

Although hospitalizations will remain stubbornly high for the next several weeks, the latest projection does not anticipate an increase.

## Evening Shift Grows Street Response

Boundary for calls covered also increases

Portland's new Street Response team, an experiment in responding to mental health emergencies outside of the home with unarmed professionals instead of police officers, has grown with the addition of a night shift and covering more territory in southeast Portland.

The second team began work on Nov. 4 offering expanded service from 6 p.m. to 2:30 a.m., Thursdays through Sundays. The existing day shift has changed its hours to 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday – Thursday, officials said.

Both day and night teams will respond in a new expanded boundary that corresponds to Portland Police Bureau's East Precinct, increasing the boundary from 13 square miles in the Lents

neighborhood to some adjacent southeast neighborhoods, covering 36 square miles.

The new night shift response team includes a Firefighter/EMT, a Mental Health Crisis Responder, and two Peer Support Specialists.

"This next phase of Portland Street Response's expansion is part of Portland Fire & Rescue's commitment to health equity and a bureau-wide vision for creating a community where all of our neighbors are able to access the mental, behavioral health, and social service supports they need to live healthy, productive lives," said Fire Chief Sara Boone.

Police Chief Chuck Lovell said officers from the police bureau's Behavioral Health Team have worked to supply training, provide support and assist the efforts of the Street Response Team as they begin their expansion.

"This is a valuable public safety partnership," he said.

Portland City Commissioner Jo

Ann Hardesty, who oversees Portland Street Response and helped create the program, said the expansion of the team will free up needed resources for the police.

"I'm so excited that today we are ready to expand Portland Street Response to a larger portion of Portland's eastside with a new shift coming onboard," Hardesty said. "I want to thank the Lents neighborhood for being an incredible partner throughout this pilot and Portlanders throughout the city who have continued to express strong support for growing Portland Street Response."

Officials said residents can plug their addresses into an online tool at

[www.portland.gov/street-response/address-lookup-tool](http://www.portland.gov/street-response/address-lookup-tool)

[Portland.gov/streetresponse/address-lookup-tool](http://Portland.gov/streetresponse/address-lookup-tool) to see if their home is within the new boundary. Requests for Street Response service can be made by calling 9-1-1.



Members of Portland's Street Response Team form a new second shift

# Faith Leaders Try Again

## New gun control ballot title approved

United in calling for non-violence for resolving differences, not resorting to weapons, Lift Every Voice Oregon, a statewide group of interfaith leaders born out of northeast Portland, have announced the approval of two new ballot titles for proposed laws to help end the epidemic of gun violence.

Rev. Dr. W. J. Mark Knutson of Augustana Lutheran Church, announced last week that the group received notice from the Oregon Supreme Court that it approved the ballot titles for both of its initiatives to reduce gun violence and promote safety throughout Oregon, measures 17 and 18.

The initiatives promote common sense safety measures such as requiring a permit to purchase firearms, issued after completing a basic gun safety training and passing a background check.

Semiautomatic assault weapons would also be banned in future sales under terms of the proposals. The firearms currently owned could be retained provided they are registered, in order to allow tracking of the owner when used in crimes.



A Portland Observer archive photo from 2018 shows religious leaders gathered at Augustana Lutheran Church in northeast Portland to promote the regulation of semiautomatic weapons and large capacity ammunition magazines. A new gun safety effort by the group is picking up steam. Pictured (from left) are Liz McKanna, Rabbi Michael Z. Cahana, Rev. Alcena Boozer, Rev. W. J. Mark Knutson, Tamrah Knutson and Iman Muhammad A. Najieb.

Approval of the measures by voters would eliminate loopholes allowing purchase of a gun after three days, even if the background check isn't completed. The initiatives also limit ammunition magazine capacity to 10 rounds, targeting the 20, 50 or 100 round clips which are commonly used in mass shootings and in many other circumstances involv-

ing guns.

The faith leaders say these proposals have been shown to make a difference by reducing the proliferation of weapons and reducing the deaths and injuries from such weapons.

The Oregon Supreme Court's approval of the ballot titles opens the door for organizers to begin collecting signatures to

qualify for placement on the 2022 ballot. They will need

112,020 valid signatures of registered voters by July 8, relying on thousands of volunteers throughout the state to circulate the signature pages, as well as a link on their webpage ([lifteveryvoiceoregon.com](http://lifteveryvoiceoregon.com)) which allows voters to print, sign and mail in the form.



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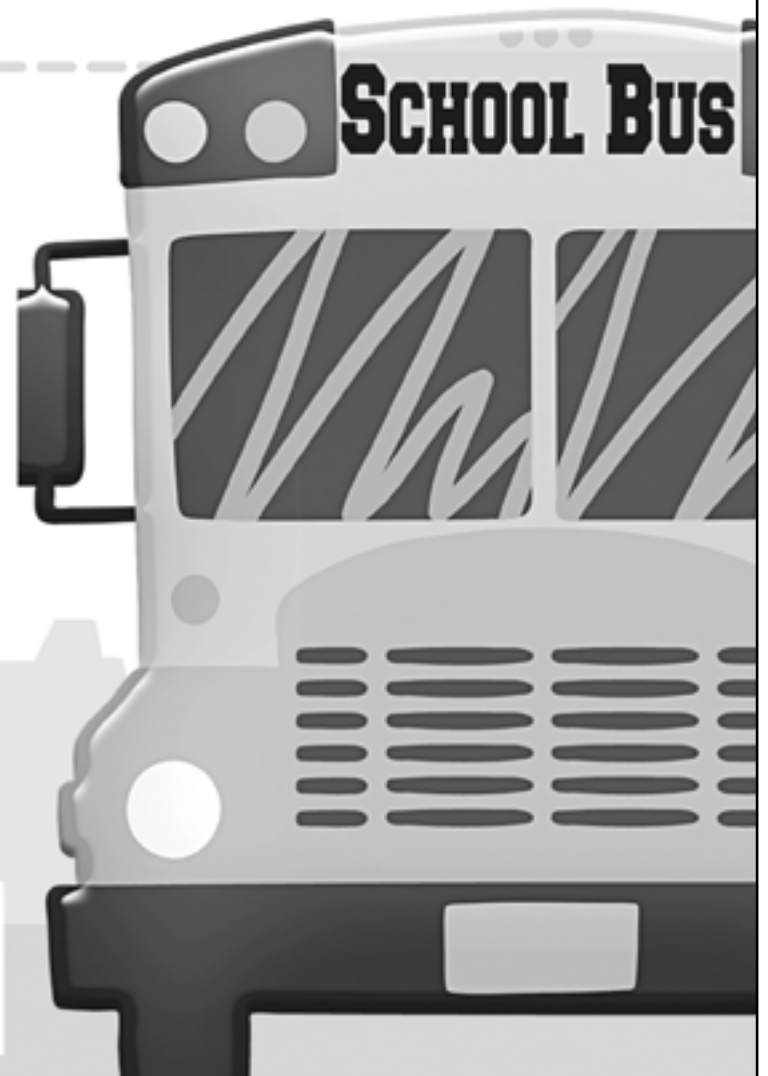
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# A Black Doctor for Better Health



North by Northeast Community Health Center (NxNE) founder Dr. Jill Ginsberg (right) welcomes Dr. Gina Guillaume to Portland to become the clinic's new medical director. Ginsberg had been in discussions with her board and staff about transitioning to a Black physician leader as the clinic grows.

## CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Ginsberg, a white physician, and the late Black pastor Mary Overstreet-Smith, a Portland legend known for helping feed and clothe community members in need.

Ginsberg said the new doctor is sure to please patients who often say they love seeing the diversity in her staff, people who look like them, when they come in for their care at NxNE.

"It's part of my personal commitment and our commitment as an organization in serving the Black community, Ginsberg said." I am so excited to welcome Dr. Guillaume. She is a brilliant physician, a passionate advocate for her patients, and is outspoken about the role of racism in health disparities."

In America, one only has to look at medical histories to see evidence of lower levels of healthcare for Black Americans and the mistrust that un-even treatments have ensued. It was only in 1966, that hospitals were desegregated because of the threat of loss of federal funds from Medicare and Medicaid, according to the

New York Times.

Guillaume pointed to other medical care failures for Black Americans like the "Tuskegee study" where Black men were studied for the effects of syphilis in the 1930s and '40s but were not given treatment when it became available.

"So many other things happened, like the sterilization of Black women in Mississippi, where Black women were tricked into signing paperwork for an appendectomy but it was for a hysterectomy," Guillaume said.

In an interview with the Portland Observer, she also talked about the case of Henrietta Lacks, the Black woman whose unique cells, called HeLa tissue, collected when she had cancer back in the 1950s, are still used to study the effects of toxins, drugs, hormones and viruses on the growth of cancer cells without experimenting on humans. The Lacks family recently filed a lawsuit against Thermo Fisher Scientific, which sells a commercial line of HeLa tissue, accusing the company of profiting from Lacks' "stolen" cells.

"All of this has created a lot of dis-

trust within the Black community. It's underserved and they don't get a lot of respect in a health care office sometimes, all of that in addition to marginalization and experimentation on Black people as well," Guillaume said. "I just want to stress that it's not accidental."

Guillaume sees healthcare as so much more "than a 15 minute session" in a doctor's office. She spends that extra time to get to know staff and patients, for example, and works with other community organizations to improve overall health.

"I went into medicine to empower communities," she said.

Guillaume said she's also interested in trauma informed care, recognizing the work of others in the field, including Oregon Health and Science University.

"It's something we don't talk about, but before their 18th birthday, children may be exposed to different forms of trauma, including abuse or parents incarcerated," she said.

There are at least 10 kinds of trauma, Guillaume said.

"Trauma and stress impact our health as

well and I hope to incorporate in Portland how to screen for childhood trauma and reduce chronic stress," she said.

Guillaume also knows that racism creates stress and low-quality living conditions can have a great effect on a person's health.

"If you are in a marginalized group and don't have access to quality food and clean water or safe and clean housing, of course it will negatively affect your health," she said. The coronavirus pandemic is also on her agenda, and Guillaume hopes to correct misinformation about and mistrust of the COVID vaccine.

As part of her hiring process, Guillaume said the whole staff at NxNE was invited to join her for lunch, and though she's only been to Portland twice, she knew she'd found her medical home.

"I loved the space and the intimacy, and that it's not a large corporation that overshadows your interests," she said. "I appreciated the tight knit feeling and also the people. I felt like I was talking to my cousins, and I fit right in. I left that meeting and knew this is where God needed me to be."



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Army veteran Rosni Williams of Portland (center) wins the keys to a Hyundai Elantra on Tuesday as part of a “Keys to Progress” Veterans Day salute to former soldiers in need by Progressive Insurance.

# Portland Veteran Wins Keys to Car

## Contest gives back to Veterans in need

Portland Army veteran Rosni Williams received the keys to a new ride Tuesday, providing reliable, life-changing transportation as part of a “Keys to Progress” Veterans

Day honor by Progressive Insurance for veterans in need.

Williams was honored with more than 45 other veterans and their families across the country who received free ownership of a high-quality, late-model used car, van or SUV with the help of En-

terprise Rent-A-Car that will provide reliable transportation, helping them get back on the road and move forward in life.

Having a car of her own is going to change the lives of both Williams and her 4-year-old son, she told KPTV. “I know even for me and

my little one, this will open up so many doors and just smooth life out a lot,” she said.

Williams was selected after entering a contest for the car with an essay that described how she joined the military back in 2015 to support a friend who became homeless.



## First Asian American Muppet



Ernie, a muppet from the popular children's series "Sesame Street," appears with new character Ji-Young, the first Asian American muppet, on the set of the long-running children's program.

What's in a name? Well, for Ji-Young, the newest muppet resident of "Sesame Street," her name is a sign she was meant to live there.

Ji-Young is making history as the first Asian American muppet in the "Sesame Street" canon. She is Korean American and has two passions: rocking out on her electric guitar and skateboarding.

The new character will help teach children is how to be a good "upstander," a term "Sesame Street" gives people who point out things that are wrong or something that someone does or says that is based on their

negative attitude towards the person because of the color of their skin or the language they speak or where they're from.

In an upcoming Thanksgiving show, for example, where everyone shares food, music or dance from their culture, Ji-Young becomes upset after a kid, off screen, tells her "to go back home," an insult commonly flung at Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

But Ji-Young feels empowered after Sesame Street's other Asian American residents, guest stars and friends like Elmo assure her that she belongs as much as anyone else.

## George Floyd's Life Story

### Expansion on Justice Series

Two Washington Post reporters are working on a biography of George Floyd, from his family history in the tobacco fields of North Carolina to his murder last year in Minneapolis by a white police officer.

Viking announced Wednesday that "His Name Is George Floyd: One Man's Life and the Struggle for Racial Justice," by Robert Samuels and Toluse Olorunnipa, will come out next May, nearly two years to the day of Floyd's death.

The book expands upon the Post's six-part series "George Floyd's America," winner of a Polk award for justice reporting.

"George Floyd's gruesome, videotaped death changed the world, as millions were moved by the raw humanity of a dying man pleading for air," Olorunnipa said in a statement. "As we've examined his life

**HIS NAME IS**

**GEORGE**

ONE MAN'S LIFE ... THE STRUGGLE FOR RACIAL JUSTICE

**FLOYD**

ROBERT SAMUELS and TOLUSE OLORUNNIPA of The Washington Post

over the past year, we've learned how his struggle to exhale as a Black man in America began decades before a police officer's knee landed on his neck."

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# Zoolights Adapts



PHOTO BY MICHAEL DURHAM, COURTESY OF THE OREGON ZOO

More than 1.5 million brightly colored lights transform the Oregon Zoo into a walk-through winter wonderland during ZooLights. The annual attraction opens for the holiday season starting Monday, Nov. 22.

## Light displays will have walk or drive options

A Northwest holiday tradition is back! ZooLights, presented by U.S. Bank, opens Monday Nov. 22 at the Oregon Zoo, showcasing a winter wonderland of more than 1.5 million brightly colored lights.

This year, there are two ways

to illuminate the season: ZooLights' traditional walk-through experience makes a much-anticipated return, and the zoo has also set aside a dozen midweek evenings for a drive-through experience similar to last year's.

The drive-through option may better accommodate people with different physical abilities, according to guest services manager Ivan Ratcliff, and it may be a

more comfortable choice for some during the COVID-19 pandemic.

For tickets and additional info, visit [oregonzoo.org/zoolights](http://oregonzoo.org/zoolights).

"Everything's been adapting to change these past couple of years, and ZooLights is no exception," Ratcliff said. "We've put a lot of measures into place to help make this holiday tradition safe, accessible and fun for everyone."

Before the official opening, this

Friday and Saturday, Nov. 19 and 20, the zoo will host a ZooLights experience just for the 21-and-over crowd with beer, live music and the Unipiper.

"If you've ever wondered what ZooLights would be like without the kids, this is for you," Ratcliff said.

To help ensure a safe experience for all, COVID safety measures will be in place during this

year's ZooLights. All guests, including members, must reserve their ZooLights tickets in advance via the zoo website.

Face masks will be required for all walk-through guests 5 years and older. Drive-through guests do not need to wear masks while inside their vehicles. Masks are required, however, during check-in and other interactions with ZooLights staff.

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# OPINION

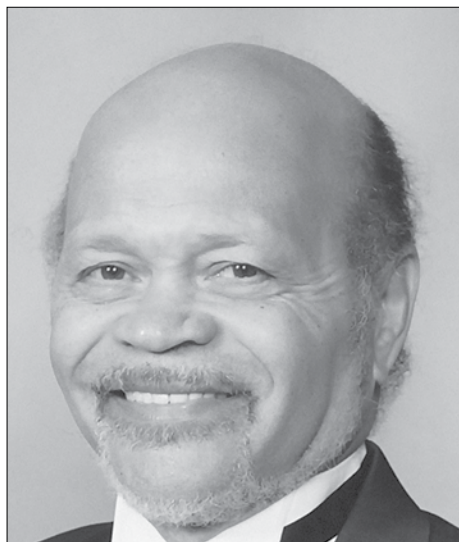
# Beloved Lies about America

## The racism is there for everyone to see

White supremacists love their narratives of America. They spoon feed it to their children and force feed it to people of color.

When Francis Scott Key penned the lyrics for "The Star-Spangled Banner" in 1814, stating that America was the "land of the free and home of the brave," he crafted a stirring image of goodness and virtue. Who wouldn't love and admire such a homeland?

But these high-minded sentiments were written by a racist and proponent of chattel slavery for Black Americans. Most disturbingly, the third verse of this song that would become America's national anthem proposed a particularly horrible fate for the once enslaved African Americans who were then fighting



By Oscar H. Blayton

for the British in the War of 1812: "No refuge could save the hireling and slave. From the terror or flight, or the gloom of the graves."

These words were a clear call to

slaughter people of color who dared to challenge the authority of white Americans.

America was never the land of the free. Just ask the descendants of the multitudes of the enslaved who had every manner of inhumane abuses handed to them. Or just ask the families of innocent and unarmed Black and brown men and women who have been gunned down in great numbers across America by police in recent years. This is the factual history that is woven into our culture, and this is the reality with which we live every day.

But now, there is a movement afoot by white supremacists to gaslight not only Americans of color, but the entire world that these injustices do not exist, and never did exist.

One particularly blatant example was the political maneuver by Virginia's Republican Gov.-elect Glenn Youngkin when he claimed that he would ban Toni

Morrison's book "Beloved" from Virginia's public schools. This attack by Youngkin on a book, which won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 1988 and was written by the 1993 winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature, was clearly intended to be a loud dog whistle to the white supremacists whose votes he was courting. Youngkin's campaign dug up a controversy from more than eight years ago to successfully whip his supporters into a frenzy of grievance politics that would drive them to the polls.

The truth of this matter is that while the pretext for attacking Toni Morrison's book was its explicit references to sexual activity, it was not the sex that sent white supremacists into a rage, but the agonizingly embarrassing description of how enslaved Black people were treated in "the land of the free and the home of the brave."

There are too many currents in "Beloved" to give a full account of the book here. But the core of the story's horror is based upon a true account of the actions of an escaped slave, Margaret Garner. Rather than allow her children to be returned to the abomination of slavery by slave catchers who had tracked them down, Garner attempted to kill them all, but succeeded only in killing her 2-year-old daughter.

All of Garner's children had been fathered by white men, including her owner's brother, who had raped her during her years of enslavement. This revelation in "Beloved" rips the flesh from the mythical America of goodness and virtue. White fragility cannot abide a book that so unsparingly brings this type of evil to light with such glaring intensity. It pains the worshipers of the false god of white supremacy to see that its feet are made of clay.

Another attempt to keep the fiction of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11



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**DEADLINE FOR RESPONSE****December 17, 2021****EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER****ARCHITECT SERVICES  
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT SERVICES****REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS  
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## Prosecution Rests in Georgia



The Rev. Jesse Jackson (center) holds hands with Marcus Arbery, father of Ahmaud Arbery, and Ahmaud Arbery's mother, Wanda Cooper-Jones, on Monday during the murder trial of Greg McMichael and his son, Travis McMichael, and a neighbor, William "Roddie" Bryan in Brunswick, Ga.

Graphic photos  
of victim's  
wounds presented

(AP) — Prosecutors in Brunswick, Ga. rested their case Tuesday in the trial of three white men charged with chasing and killing Ahmaud Arbery, a 25-year-old Black man hunted down and

killed while jogging, after the jury saw graphic photos of the shotgun wounds that punched a gaping hole in his chest and unleashed bleeding that stained his white T-shirt entirely red.

Prosecutors called 23 witnesses during eight days of testimony. They concluded with Dr. Edmund Donoghue, the state medical examiner who testified that Arbery was hit by two of the three shot-

gun rounds fired at him. He said both gunshots caused such severe bleeding that either blast alone would have killed the 25-year-old Black man.

The first shot at close range tore through an artery in Arbery's right wrist and punched a big hole in the center of his chest, break-

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## Reward Grows in Park Murder

The FBI is offering a reward of up to \$15,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for the murder of Curtis Smith.

Smith, 25, was found suffering from gunshot wounds on Feb. 25 in Farragut Park in north Portland and died at the scene. It's believed that he was living in Fresno, Calif., but had traveled to Oregon for a friend's funeral.

"We need the public's help, and we need it now. If you know anything about Mr. Smith's shooting, please contact us immediately," said Kieran L. Ramsey, special agent in charge of



Curtis Smith

the FBI in Oregon.

The \$15,000 reward is the fifth unsolved murder case offered by the FBI in the past few weeks on behalf of Portland's Metro Safe Streets Task Force.



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# Beloved Lies Georgia

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

a noble America alive is the 1836 Project in Texas. Described by historians and educators as “propaganda that seeks to erase the role of slavery as a driving factor in the Texas Revolution,” the 1836 Project was a reaction to the New York Times’ 1619 Project, whose introductory essay, written by Nikole Hannah-Jones, garnered the 2020 Pulitzer Prize for Commentary.

While the 1619 Project laid bare the provable facts of slavery and racism in America’s past, the 1836 Project is a racist construct built of myth and undergirded by fantasy. The ridiculousness of the 1836 Project is easily exposed by the most cursory reading of the 1836 Constitution of the Republic of Texas. After Sam Houston’s army defeated the forces of Gen. Antonio López de Santa Anna and halted the northward march of the Mexican army to abolish slavery in Texas, the mostly European-American Texans formed a republic and installed a constitution.

Section 9 of the 1836 constitution of Texas read in part: “All persons of color who were slaves for life previous to their emigration to Texas, and who are now held in bondage, shall remain in the like state of servitude, provide (sic) the said slave shall be the bona fide property of the person so holding said slave as aforesaid.”

“Congress shall pass no laws to prohibit emigrants from the United States of America from bringing their slaves into the Republic with them, and holding them by the same tenure by which such slaves were held in the United States.”

“[N]or shall Congress have power to emancipate slaves; nor shall any slave-holder be allowed to emancipate his or her slave or slaves, without the consent of Congress, unless he or she shall send his or her slave or slaves without the limits of the Republic.”

“No free person of African descent, either in whole or in part, shall be permitted to reside permanently in the Republic, without the consent of Congress.”

All this attention was given to the issue of slavery because Mexico had outlawed slavery in 1829 and the war surrounding the Battle of the Alamo was brought about because Texans refused to free their slaves. These are immutable historical facts, and unless Texas destroys all copies of its 1836 Constitution, the racism of Texas’ founding fathers is there for everyone to see.

It is not America that white supremacists love; it is the fiction about this country that is dear to their hearts. And we must never accept their beloved lies as our truths.

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

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ing several ribs and causing heavy internal bleeding, Donoghue said. The second shot missed entirely. The third shot fired at point-blank range ripped through a major artery and vein near his left armpit and fractured bones in his shoulder and upper arm.

The jury saw close-up photos of his injuries, which included several large abrasions to Arbery’s face from when he fell facedown in the street following the third gunshot. Photos of his clothing showed his T-shirt turned red with blood. Cellphone video of the shooting shows it had been white.

Superior Court Judge Timothy Walmsley said defense attorneys would begin their cases Wednesday.

Father and son Greg and Travis McMichael armed themselves and pursued Arbery in a pickup truck after spotting him running in their neighborhood. Their neighbor William “Roddie” Bryan joined the chase and took cellphone video of Travis McMichael shooting Arbery. All three men are charged with murder and other crimes.

The McMichaels told police they chased Arbery suspecting he was a burglar after security cameras recorded him several times inside a home under construction, five houses away. The video, presented during trial, only showed him walking through the construction, never stealing anything.

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# Police Bias

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

killed eight people over a two-and-a-half-year period from February 2019 through October 2021, marking the highest rate of deadly force by law enforcement in Washington, according to the activists.

Five of the victims were men of color, including three Black men and two men of Pacific Islander heritage – in a county where those groups together account for about 3% of the population. The remaining three victims were men experiencing homelessness as well as a mental health crisis.

In a letter asking for the federal probe, the NAACP and ACLU outline a disproportionate use of force by the local law enforcement officers against residents of color compared to their white neighbors, and details of both agencies' alleged discriminatory policing and favoritism toward known white supremacist extremist groups.

The letter points to correspondence and emails that suggest that law enforcement offices in both Vancouver and Clark County have treated Black demonstrators who protest police violence as threats, while viewing white supremacist

demonstrators as simply exercising First Amendment rights, despite a well-documented pattern of these right-wing groups inciting and committing violence locally and nationally.

In an October 2020 incident, for example, community members gathered for a peaceful vigil to honor Kevin Peterson Jr. in Hazel Dell, a Black man killed by Clark County Sheriff's Deputies a day earlier in a drug sting operation, when a hostile group of white supremacists drove trucks through the vigil and physically assaulted members of Peterson's family and supporters with bear mace, paintballs, and other threats of violence, according to the civil rights activists.

Enoka Herat, police practice and immigration counsel for the ACLU of Washington, said law enforcement failed to respond to the incident, allowing members of Patriot Prayer, the Proud Boys, and other extremist organizations to terrorize peaceful mourners. Many of those gatherers required medical assistance after the attack, the activists said.

"We come together to mourn, and we're attacked by extremists. We come together to protest inequality and we're attacked,



An archive photo from AP shows a counter protest against Black Lives Matter on Oct. 30, 2020 in Hazel Dell, Wash. on the night of a candlelight vigil for Kevin Peterson Jr., a Black man killed a day earlier in a police shooting.

and the police look the other way," said Nickeia Hunter, whose brother Carlos Hunter was shot and killed by Vancouver police in 2019. "The stress and anxiety caused by knowing there's nowhere to go and no way to stay safe wears on you."

The NAACP and ACLU leaders also said they're disturbed Vancouver Police does not direct officers to only use force that is

proportional to the threat encountered, a policy found in opposition to best practice recommendations calling for officers to consider less severe options to achieve the same outcome.

Kevin Peterson Sr., for example, joined the news conference, and questioned why officers fired shots at his son without appearing to take actions to de-escalate the confrontation. He called the loss

of his son tremendous.

The civil rights organizations are asking the DOJ to investigate under the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994.

"Federal intervention is necessary for all residents in Clark County to receive equal and fair treatment, constitutional policing, and to feel safe in their communities," Herat said.

# Supporting Oregonians

## COPIING WITH PROBLEM GAMBLING

### The More Things Change...

The old adage applies: The more things change, the more they remain the same. And we've been through some changes this year. Health concerns, employment, the economy — even things as simple as getting the kids to school — all these things have been gradually changing. But the fact is one

fundamental thing has certainly remained the same: It's all still kind of hard.

Coping with the stress of change is never easy. Without a plan or a support system, it's easy to lapse into habits that might feel relaxing in the moment, but could have negative consequences in the long term. For some, gambling is a harmless way to disengage. But what might start as a fun diversion can, for some, become an obsession that's hard to control.

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