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The Portland Observer

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'City
of
Roses'

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Committed to Cultural Diversity

'Put Gun Control on the Ballot'

Leaders urge people
to sign petition

By BEVERLY CORBELL
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Passions are running high with shared outrage as massacres involving high-powered guns continue to roil America and deadly gun violence at home and across the county reach record levels.

Gun control activists rooted in the black community have joined Lift Every Voice Oregon, a statewide group of interfaith leaders, to encourage others to join them by adding their name to a petition to put gun control on the November ballot.

A news conference to rally the cause took place at Augustana Lutheran Church in northeast Portland followed the recent killings of 19 children and two of their teachers at a Texas elementary school and the deaths of 10 Black grocery store shoppers killed by an alleged white teenage racist.

Speaker after speaker at the church shared their outrage at the massacres, and they all had one goal: to get signatures on their gun control petition.

Lift Every Voice Oregon has received approval of titles for two ballot measures, Initiative Petitions 17 and 18. They are



PHOTO BY BEVERLY CORBELL/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Gun control activists rooted in the black community, including Rev. Mark Knudson of Augustana Lutheran Church, are leading the effort by Lift Every Voice Oregon, a statewide group of interfaith leaders, to encourage voters to sign a petition to put gun control on the November ballot.

pushing for signatures on IP 17 for this year, while they plan to bring IP 18 to the state legislature in its next session.

Black activist and musician Marilyn Keller, one of the three chief petitioners of

IP 17, shared her disgust with gun deaths, saying she was "sick and tired of being sick and tired, and we who believe in freedom cannot wait."

If this petition doesn't make it on the

ballot, Keller said, it would be another two years before it can be attempted again.

"Can you imagine how many thousands of lives could be lost in two years? I can. I don't want to see it," she said. "Until the killing of children, the killing of Black people, of Jews, of Muslims, Ukrainians, until the killing of other people is as abhorrent as us stepping into a pool of sewage. We need to move. We need to move now."

Keller said that Oregon is the only West Coast state that doesn't have "common sense" gun laws.

"Washington has passed them, California has them at the legislative level," she said. "Will we stand still and allow this opportunity to pass without doing anything?"

Keller is urging everyone to visit lifteveryvoiceoregon.com to add their names to the petition. People can print the signature sheet, sign it and mail it back to the Life Every Voice address on the website. They are also asking for volunteers and donations to support the effort.

If the measure passes, according to the website, it will require background checks before a gun purchase, safety training, a permit to acquire firearms, photo ID and fingerprint for a state police firearm per-

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Historic Pick for US Attorney

Biden nominates first Black, woman of color

President Joe Biden has nominated Natalie K. Wight to serve as U.S. Attorney for Oregon. She would become the first Black person and second Asian American to serve as Oregon's top federal prosecutor if confirmed by the U.S. Senate.

Wight is a 1992 graduate of Cleveland High School where she was a Hall of Fame athlete.

"It is an honor to be nominated and I look forward to the confirmation process," she said in a statement.

Wight has served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for Oregon since 2012.

She previously worked as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in Northern California and as an attorney at the Federal Bureau of Prisons from 2003 to 2008. She received her law

degree from the University of Notre Dame Law School in 2003 and a master's degree in science from California State University in 2000 and a bachelor's degree in science from the College of Idaho in 1996.

Wight was inducted into the Portland Interscholastic League Hall of Fame for her accomplishments in soccer, basketball and track while a student at Cleveland. In recent years, she brought her expertise in the law to the southeast Portland school to voluntarily serve as a mock trial coach.

"We strongly support President Biden's nomination of Natalie Wight to be the next U.S. Attorney for Oregon," Oregon Sens. Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley said in a joint statement. "She brings an outstanding combination of leadership, integrity, independence and community connections to this crucial post. We look forward to advancing her through the Senate confirmation process."



Natalie K. Wight would become the first woman of color to become U.S. Attorney for Oregon if confirmed by the U.S. Senate.

The Week in Review

Blazers Team Buyout Offered

Nike founder Phil Knight has offered to purchase the Portland Trail Blazers, but the team responded by saying the franchise is not for sale. Knight and the Los Angeles Dodgers part-owner Alan Smolinisky made a \$2 billion-plus bid to purchase the Blazers from the Paul Allen Trust, which oversees the franchise following Allen's 2018 death, ESPN reported last week.



Vancouver Pride!

For the first time Pride flags are flying at Vancouver City Hall and other city-owned facilities. Last week the flags were raised for June Pride Month as a symbol of the city's commitment to celebrating and supporting all of our community members and to support diversity, equity and inclusion across the city, officials said.



Shooter Handed Life Term

A Portland man who killed another man and wounded two others in a shooting as people left a concert at the Moda Center has been sentenced to life in prison. Robert Jay James, 39, received the sentence Friday in Multnomah County Circuit Court.

Cybersecurity Breach

The city of Portland has discovered a cybersecurity breach that led to a fraudulent financial transaction of approximately \$1.4 million in late April, officials said. Preliminary evidence indicates that an unauthorized, outside entity gained access to a city email account to conduct the theft. Officials said they were increasing security to avoid future cases.

City to Maintain 82nd Ave.

Portland took ownership of 82nd Avenue from the state last week, signaling the start of some near-term safety investments. The Portland Bureau of Transportation will now be responsible for everything from filling potholes and plowing snow, to permits and safety improvements on a 7-mile stretch from Northeast Killingsworth to the Clackamas County line.

Guilty in Chef's Death

A romance novelist who once wrote an essay titled "How to Murder Your Husband" was convicted of fatally shooting her husband four years ago. A jury in Portland found Nancy Crampton Brophy, 71, guilty in chef Daniel Brophy's death. Brophy was killed as he prepped for work at the Oregon Culinary Institute, downtown.



Hate Case Leads to Evidence



A cache of firearms and racist Nazi propaganda are confiscated from a man arrested for spewing hate near the Immigrant & Refugee Community Organization in east Portland.

A Portland area man has been arrested for a bias crime and criminal mischief, charges in connection with accusations he was spewing hate by placing a white-supremacist, neo-Nazi sticker near an immigrant community center in east Portland.

Multnomah County District Attorney Mike Schmidt said Jarl Rockhill, 35, was arraigned May 27 on charges of second-degree bias crime and third-degree criminal mischief for placing the racist sticker on a fence at the organization serving immigrants,

refugees, and mainstream community members last April 23.

The Portland Police Bureau said it used video surveillance footage to identify Rockhill.

Police searched Rockhill's home and car with warrants and found over a dozen firearms and neo-Nazi materials, including a large red flag featuring a swastika, officials said.

Investigators said Rockhill's online activity was associated with multiple white supremacists groups and a tattoo on Rockhill's forearm is a white supremacist symbol.

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The INSIDE

LET'S TALK ABOUT RACE



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DARRELL GRANT
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LOCAL NEWS

Support for Vancouver's New Police Chief

NAACP says city made good decision

When Vancouver announced the selection of a new police chief Wednesday, it came with the endorsement from a longtime civil rights organization on the front lines of advocating for police reforms, the Vancouver NAACP.

City officials say Chief Jeffrey Mori will bring 29 years of progressively responsible law enforcement experience to the position, including nine years as undersheriff for Washington County in Oregon and most recently three years as assistant chief for the Vancouver Police Department.

"The NAACP is proud of the decision the city made. Jeff Mori has shown consistent commitment in navigating difficult and systematic issues within our community," said Vancouver NAACP President Jasmine Tolbert. "Jeff



Jeffrey Mori draws support from the Vancouver NAACP for his appointment as Vancouver's next police chief.

has a healthy commitment to racial equity, and we hope to continue to partner with him on that journey. Ultimately the NAACP of Vancouver is here to hold the Vancouver Police Department accountable, but we are excited to work with Jeff."

Mori holds a bachelor's degree

from Oregon State University and is working toward his master's in Public Safety from University of Virginia (projected 2023).

Vancouver City Manager Eric Holmes said Mori's experience and background, teamed with his proven ability to build and maintain meaningful relationships in the community, has prepared him well for the job.

"His clear vision for the future of community safety in Vancouver helped him emerge as the top candidate in a very competitive pool. I am confident in his ability to lead our Police Department in its next chapter," Holmes said.

In prepared remarks, Mori gave thanks to the men and women who show up each day to do the work to keep our community safe.

"I look forward to leading the Vancouver Police Department in our continued efforts to expand community partnerships and relationships, grow the agency and increase transparency and trust," he said.

Hardesty First for Runoff; Ryan Re-Elected

Multnomah County elects first female sheriff

Portland City Commissioner Dan Ryan won re-election outright avoiding a runoff in Oregon's May 24 Primary while incumbent City Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty finished first against 10 other candidates, but short of the more than 50 percent of the vote needed to avoid a runoff this November.

In other races, Multnomah County voters elected Nicole Morrissey O'Donnell as the first female sheriff in history. O'Donnell, the sheriff's department second in command overcame a challenge by Derrick Peterson, a long time corrections officer and member of the Black community.

In a victory for the Democratic Party's progressive wing, former Oregon House Speaker Tina



Portland City Commissioners Dan Ryan and Jo Ann Hardesty

Kotek, backed by a strong winning vote in Multnomah County where she represented north Portland in the Legislature, won the Democratic gubernatorial primary, beating state Treasurer Tobias Read.

Hardesty, the first Black woman to serve on the Portland City Council, pledged to run a positive campaign as she heads to the general election.

"I will continue to be positive. Other people can do what they want, but I have a record of accomplishment. So people can

say whatever they want, but I can prove to a record. I came in with an agenda, I stayed focused on that agenda and I've had success with that agenda," Hardesty said Tuesday night.

Hardesty ran on her record of initiating the non-armed Portland Street Response team as a way to lessen demands on the Police Bureau which is shorthanded, and to better deal with people in mental health crisis.

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Barbecue Chef Gets Much Needed Help



James Dixon, a well known Portland entrepreneur who has served generations of families with his Dixon's Rib Pit barbecue is getting some much needed help after the theft of his barbecue equipment and the pending loss of his rented home in the Alberta district.

Neighbors rally to keep operator in business, housed

James Dixon, a well known Portland entrepreneur who has served generations of families from his Dixon's Rib Pit barbecue cart in the Alberta district is getting some much needed help after the theft of his grilling equipment and the pending loss of his rented home in the same neighborhood.

According to neighbors who are rallying to support the long time Black community resident, Dixon has been a selfless and caring friend to many in the community.

Daniel Greenstadt and other neighbors started a GoFundMe account to help Dixon recover from the theft and help him get his rib pit back up and running, along some financial help to find another place to live and stay in the neighborhood. Already, more than \$8,000 was raised after just a few days and a TV news report on his plight.

Dixon's handmade barbecue smoker and trailer were stolen from his home on May 15. Unfortunately, it followed the loss of his beloved wife who died last year and current plans by his landlord to sell the home he has called home for years.

"As you can imagine, the housing challenge is a difficult one, and we are appealing to any individuals or organizations who may be able to help financially or with other resources in the search for an appropriate and affordable place for Mr. Dixon to hang his hat," Greenstadt said. After a TV news report on Dixon's plight, more than \$8,000 was initially pledged.

"Mr. Dixon has given so much for so many years to so many people in so many ways that he's touched a lot of lives, and he's never asked for anything," Greenstadt said in his gofundme post. "We hope to replace his equipment and get him up and running for the summer BBQ season and beyond."

For more information and to contribute, visit gofundme.com/f/james-dixon-friends-neighbors-fund/.



Unsafe Housing Charged Conditions inhabitable, Black tenants say

Don't Shoot Portland, the Portland-based activist organization promoting civil rights, racial equity and solutions to gun violence, is leading a community-based response to a mass action lawsuit against Reach Community Development claiming unsafe and unsanitary conditions for a housing complex serving the Black community.

Five tenants at Allen Fremont Plaza, 221 N. Fremont, have filed lawsuits claiming the non-profit housing provider forced them into inhabitable conditions by not maintaining the 64-unit building, causing them and other low-income and elderly residents to live in filth and fear for their safety.

Reach Community Development, which has not publicly responded to the lawsuit, promised it would make improvements to the building seven years ago when it took over



Black tenants at Allen Fremont Plaza have filed a lawsuit claiming unsafe and unsanitary conditions.

management, but since then, tenants say conditions have only gotten worse.

A lack of basic and necessary maintenance, for example, is blamed for non-functioning restrooms that deny tenants' basic hygiene needs, the tenants say.

In addition, a failure to maintain elevators has forced disabled tenants to literally crawl down flights of stairs to exit the building or to stay in their apartments for days until the elevator was working again, the lawsuit claims.

Other complaints include a failure to provide effective light-

ing and security cameras, resulting in criminal activity taking place on the premises as well as elderly tenants being harassed by non-residents; and failure to provide adequate ventilation and safety from fire hazards.

Last year, an employee at the complex was removed from her role at the facility after tenants alleged the worker used racist slurs against Black residents, the Oregonian reported.

In the current complaint, legal advocacy and services are provided with support from Don't Shoot Portland and the civil rights law firm Olsen Daines, officials said.

Run-off; Re-Elected

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She will face political newcomer Rene Gonzalez in the runoff. Gonzalez a soccer coach and business owner endorsed by the Portland Police Association narrowly outdistanced his opponent Vadim Mozyrsky.

In the Multnomah County sheriff's race, O'Donnell will succeed Sheriff Mike Reese, who was unable to run for re-election due to term limits.

"Today is also a win for trailblazers everywhere, as I'm honored to be the first woman elected to be your Sheriff," Morrissey O'Donnell tweeted Tuesday night.

In an election for Multnomah County Chair to succeed Deborah Kafoury who was term limited, Multnomah County Commissioner Jessica Vega Pederson captured the most votes, but short of avoiding a runoff. She will face fellow County Commissioner Sharon Meieran who narrowly finishing second.

In the governor's race, Kotek will face a three-way race in November against the Republican nominee Christine Drazan and



Democratic gubernatorial candidate Tina Kotek speaks to supporters Tuesday night after the results of Oregon's primary election are announced in Portland. Kotek defeated Tobias Read to win the nomination. (AP photo)

Betsy Johnson, a former Democratic state senator who is running as an independent.

"I think it's important to remember that all the Democrats in this race share a similar vision for what we want the state to be," Kotek said in her victory speech, addressing a crowd of supporters in Portland on Tuesday night. "We're all going to work together to make sure we win. That a Democrat — that I win in November, because frankly there is

just too much at stake."

In Oregon's new sixth Congressional District, State Rep. Andrea Salinas was declared the winner in a crowded field of candidates which included former Multnomah County Commissioner Loretta Smith, a long time member of Portland's Black community.

If elected in November, Salinas would become the first Latina member of Congress from Oregon.

'Put Gun Control on the Ballot'

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

mit database, and would prohibit magazines of more than 10 rounds.

Rabbi Michael Cahana, also a chief petitioner, raised his voice in anguish over the great toll of mass shootings.

"How long, oh Lord, how long do we have to endure? How long do we have to gather together after another mass murder? Of children, of people in the grocery store, people going about their ordinary lives, wiped out at the hands of a murderer using weapons of war," he said. "How long? Dr. King told us not long."

Cahana said we must not treat these killings as normal and said we must make changes to make a difference.

"Thoughts and prayers are not enough," he said. "Action is what is needed right now and we are going to act."

Gun control laws work, Cahana said, and are effective not only against mass murder, but also against murders and suicides that happen every day.



PHOTO BY BEVERLY CORBELL/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
Black activist and musician Marilyn Keller, one of the three chief petitioners seeking a gun control measure on the November 2022 general election ballot, shares her disgust with gun deaths during a rally for Lift Every Voice Oregon at Augustana Lutheran Church in northeast Portland.

"Guns and gun violence is an everyday occurrence and these laws have been proven to make a difference, to make sure that the people who shouldn't have guns to not have access to those guns," he said. "To help responsible gun owners use their guns effectively. We can't just stand idly by and

watch our children be murdered. We have to act."

Rev. Mark Knutson, the third chief petitioner, moderated the press conference and opened it by saying that love is active, not passive.

"We are here because we have been mourning and weeping, and we cannot imagine what the fam-

ilies are going through. But as parents we know how we would feel," he said.

Another speaker, Rev. Andrea Cano, interim president of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, said she can't count the times "we have gathered together like this, imploring our elected officials and imploring one another to take steps for gun control."

But the fact that the petition could be on the ballot is inspiring other states, and has received many emails from other ecumenical executives, Cano said.

"They are curious and hoping that we will succeed with what we're doing. They're in that fight with us today."

Cano said she was wearing purple, the color of mourning, and at times speaking in Spanish, noted that most of the children killed in Uvalde, Texas had Hispanic surnames.

"Uvalde is our Sandy Hook," she said. "So I ask, I implore not only the Latino community, but all our communities to sign these petitions as soon as possible, to help fund this process, to be involved in this process, from one

end of the state to the other.

"My prayer is that we no longer continue to be contradictory and complicit," she continued. "If we don't sign those signatures, we are complicit."

Speaker after speaker spoke with raw emotion about the mass murders and the need to take action, and Knutson called for the Augustana Peace Bell to toll 21 times for all the lives lost in Texas.

"Our nation is in jeopardy today," said Rev. Linda Jaramillo, past chair of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon. "Weapons of war do not belong in our homes, on our streets, in our communities and in this state. We must lift every voice and say no more. The soul of this nation depends on it."

And Rev. Cecil Prescod of Ainsworth United Church of Christ had strong words for legislators.

"It's blasphemy for using prayers to hide while you won't pass laws to keep our kids from dying," he said. "We will offer our thoughts and prayers, but we expect you to legislate, to make policy and to change. How much more can we bear, oh Lord, how much more can we endure?"

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The life of Portland activist Ken Ford is portrayed by actor La'Tevin Alexander in 'Walking through Portland with a Panther,' a new solo play celebrating Ford's legacy as lifelong champion of empowerment for Portland's black community.

Walking with a Panther

Portland activist
Ken Ford portrayed
in new play

The legacy of Mr. Kent Ford, co-founder of Portland's chapter of the 1960s-era Black Panthers and a lifelong champion for the empowerment of Portland's black community, will come to life this month with a new solo play.

The Vanport Mosaic with Confrontation Theatre present Walking Through

Portland with a Panther: The Life of Mr. Kent Ford. All Power! by Don Wilson Glenn, directed by Damaris Webb and featuring La'Tevin Alexander.

The newly commissioned play incorporates archival footage and storytelling to understand the legacy of the civil rights movement, to rediscover lost neighbor-

hoods where the Panthers used to patrol, and to learn the intimate makings of unsung leaders of protest and revolution.

Ten performances are scheduled, June 16 through June 26, at Portland Playhouse, 602 N.E. Prescott St. Tickets are available on Eventbrite. More information is available at Vanportmosaic.org.

Juneteenth Benefit Concert Set



Jazz composer and pianist Darrell Grant will give a special performance on Juneteenth as part of a benefit concert for the Black United Fund of Oregon and the introduction his new trio, DG3.

Darrell Grant trio debuts; recording celebrated

Portland jazz composer, pianist and Oregon Governor's Arts Awardee Darrell Grant will continue his Soul Restoration Project with the debut of a new trio, DG3, with Machado Mijiga on drums and Sam Arnold on bass, coming Juneteenth, June 19, at The 1905 jazz club, located at 830 N. Shaver St.

Two shows will celebrate the upcoming release of Grant's recording *The New Black: Darrell Grant Live at Birdland* with its first single "The New Black" available digitally on Friday, June 17. As part of the Soul Restoration mission to build community through access and inclusion, the admission to the first 7 p.m. performance will be pay-what-you-

will. The cover charge for a second, 9 p.m. performance is \$20. Ticket purchases will benefit the Black United Fund of Oregon and are available at The1905.org.

With the new DG3 trio, Grant draws on the formative influences of piano giants Ahmad Jamal, Ramsey Lewis, Joe Sample, and Herbie Hancock, and blends in contemporary sounds of a new generation of voices like Cory Henry and Robert Glasper.

Grant's 30-year catalog of original compositions and arrangements are also fuel for the inventive explorations of drummer/producer Machado Mijiga and the electric bass virtuosity of Sam Arnold. The DG3 traverses from jazz, African, and soul grooves, to Grant's harmonic reimaginings of pop classics by Laura Mvula, James Taylor, and John Lennon.

For more information on Darrell Grant, visit darrellgrant.com.



Podcast Radio Show Success

Let's Talk About Race, the Portland produced podcast and radio show, has soared to new heights, recently winning awards from three world organizations for its successful community radio and civil rights programming.

A production of Grassroots News NW and KBOO Community Radio, Let's Talk won three 2022 Hometown Media Awards from the Alliance for Com-

munity Media Foundation; the 'Best Podcast' award from the Bright International Film Festival in London; the 'Outstanding Achievement' award from the Swedish International Film Festival; and 'Honorable Mention' from the Amsterdam International Film Festival.

Featuring rigorous analysis of news coverage, and the role race plays in politics, life, and society, Let's Talk About Race is avail-

able on Pacifica Radio Network, Soundcloud, Apple Podcast, and PRX, and currently airs twice monthly on KBOO in Portland.

The roundtable line-up features LaNita Duke, award-winning multimedia producer for Grassroots News NW; Dianne Johnson a professor and journalist from Texas; Althea Billings, a journalist and radio producer in Portland; and Rev. Cecil Prescod, a talk-show host in Portland.

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Juneteeth at Easter Short Park



A performance by Jujuba, a 10-piece Afrobeat ensemble from Portland, will highlight the city of Vancouver's inaugural Juneteenth Celebration, coming Friday, June 17, from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Esther Short Park in downtown Vancouver.

Vancouver plans inaugural celebration

All members of the community are invited to the city of Vancouver's inaugural Juneteenth celebration, coming Friday, June 17, from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Esther Short Park in downtown Vancouver.

Sponsored by the city of Van-

couver in association with Odyssey World International Education Services, the event will include multicultural music, food, welcoming words from community representatives, games and other activities.

Juneteenth is a federal holiday recognizing the liberation of the last African American enslaved people in Texas by American soldiers in June of 1865.

Organizers plan Vancouver's celebration to highlight a com-

munity's commitment to liberty for all, the freedom to have creative expression, to achieve financial stability, to access healthcare, to acquire an education, to be civically engaged, to appreciate our heritages, and to make a fresh start.

Volunteers are still needed and greatly appreciated, organizers say. Visit juneteenthfreedomcelebration.com to sign-up and for a complete line-up of the activities planned.

Songs of the Black Experience

Duo to team up for first ever Juneteenth Concert

The community is invited to join Saxophonist Eldon T Jones and singer LaRhonda Steele at the Alberta Rose Theatre for their first-ever Juneteenth Celebration Concert at 8 p.m. on Saturday, June 18.

Juneteenth is a federal holiday that celebrates the anniversary date of the June 19, 1865, announcement of General Order No. 3 by Union Army general Gordon Granger proclaiming freedom for enslaved people in Texas, which was the last state of the Confederacy with institutional slavery.

Jones and Steele have curated songs drawing from all African-American musical art forms, and their performance will evoke the joy of emancipation that slaves experienced in 1865.



Saxophonist Eldon T. Jones and singer LaRhonda Steele will perform a special Juneteenth celebration concert on Saturday, June 18 at the Alberta Rose Theater.

A World Arts Foundation Lifetime Achievement Award winner, Jones is known for captivating Portland audiences with his heartfelt saxophone playing. His 2021 single "T's Jam" peaked at No. 54 in a 16-week run on the Smooth Jazz Network Top 100 and hit No. 4 on the Billboard Smooth Jazz Most Added chart.

Oregon Music Hall of Fame inductee LaRhonda Steele, a blues and gospel singer-songwriter, is

recognized as one of the region's best rhythm and blues vocalists. She has been dubbed "The First Lady of Portland Blues"—a title of leadership that she lives up to as she shares songs that carry forth directly from her soul and spiritual life force.

The concert tickets are \$20 in advance and \$26 at the door, available at the Alberta Rose Theatre Box Office, 3000 N.E. Alberta St., or by visiting etix.com.

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

Irresponsible Leaders Normalize Violence

Mass killings evidence of broken society

By BEN JEALOUS

The mass killings at the elementary school in Uvalde, Texas, 10 days after the white supremacist killings in Buffalo, N.Y., are further evidence of how deeply our society is broken, and how urgently we need to figure out how to begin fixing it.

The slaughter of so many young children and two of their teachers is shocking at a human level. It is absolutely gutting to me as a parent of school-aged children. Millions of us send our kids off to school every day, trying to set aside the knowledge gnawing at our insides that our school and our kids could be next.

It should be unimaginable, and in most countries it is.

But it is not unimaginable in our country. It is so not unimaginable that we subject our young children to the trauma of live shooter drills. We make teachers responsible for preparing students to deal with what too many of our policymakers have decided is not worth trying to prevent.

A decade ago, after the slaughter of elementary school students and educators at



Ben Jealous

Sandy Hook elementary school in Connecticut, most Republican senators used filibuster rules to block passage of a bill to require background checks for all gun purchases. That is about the least we could do to try to limit gun violence. It is supported by huge majorities of Americans, including most gun owners.

We see similarly misplaced priorities at the state level. According to news reports, the killings in Uvalde were the fifth major mass shooting in the state during Gov. Greg Abbott's tenure. After previous mass killings, Texas Republicans have weak-

ened gun regulations. In 2015, Abbott urged Texans to buy more guns, tweeting that he was "embarrassed" that the state was falling behind California in gun purchases. Just last year, Abbott signed legislation to loosen gun restrictions, making it possible for Texans to carry handguns without any license or training.

This is a virtual invitation to increased gun violence.

These recent shootings come at a time when violence is increasingly being normalized and justified by irresponsible leaders.

The two-year anniversary of the police killing of George Floyd over the Memorial Day holiday was a reminder that Black Americans are all too familiar with the threat that "routine" interactions with police can turn deadly.

In response to widespread protests against Floyd's killing, extremists mobilized armed mobs with false fear-mongering claims that "antifa" and Black Lives Matter activists were planning to ransack suburbs and small towns. Far right-wing activists also insist that the Second Amendment allows private ownership of even the most powerful military weapons, so that they can be turned against a "tyrannical" government.

We are also just days away from congressional hearings on the violent Jan. 6, 2021 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol. We will hear about extremists in the so-called

Stop the Steal movement who threatened civil war if Trump did not stay in power. In spite of Republican efforts to sabotage the investigation, we will learn more about the crimes that led to that day's deadly violence. And the violent rhetoric goes on: Trump himself recently used his own social media platform to amplify a self-identified MAGA activist's prediction of – or call for – civil war. That is utterly irresponsible.

Scholars have identified the kind of polarization taking place in our country, and the kind of diminished commitment to democracy we have seen among Trump Republicans, as predictors of a country's vulnerability to civil war.

For families who lost loved ones in Buffalo and Uvalde, and for the many communities that have been scarred by mass murder, it may feel like that war has already arrived. That suffering would be multiplied beyond measure if the extremists calling for civil war in our country get their wish.

We should not tolerate the slightest encouragement for that kind of catastrophe from political leaders, including the former commander in chief. And we should not tolerate continued inaction on the violence that stalks our streets and schools.

Ben Jealous serves as president of People for the American Way and Professor of the Practice at the University of Pennsylvania.



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CLASSIFIEDS/BIDS

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Organized Labor Liaison

Worksystems is seeking qualified and experienced organizations or individuals to function as the Organized Labor Liaison and deliver early intervention and Rapid Response services to employers and their union-represented employees who are impacted by layoffs or closures in the local area. The RFP is posted on Worksystems' website at www.worksystems.org.

Proposals are due no later than noon on June 20, 2022.

Worksystems is an equal opportunity employer/program.

Auxiliary aids and services are available to individuals with disabilities upon request. To place a free relay call in Oregon, dial 711.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

The Vancouver Housing Authority FRUIT VALLEY MODERNIZATION

The Vancouver Housing Authority on behalf of Vancouver Affordable Housing will receive bids for project **214-2021-01 - FRUIT VALLEY MODERNIZATION** until **10:00 a.m., July 21, 2022** at Vancouver Housing Authority, 2500 Main St., Vancouver, Washington 98660 at which time and place all bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. A pre-bid conference for interested bidders is scheduled for **9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. on June 15, 2022 at 1910 W. 31st St., Vancouver, WA 98660**.

Work includes the renovation of 7 duplexes and 2 single-family residences in an 18-unit complex, involving extensive site, exterior, and interior improvements including but not limited to the replacement of the main sewer and water lines; the replacement of the interior plumbing; exterior renovations including but not limited to new siding and roofs; and extensive interior renovations including but not limited to the gut and remodel of unit bathrooms and other interior work.

Please obtain the complete Invitation for Bids solicitation documents at this link: <https://plans.j2b.com/> after June 08, 2022. Information found anywhere but this link or www.vhausa.org might not be accurate. It is the responsibility of the bidder to check the previously noted link for any addenda, updates, and award notification.

Solicitation contact is Amanda Chezem at achezem@vhausa.com.

Equal Opportunity Employer

REQUEST FOR BIDS

2022-52

Invitation to Bid for Modular Switch for C-TRAN Bus Rapid Transit Lines

Clark County Public Transportation Benefit Area (dba C-TRAN) has issued an Invitation to Bid (ITB) for Modular Switch for C-TRAN Bus Rapid Transit Lines.

This ITB may be found at <https://www.c-tran.com/about-c-tran/business/procurement/bid-and-proposal-opportunities>.

Bids will be accepted until 3:00 p.m. on Friday, July 8, 2022.

REQUEST FOR BIDS

2022-53 Invitation to Bid for Hardware-Virtual Host/ Archiver for C-TRAN Bus Rapid Transit Lines

Clark County Public Transportation Benefit Area (dba C-TRAN) has issued an Invitation to Bid (ITB) for Hardware-Virtual Host/Archiver for C-TRAN Bus Rapid Transit Lines.

This ITB may be found at <https://www.c-tran.com/about-c-tran/business/procurement/bid-and-proposal-opportunities>. Bids will be accepted until 3:00 p.m. on Monday, July 11, 2022.

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Obituary



In Loving Memory of Essie Williams

Essie Williams was born Oct. 5, 1937 in Canton, Miss. to the late Ollie Bell Sanders and Lawrence Lewis.

She moved to Portland at the age of 7, attending Chapman Elementary and graduating from Roosevelt High School. In 1963, Essie married Richard Williams and to this union came three children Alonzo, Robert, and Makeesha.

In 2003, she retired from Nabisco after a long and tenured career where she was admired and loved by her coworkers. Working at Nabisco was especially a treat for her grandchildren who loved it when she'd bring home fresh baked cookies.

Essie enjoyed playing cards, listening to BB King, catching up on the latest news, and faithfully watching the Portland Trail Blazers, cheering them on win or lose.

She especially enjoyed spending quality time with her family. Essie spoke enthusiastically about all of her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, sharing news about all of their accomplishments and successes.

She was known for her words of wisdom which derived from her reverence in God. Her heart went into everything she did; from creating the best turkey & dressin' in the family to hosting family and friends during the holidays. She was always fash-

ionably dressed and known for her exquisite taste in suits and high heels.

In 2017, Essie was diagnosed with cancer. She battled the disease with the love and support of her family. Her daughter, Makeesha, went to every doctor's visit. Although it was a tough fight, Essie remained positive, never complained and had amazing determination. Her faith carried her far beyond the doctor's expectations. God had the final say.

We will remember Essie for many things: her loving nature, her kind heart, and her beautiful smile. No judgment, no stress, just warmth and love – and that was Essie.

Essie leaves to cherish her memory and forever hold her in their hearts, her sister Bernice Robertson; daughter Makeesha; grandson Mervonce; granddaughters Alexxis, La'Princia, Passion'L and Dawn; great-grandchildren Karter, Kolby and James Jr.; as well as a host of nieces, nephews, relatives and friends. She was a foster parent to five additional children who she loved dearly, Monica, Bridget, Tony, Tyrone, and Derrick (who preceded her in death).

She was preceded in death by her mother and father, her husband, and sons Alonzo and Robert.

In Loving Memory



Willis O. 'Bill' Allen

Willis O. "Bill" Allen, died May 24, 2022.

Funeral services will be held Friday, June 17 at 1 p.m. at Rose City Cemetery and Funeral Home, 5625 N.E. Fremont St. Viewing is scheduled for one hour prior to the service, beginning at noon.



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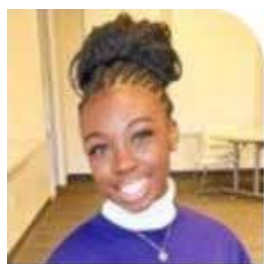
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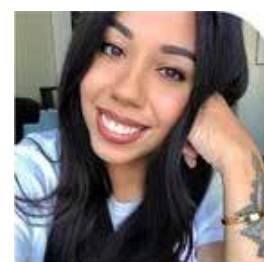
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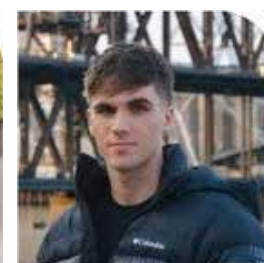
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This time of year, Oregon is dressed up in her finest. Tree buds burst into flower and mountains come out from hiding behind cloudy skies. It becomes just a little easier to set aside the things that worry us, to perhaps try to ignore habits that we developed during darker days. If gambling is one of those habits, it's a great time for a new start. Spring is a perfect time for renewal, for change.

Help is Available

If you have a gambling habit that has grown beyond your control, help is available. Through the Oregon Problem Gambling Resource (OPGR), gamblers and those who love them can get support from trained addiction counselors, often right from home. Treatment is effective. People are ready and waiting to provide better mechanisms to cope and to heal. And, best of all, it's free.

All it takes is a phone call, a text, or an online chat to get started. Reach out. Let this season be your season for change.

For more information, visit

OPGR.ORG
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