



Summer of Sound

Celebrating the music and the musicians
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Historic Journey Begins

Ketanji Brown Jackson seated on Supreme Court
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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



Clark County is asking voters in Vancouver and the surrounding area to increase the sales tax to pay for police body cameras in an attempt to bring greater transparency to law enforcement actions. The proposal has drawn cautious support from the Vancouver NAACP. (AP archive photo)

Cautious Support for Body Cams

Clark County sends measure to voters

BY BEVERLY CORBELL
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Voters in Vancouver and Clark County will decide this summer if it backs a very small increase in the sales tax to provide police body and dashboard cameras for its sheriff's deputies. The proposal, Proposition 11 has drawn cautious support from the Vancouver NAACP and will appear on the ballot Aug. 2 during Washington's Primary Election.

Karen Bowerman, chair of the Clark County Council, led a recent discussion of the proposition where different members of the justice system outlined the effects of using the cameras.

Primarily, the cameras would make the sheriff's office more accountable to the public, Clark County Sheriff Chuck Atkins said.

"It would allow us to be more transparent. Our community clearly wants that," Atkins said. "We've been working on this for a couple of years so it won't be hard for us to implement."

If passed, the tax will increase county sales taxes by 0.1 percent, an increase

of one penny for every \$10 spent. County finance director Mark Gassaway said the tax would yield about \$12,000 per year in added revenue.

Other areas of law enforcement could benefit from the funding over the long run, such as providing new revenue to improve jail conditions, add diversion programs to lesson incarceration needs, or hire more sheriff's deputies, officials said.

Jasmine Tolbert, president of NAACP Vancouver, told the Portland Observer she believes that using police body and

Columbia River Tragedy



Kevin McDowell

Man feared drowned after hero rescue

On Sunday June 26, Kevin McDowell was boating in Portland on the Columbia River near Lemon Island when a woman was struggling to swim. In his heroic final act, McDowell, 35, jumped in to help her swim to safety while he tragically lost his life in the life-saving action.

McDowell was well known in the community and the owner of the Capitol Bar. Back in February, the establishment was in the news when it was struck by an SUV which forced the bar to temporarily close. Although this was a big loss to McDowell and his partner Dessiree Guy, they were determined to get the establishment back up and running and support staff members.

McDowell's mother Rhonda Jackson shared a description of her son after the swimming tragedy with KPTV news, describing him as "eloquent, loving, giving and patient." He would often tell her, 'Mom it's everything, it's all love.'

A gofundme has been created by one of McDowell's sisters, Trayanna Enriquez, to help with her brother's funeral expenses. You can visit gofundme.com/f/tq2w-pz-kevin-mcdowell to make a contribution.

A body was recovered in the Columbia River, and on Tuesday, it was confirmed to be Kevin McDowell.

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The Week in Review

Irving Park Light Pole Injury July Brings Wage Increase

A light pole fell down at Irving Park after police say someone tied a hammock to it, injuring a little boy and his nanny. Portland Parks & Recreation said safety is the top priority and they are reviewing the incident and will evaluate any potential next steps.



Defending Roaches Comment

Following criticism for using words that dehumanize and demonize marginalized groups of people, former state Sen. Betsy Johnson, who is running for Oregon governor, Thursday defended recent comments in which she said the City of Roses is turning into "the city of roaches," saying she was talking about trash piling up not people.

Clean Air Rules Limited

The Supreme Court limited the Environmental Protection Agency's ability to regulate carbon dioxide emissions from power plants in a 6-3 ruling handed down last week that will have far reaching implications on the federal government's ability to fight climate change.

Migrants Die in Tractor-Trailer

At least 46 people were found dead in a tractor-trailer in San Antonio, Texas, while attempting the dangerous journey to cross the border into the U.S. in what may be one of the largest mass migrant casualty events in recent U.S. history.

Minimum wage workers in Oregon got a raise on July 1. For the Portland metro area it means \$14.75 per hour and the sixth yearly increase since 2016. Beginning next year, Oregon minimum wage rates will automatically be indexed to inflation based on Consumer Price Index.

Abortion Amendment Sought

Following the supreme court decision eliminating a national right to abortion, Washington Gov. Jay Inslee said he will push for a state constitutional amendment to protect abortion rights within his state's borders, as well as laws that will make it difficult for other states to investigate whether their own residents have visited Washington for abortion care.

R Kelly Sentenced

Disgraced R&B superstar R. Kelly was sentenced Wednesday to 30 years in prison for using his fame to sexually abuse young fans, including some who were just children, in a systematic scheme that went on for decades. The accusers said the singer had misled and preyed upon them.



Driver Shortage Cuts Service

Because of a bus driver shortage, TriMet announced it will shift, reduce or cancel some services until operator numbers increase, starting in mid-September. The temporary change will impact 10 bus lines currently seeing low ridership, officials said.

COVID-19 Vaccines for Children Urged



OHSU encourages vaccines for children to prevent COVID-19 and offer protection against serious illness.

Shots offer protection, OHSU experts say

Following recommendations by federal and state health authorities authorizing new COVID-19 vaccines for young children, Oregon Health & Science University experts recommend the vaccinations as the best way to protect children and their families during the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

"Careful and thorough reviews of available clinical trial data show these two COVID-19 vaccines (Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna) are both effective and safe for children as young as 6 months old. I highly recommend that children get vaccinated as soon as they can," said Dr. Eliza Hayes Bakken, pediatrician at OHSU Doernbecher Children's Hospital and OHSU School of Medicine.

"There are so many unexpected things that can happen to our children. If we can do something to provide some protection against that uncertainty, we should take advantage of it," Bakken said. "The coronavirus still causes too many children to become seriously sick and even die. Vaccinating children remains the best option to protect both our kids and our families."

The Pfizer vaccine is authorized for children 6 months to younger than 5 years old, and the Moderna vaccine is authorized for children 6 months to younger than 6 years old. Other versions of Pfizer vaccine are already available for adults and children older than 5, and another version of the Moderna vaccine has also been authorized for children, adolescents and teenagers 6 and older.

To explore all COVID vaccination options near you, go to vaccines.gov or govstatus.egov.com/find-covid-19-vaccine.

Which vaccine is best? Both vaccines are safe and will lower children's risk of symptomatic infections. Experts have concluded that both vaccines offer an important layer of protection to decrease children's risk of severe symptoms, hospitalization and death from COVID. OHSU Doernbecher pediatricians recommend children get the first vaccine available to them.

To explore all COVID vaccination options near you, go to vaccines.gov or govstatus.egov.com/find-covid-19-vaccine.

PASEO
Fri July 15 – Sun July 17
South Park Blocks and Director Park

Featuring:
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Fri July 15 – Sun July 17
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Hired for Equity Focused Agenda

Prosper Proper taps Portland leader for job

Prosper Portland, the city of Portland's economic development agency, has selected Chabre Vickers as its equity, policy and communications director. She will lead the agency's ongoing work to center equity in its policies and practices, guide strategic communication and community engagement, and oversee the development of quantitative outcomes and metrics.

"We could not be more pleased to welcome Chabre to our team," said Prosper Portland Executive Director Kimberly Branam.

Vickers' background includes multiple roles at Wells Fargo, where she served as a public affairs employee initiatives leader and community development officer for Oregon. In these roles she led the statewide activation of more than \$22 million in Wells Fargo Foundation philanthropic community investments, including a Neighborhood LIFT program, which helped 280 families become new homeowners across Multnomah County.



Chabre Vickers

In 2021 she helped lead Wells Fargo's Open for Business Fund, a \$5.4 million investment to support Oregon's diverse small businesses.

Vickers has also served in many leadership roles representing the bank and finance industry, among them the Oregon State Treasurer's Financial Empowerment Advisory Team, the steering committee for the Oregon Economic Justice Roundtable led by Asset Funders Network, Governor Brown's Metro Regional Solutions Committee, and the inaugural chair of the Oregon Bankers Association BIPOC Task Force, working to ensure financial institutions across Oregon intentionally work to benefit communities of color.

Vickers is a third generation Black Indigenous Oregonian, a descendant of the Shoshone Bannock tribes. Her passion for community is demonstrated by her commitment to public service and her advocacy with many organizations – including the Williams & Russell Project Working Group, Prosper Portland's N/NE Action Plan Leadership Committee, as a board member for NAYA, the Literary Arts Organization, and the Oregon Symphony.

She is a former chair of the City of Portland Human Rights Commission, and former executive board member of the Portland African American Leadership Forum.

"I am grateful to work with a team that has such an extensive level of experience, expertise and commitment to amplifying inclusive economic development in our city," Vickers said. "Raising my daughter in a place that my family has called home for generations makes this new involvement in Portland's future a very personal step for me. The realization of economic justice and prosperity for our vibrant communities requires our work to strengthen community connections and partnerships to make Portland a place where everyone can thrive."

Destructive Abortion Rights Protest

Mother and Child Center, school van, businesses hit

An abortion rights protest in Portland turned destructive over the weekend of June 24-26, with some people marching down streets in the Hollywood District breaking windows on businesses and vehicles and scrawling graffiti, police said.

Officers were monitoring the crowd but no one was arrested because they "did not have the resources to intervene at the moment," police said in a statement Sunday. City police officers were also responding to a shooting, a felony assault, a community festival and drivers doing stunts in various parts of the city at the time, police said.

Protesting the U.S. Supreme Court decision to overturn Roe v. Wade and leave abortion decisions up to the states began with a gathering of about 200 people at a park.



Demonstrators leave a trail of graffiti and broken windows, including to the entrance to the Mother and Child Center at 1500 N.E. 41st. Ave., a grassroots nonprofit that provides services to people who have decided to have children. The damage took place June 25, the day after the Supreme Court erased the constitutional right to abortion, police said.

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Seated on Supreme Court



Ketanji Brown Jackson, the first Black woman to become a Supreme Court justice, poses for a portrait last February ahead of her confirmation. Jackson officially began her duties on Thursday, replacing Justice Stephen Breyer who retired. (AP photo)

Journey begins for first Black woman to serve

(AP) — Ketanji Brown Jackson was sworn in to the Supreme Court on Thursday, shattering a glass ceiling as the first Black woman on the nation's highest court.

The 51-year-old Jackson is the court's 116th justice, and she took the place of the justice she once worked for. Justice Stephen Breyer's retirement was effective at noon.

Moments later, joined by her family, Jackson recited the two oaths required of Supreme Court justices, one administered by Breyer and the other by Chief Justice John Roberts.

"With a full heart, I accept the solemn responsibility of supporting and defending the Constitution of the United States and administering justice without fear or

favor, so help me God," Jackson said in a statement issued by the court. "I am truly grateful to be part of the promise of our great Nation. I extend my sincerest thanks to all of my new colleagues for their warm and gracious welcome."

Roberts welcomed Jackson "to the court and our common calling." The ceremony was streamed live on the court's website. All the justices except for Neil Gorsuch attended the swearing-in, the court said. There was no immediate explanation for Gorsuch's absence.

Jackson, a federal judge since 2013, is joining three other women — Justices Sonia Sotomayor, Elena Kagan and Amy Coney Barrett. It's the first time four women will serve together on the nine-member court.

"Her historic swearing in today represents a profound step forward for our nation, for all the young, Black girls who now see themselves reflected on our highest court, and for all of us as Americans," President Joe Biden said in

a statement after he returned from a trip to Europe. He also thanked Breyer "for his many years of exemplary service."

Biden nominated Jackson in February, a month after Breyer, 83, announced he would retire at the end of the court's term, assuming his successor had been confirmed. Breyer's earlier-than-usual announcement and the condition he attached was a recognition of the Democrats' tenuous hold on the Senate in an era of hyper-partisanship, especially surrounding federal judgeships.

The Senate confirmed Jackson's nomination in early April, by a 53-47 mostly party-line vote that included support from three Republicans.

Jackson had been in a sort of judicial limbo since, remaining a judge on the federal appeals court in Washington, D.C., but not hearing any cases. Biden elevated her to that court from the district judgeship to which she was appointed by President Barack Obama.

Glynda Carr, president of Higher

Heights for America, an organization that advocates for the growth of Black women's political power, said the timing of Jackson's swearing-in was bittersweet.

"Although we celebrate her today, one Black woman or a cohort of Black women can't save this democracy alone. We are a piece of it and we are doing our work, our part. She's going to forever reshape and shape that court. But she's just a piece of the work that needs to happen moving forward," Carr said.

Jackson will be able to begin work immediately, but the court will have just finished the bulk of its work until the fall, apart from emergency appeals that occasionally arise. That will give her time to settle in and familiarize herself with the roughly two dozen cases the court already has agreed to hear starting in October as well as hundreds of appeals that will pile up over the summer.

She helps form the most diverse court in its 232-year history and is the first former public defender to be a justice.



Portfolio project: Bridging a Pathway to Success

We did it! We graduated the UNCF Portfolio Project Class of 2020 - 2021, even in a pandemic!

BY NINEVAH RUDOLPH LOWERY

In today's competitive climate advanced education is the gateway to growth and opportunities for an improved standard of living. This is especially true for Black Americans that have endured generations of poverty and lower economic status. Higher living standards and established respectability in society don't come easy for disadvantaged students, often deprived of higher education due to inadequate funding and college preparedness. That is why UNCF, the country's largest and most effective minority education organization, is committed to helping students navigate the path to college by investing in both students and 37 historically Black colleges and universities, enabling students to get the college education they need to support the growing needs of our nation.

Today, the UNCF Portland Leadership Council, a dedicated group of communi-

ty leaders, donate time and resources to propel minority youth to higher education. Under the direction of Leadership Council Chair Michelle M. Harper, the volunteer group collaborates with UNCF Pacific NW to provide programs and activities for Portfolio Project participants, and to raise funds for scholarships that support students and HBCUs. Student participants are guided through the college application process and matriculate to colleges and universities.

Portfolio Project, UNCF's Signature College Preparatory Program, is proud

of its 15+ years of service to students in Washington and Oregon, providing them with college readiness, mentoring, and financial assistance. With a rich history dating back to the 1970s, UNCF's Portland presence started with involvement and support from the Oregon Alliance of Black School Educators; Black churches, sororities, and fraternities; and scholarship fundraising through the annual UNCF Evening of Stars and UNCF Walks. UNCF's Portfolio Project for juniors and seniors was held virtually during the pandemic. New in-person cohorts will launch on September 24, 2022 at two new sites, Warner Pacific University and Clark College. We thank Warner Pacific University President, Dr. Brian L. Johnson, and Clark College President, Dr. Karin Edwards, for hosting our pro-



gram. Prior to the pandemic, Dr. Karin Edwards hosted the program at Portland Community College, Cascade Campus. This year, UNCF's Portfolio Project provided \$100K in scholarships to students in Oregon and Washington.

UNCF believes that "A mind is a terrible thing to waste." Please join our efforts to make a difference in the lives of our youth. For partnership opportunities, ways to volunteer, or to make a donation please contact Linda Thompson-Black, Pacific NW UNCF Area Development Director, at Linda.Thompson-Black@UNCF.org, 206-292-8859 or Michelle M. Harper, Chair of UNCF Portland Leadership Council, at infoport-land@uncf.org, 503-548-3083.

UNCF Portland Leadership Council

Michelle M. Harper - Board Chair, Tamara Brown, Zachary Clay, Dominique Debnam, Tiffany Dempsey, Joy Fowler, Bob Gravely, Sheila Holden, Devon Horace, Mimi Hunter, Ramiah Israel, Keyanus Jacobo, Carol Johnson, Denise Johnson, Shauncey Mashia, Kelly L. Michael, Larry Miller, April Murphy, Whitney Pettigrew, Nia Rayford, Cameryn Rutlin, Shelia Searight, Patricia Simpson, Jesse Welch, Jo'Rita Williams, Patricia Williams, Robyn Williams

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We are excited to invite the community

to our Each One Teach One Jazz In The Garden Luncheon on July 17, 2022, an in-person event at the Hilton Portland Downtown. UNCF's Each One Teach One is the annual fundraiser that brings the village together to celebrate the

achievements of students, the work of community leaders, and the partners and sponsors that raise funds to support UNCF's Portfolio Project and college scholarships. We are excited to recognize Michelle M. Harper as our Individual of The Year Honoree, and to show appreciation for our leaders in education, area businesses, civic leaders, and others. Please contact Linda.Thompson-Black@uncf.org for sponsorship opportunities. For more information, tickets sales, or to make a donation please visit UNCF.org/EOTO.

UNCF Portland Community Partners

UNCF is proud of the work that we do to support students, but we could not realize our goals without the generous support of community partners and sponsors whose resources and contributions enable us to operate our programs and award scholarships. We extend our utmost gratitude and sincere appreciation to our sponsors, donors, and leadership council members for their generosity and dedication;

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A groundbreaking ceremony in the Rock Creek neighborhood west of Portland lays the ground for a new Union Gospel residential facility for women experiencing homelessness, addiction and abuse.

New Shelter for Women in Crisis

Union Gospel to build at Rock Creek

Union Gospel Mission recently hosted a groundbreaking celebration for the construction of a new residential facility for women and children, coming to the Rock Creek neighborhood west of Portland.

Officials said the new home will provide long-term recovery housing and care for women and their children who are experi-

encing, homelessness, addiction and abuse.

Sadly, the downtown Union Gospel Mission turns away women every month who are seeking safety from domestic violence, help for addiction, and healing from trauma.

The new home will be 52,000 square feet, with 52 rooms allowing the nonprofit to

double its capacity to serve more than 2,000 women and children in the coming decade.

The new facility will also be equipped with incredible spaces for healing and transformation, officials said. It will include spaces for community building, on-site counseling, parenting classes, a children's education center, a chapel and more.

By alleviating barriers to services and designing an environment that allows

women to feel supported and loved, Union Gospel Mission officials are continuing an ongoing effort to offer intensive services to women in need and make a significant commitment to their long term recovery and care.

The nonprofit said they plan to open the new home next year. The cost of this project is \$17 million with \$14 million raised in donations to date.

Rhythms of Cultures

OPINIONATED JUDGE

BY
DARLEEN
ORTEGA



Something for everyone at Oregon Shakespeare Festival

The Oregon Shakespeare Festival is open for its first full season since lockdown in 2020, the first under the direction of Artistic Director Nataki Garrett. Five shows are currently on stage; I'll begin with the three I saw first, which rage widely in tone and may each have their own audience. That may well be the point; if theater really is for everyone, that may not mean that everyone likes each show but rather than there is something for everyone.

"Once On This Island" may have the most wide-ranging appeal of the three and runs all season. It is a buoyant one-act musical that can be experienced purely for dance and music and vibrant color—but to the particular delight of some of us, OSF's production is built with particular mindfulness around Haitian culture. The show is usually set on an unnamed Caribbean island and, though its source material is a novel written by Rosa Guy, an immigrant to the U.S. from Trinidad, the show's white creators (book and lyrics by Lynn Ahrens and music by Stephen Flaherty) kept the cultural references generic, a feature commonly found in "ethnic" plays. Director Lili-Anne Brown sought to honor specificity by setting OSF's production in Haiti, with particular attention to the rhythms of that country's language, its history, its indigenous Vodou religion, and its swirl of colonized cultures.

For those who approach the work with curiosity about and admiration for Haitian culture, this production holds particular

delights that hold the story well. During a storm, the village storytellers comfort a young girl with a tale about another peasant girl, Ti Moune, who falls in love with Daniel, a lighter-skinned man descended from a French colonizer who bore children with a dark-skinned native woman. The island is divided among the wealthier lighter-skinned descendants of colonizers and darker-skinned peasants like Ti Moune, but when Daniel gets into an accident on the "wrong" side of the island, she nurses him back to health. The colorism and prejudice that follow colonization doom Ti Moune's love for Daniel and her dreams of a better life in typically nonsensical and unyielding ways. Yet pure of heart, Ti Moune grasps for more than fate appears ready to allow her, and the gods respond in quixotic ways; her prayers, love, and efforts to push against the strictures of her circumstances are expressed in song and dance, as are the responses of her loved ones, the gods, Daniel, and his privileged relations.

Though most of us will miss many of the show's cultural references, the production feels like a celebration of Haitian life, including the resilience, struggles, creativity, and joy that have persisted through centuries of colonization and exploitation. It strikes me that the source material itself reflects a colonization process that director Brown and her creative partners (including a talented and diverse cast of Black performers) have attempted to push back against—a worthy practice that may well contain clues about surmounting barriers to love evoked in fables like this one. "Once On This Island" plays in the Angus Bowmer Theater through Oct. 30.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11



PHOTO BY SAMU3L PRATHER/PORTLAND PARKS & RECREATION

Portland's own, five-time Grammy winner Esperanza Spalding will perform during the second night of first annual East Portland Summer Arts Festival, taking place Saturday and Sunday, July 9 and 10 at Ventura Park, 460 S.E. 113th.

First East Portland Festival

Grammy sensation to headline free event

Grammy award-winning Portland native and artist Esperanza Spalding will headline the first annual East Portland Summer Arts Festival, held Saturday and Sunday, July 9 and 10, at Ventura Park, 460 S.E. 113th Ave., the latest of Portland Parks & Recreation's Summer Free for All celebrations this summer.

Spalding's performance is the evening of July 10. Aaron Nigel Smith & 1 World Chorus + Sora Shodo, a reggae fusion and live painting performance, will also be featured at the

festival. Daytime arts activities are scheduled from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. with the headlining performance at 6 p.m. both days.

"There is no Portland without a vibrant arts and culture community, and without vibrant arts and culture across our whole community," said Portland Parks Commissioner Carmen Rubio, who also serves as the City's Arts and Culture Commissioner. "This first-ever East Portland Summer Arts Festival accessibly brings arts and culture to East Portland, and I'm hopefully it will be a treasured annual event."

Free drop-in mini music lessons, art activities, and more are also planned. For more information, visit portland.gov/parks/sffa.



PHOTO BY JENNY GRAHAM/OREGON SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

The Oregon Shakespeare Festival is back with its first full season since the coronavirus pandemic. Five shows are currently on stage, including "Once On This Island," (above), a production that adds a particular mindfulness around Haitian culture.

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Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



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Musicians Charlie Brown III (left) and Domo Branch, both of the group Brown Branch, will play Sunday, July 17 at 7 p.m. as part of the Albina Music Trust's Summer of Sound.

Albina Summer of Sound

Events celebrate Portland's Black music history

The legacy of music emitting from Portland's historic Black community is celebrated this summer with a series of live concerts, an art opening and storytelling.

The Albina Music Trust presents Summer of Sound, connecting attendees with the arts and the cultural legacy of Albina, the historic epicenter for Black Portlanders, and establishing new multigenerational connections through music.

Kicking off the first of four free events will be Soul Conversation, an oral history panel with musicians from Albina's past, on Thursday, July 14 at 7 p.m. at Alberta House, 5131 N.E. 23rd Ave.

Facilitated by Calvin Walker, the conversation will feature Paul Knauls Sr., J.W. Friday, Norman Sylvester, Kenneth W. Berry, and Jeddy Beasley. Archival photography showcasing Albina's historic music culture will be presented and the conversation will conclude with a performance by Charlie Brown III & Friends.

Later this month, Albina Music Trust and Brown Branch present

Time Sound: Albina's Jazz Reimagined by Greaterkind, coming Sunday, July 17 at 7 p.m. at the conclusion to the annual Cathedral Park Jazz Festival in north Portland's St. Johns neighborhood.

Time Sound was originally conceived in 1981 by Portland's Thara Memory and the World Arts Foundation. The rebirth concert will see Memory's longtime students Charlie Brown III and Domo Branch leading their Greaterkind collective through a suite of local jazz, soul, funk and fusion compositions.

On Aug. 4 at 7 p.m., Albina Music Trust and Clyde's Prime Rib, will present Wall to Wall Soul, a special art opening and album release party featuring Charlie Brown III & Friends with two previous unreleased 1970s LPS, Lights Out and Transport. Organizers said Clyde's, located at 5474 N.E. Sandy Blvd. has long served Albina's elder musician community, presenting live music featuring these musicians.

The summer series will conclude with another Time Sound: Albina's Jazz Reimagined by Greaterkind performance on Saturday, Aug. 6 at 7 pm. at the Washington Park Rose Garden, once again amplifying Portland's Black cultural heritage through the lens of a new generation, showcasing sounds of the past and their influence today.

Rhythms of Cultures



PHOTO BY JENNY GRAHAM/OREGON SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

Reina Guthrie and Donna Simone Johnson give a comic book edge to 'Revenge Song: A Vampire Cowboys Creation,' one of five new productions now playing at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in Ashland.

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"Revenge Song: A Vampire Cowboys Creation" may be encountering a bit of rough water in finding its audience. Set on the venerated outdoor stage, the Allen Elizabethan Theatre, it is about as far from traditional as anything OSF has staged, which is exactly its object. It is the work of Qui Nguyen (who wrote "Vietgone," which charmed OSF audiences in 2016), Robert Ross Parker (who directed and wrote the lyrics with Nguyen), and Shane Rettig (who wrote the music). All are collaborators in Vampire Cowboys, a self-styled geek theater company whose aesthetic has been to create and produce new work based in action/adventure and dark comedy with a comic book edge.

This musical fits within that aesthetic. It takes the story of Julie d'Aubigny--an actual woman from 17-century France who transgressed gender boundaries, had affairs with both men and women, was a practiced sword fighter and famous opera singer, and broke rules of all kinds--and turns it into a raunchy, action and comic-book-humor fest. Most of the story here is based on what is actually said to be true about d'Aubigny, but the language and aesthetic is more openly profane and current than a traditional period drama would be, the better to capture and celebrate how shocking d'Aubigny was in her day.

OSF's typical audiences aren't necessarily prepared for this level of irreverence, judging from some of the reaction the show has gotten. But it will delight those who can relax and receive the show on its own terms; it's not making a case for anything but rather aims to be playful in the way a lot of comic-book art aims to be--wild, violent, profane, and pushing boundaries for the sake of doing so. The cast and crew are all the way in, and audiences willing to go with them will enjoy the ride. "Revenge Song" plays on the Allen Elizabethan stage through Oct. 14.

"Unseen" is the work of playwright Mona Mansour, and is enjoying its West Coast premiere under the direction of Evrin Odeikin. It's an intimate drama

about global concerns, centered on an American conflict photographer, Mia; her Turkish former lover, Derya; and her mother, Jane, who travels to Derya's Istanbul apartment after Mia is found unconscious but otherwise unharmed at the site of a massacre in Syria where she'd been shooting photographs. In the play, Mia serves as an exemplar of the conflicted morality of the citizens of Western superpowers; Mia makes her living from documenting the pain of others in war zones whose suffering is often either inflamed or neglected by those very powers.

Is Mia doing good or an exploiter herself? Both? How is she impacted by the suffering she witnesses? How is she implicated? These questions animate the story, though I can't say their resolution is wholly satisfying. In some ways, Derya (Nora el Samahy) would have been the more interesting focus, though a riskier subject for attracting American audiences. What attracts Derya to Mia (Helen Sadler), and what sort of relationship is possible with an apparently talented but in many ways insufferable American? We otherwise learn little about Derya's story, since in the play she exists mainly in relationship to Mia. Meanwhile, Mia's suffering feels mostly self-inflicted; the occasional cluelessness of her privileged mother (Caroline Shaffer) feels more honest, even while Mia would be viewed as more worldly.

The performances are solid, and the design artists bring us into Mia's view of Istanbul and Syria via music and art and movement; yet the play offers only snippets of the worlds of Mia's subjects and of Derya. Perhaps the best way to approach this play is to allow Mia to function as a mirror to ourselves as Americans; what is dissatisfying about her ought to dissatisfy us about ourselves. "Unseen" plays in the intimate Thomas Theater through July 31.

Darleen Ortega is a judge on the Oregon Court of Appeals and the first woman of color to serve in that capacity. Her movie and theater review column *Opinionated Judge* appears regularly in *The Portland Observer*. Find her review blog at opinionatedjudge.blogspot.com.

SPORTS

Blazers Select Sharpe with No. 7 Pick



Shaedon Sharpe(right) shakes hands with NBA Commissioner Adam Silver after being selected seventh overall by the Portland Trailblazers in the NBA basketball draft, Thursday, June 23, in New York. (AP photo)

Five-star recruit never suited up in college

(AP) — The Portland Trail Blazers selected Shaedon Sharpe with the seventh pick in the NBA draft on June 23, taking a chance on a player who never suited up in college.

Sharpe, 6-foot-6 wing from Canada, was a five-star recruit who committed to Kentucky but never played for the Wildcats. He intended on redshirting his first season, but instead decided to declare for the draft.

"Going from high school to college and not playing your college season and then straight to the NBA," Sharpe said. "It's quite the journey but every step of the way I've just fought and had fun with it."

Coming off a season marked by a spate of injuries, a new coach, a front-office shakeup and a roster overhaul, the Blazers are rebuilding around All-Star Damian Lillard.

"He's a great guard himself and he's been in this league for some time now, so I just can't wait to really learn from him," Sharpe said.

There was talk that Portland might trade the pick.

"I had just worked the phones so diligently, from post-combine on, just tons of trade discussions, tons of pick-swap ideas, or swap plus a player ideas, or pick for a player outright ideas, while continually evaluating the draft," Blazers general manager Joe Cronin said. "As the process went on, we became more and more enamored with pick seven. Most of my trade discussions became, 'You have to wow us to even think about moving this pick.'"

Cronin said he believes Sharpe could

play right away, but time will tell.

"It was a unique situation with Shaedon, where he didn't play college basketball so he wasn't seen or evaluated nearly as much as these other guys," Cronin said. "But we were lucky enough that we had a pretty good foundation on him."

Portland was active ahead of the draft, acquiring Jerami Grant from the Detroit Pistons on Wednesday, according to a person with knowledge of the situation. The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because neither team announced the agreement.

Lillard, who was injured for much of last season, played with Grant on the gold medal-winning U.S. team at last year's Tokyo Olympics. Grant averaged 19.2 points in 47 games last season with the Pistons.

Detroit received the 46th pick from in the draft as part of the trade and selected Ismael Kamagate of France. But Kamagate was headed to Denver via another deal.

Portland capped the night by selecting forward Jabari Walker out of Colorado with the 57th pick. Last year as a sophomore, Walker averaged 14.6 points and a Pac-12 leading 9.4 rebounds per game for the Buffaloes. He led the conference with 17 double-doubles.

Walker's father is Samaki Walker, who was the ninth overall pick in the 1996 draft and played 10 seasons in the NBA.

"He's a player that's really intriguing to us because of his mix of youth, size, length, shooting, upside," Cronin said about Walker. "He was two-year guy at Colorado and showed some flashes we thought were really appealing."

The Blazers finished 27-55 last season, their worst record since 2005-06. Clearly eying draft position late in the season, Portland lost 11 games by more than 30 points after the All-Star break, and finished in 13th in the Western Conference.

Support for Body Cams

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

dash cams are a step in the right direction to improve interactions between law enforcement and the public, especially for Black and other residents of color.

In January, the local civil rights group joined the American Civil Liberties Union in a lawsuit calling for the U.S. Department of Justice to investigate “excessive force and discriminatory policing” by the city of Vancouver and Clark County law enforcement.

But Tolbert was cautious about the proposal because it leaves funding solely to voters.

“I am disappointed there isn’t a different way for the county to fund body cams,” she said. “I worry that it will be defeated at the ballot box.”

Atkins maintains that police cameras will benefit both the public and officers, and the sales tax funds could also be used for more staff.

“There’s a lot more to it than strapping on a camera or having it in a police car,” he said. “It has to do with having staff up front to run the program for public records requests for data kept in volumes, and we have to have people in place to retrieve it.”

Cameras will help hold law enforcement accountable, Atkins said, but with advantages to the officers as well.

“It’s a piece of equipment that helps us evaluate our work, and review of the video gives us a real look at what we’re doing and why and also helps as a training tool. It will make the community more aware and will make us all safer,” he said

“Our critical staffing levels are low and as we grow we need to make sure inmates are watched over properly,” he said. “That part is essential.”

Atkins said the cameras can be a training tool for “a clearer picture of what we just went through so we can get a clearer view of events.”

He said the camera’s video recordings also can vindicate officers when a complaint isn’t valid. “It actually enforces that officers are doing the job right,” he said.

Tony Golik, Clark County prosecuting attorney, described the cameras as essential and powerful tools that can provide evidence beyond the confines of police officer accountability.

“When we receive cases with body cams, we can download and review it in the same way we view police reports,” he said.

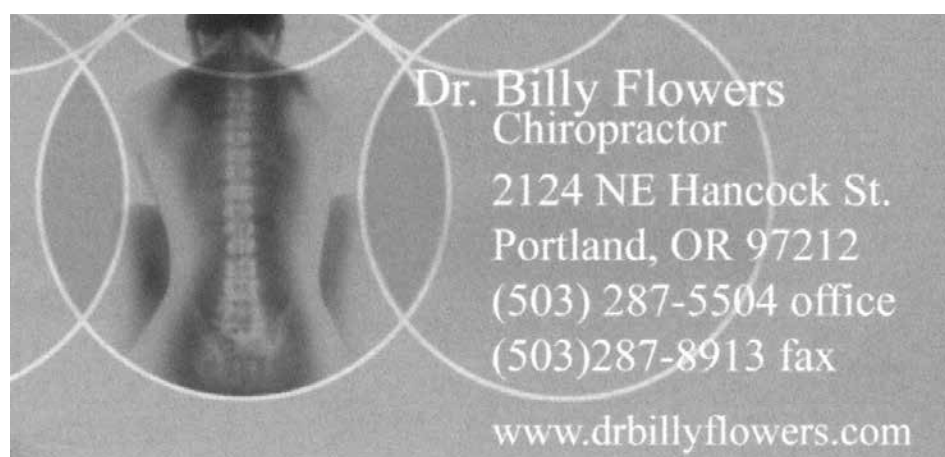
“It’s one thing to read an officer’s recitation of what happened, but another thing to actually view it,” Golik said. “It’s getting the best evidence to use throughout the system. Prosecutors throughout the country feel it is an essential tool.”

Judge Derek Vanderwood, presiding judge of Clark County Superior Court, and Judge Kelli Osler along with members of their staff, talked about many jail diversion programs and educational programs to steer offenders in the right direction and reduce recidivism that could potentially benefit from the tax if it is passed.

Ballots for the Aug. 2 election will be mailed to Clark County voters on July 15, Bowerman said.

Abortion Rights Protest

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3



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OPINION

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After the Overturn of Roe v. Wade

Black women will suffer the most

BY GLYNDA CARR

The Supreme Court just dealt a devastating blow to reproductive rights. With its decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson*, five Republican-appointed Justices on the U.S. Supreme Court swept away half a century of progress and eviscerated women’s rights and equality.

After the decision was leaked a month earlier, we knew this moment would come, but that doesn’t make the news any easier to digest.

For Black women in this country, the decision is especially devastating. Thirteen percent of American women are Black, but 38% of people receiving abortion care are Black. Abortion is necessary healthcare – and a lack of access can quite literally mean life or death for many Black women. This is especially true for Black women who have lower-incomes, live in rural areas, and do not have access to health care because of systemic racism and discrimination.

According to CDC data, Black women are nearly three times more likely to die during childbirth than white women and are more likely to face maternal health issues. With new abortion restrictions and bans, these health outcomes are expected to get even worse: A 2021 Duke University study estimated the potential death toll following a total abortion ban and found a 33 percent increase in Black women who died due to pregnancy-related complications.

The states that are already moving to ban abortion are among those with the largest Black populations in the country. Consider Mississippi, the state with the highest percentage of Black residents in the nation, and one of the 13 states with a “trigger law” that ensured the court’s decision would result in a near-immediate ban on abortion access. Three other states with the highest proportion of Black residents – Tennessee, Louisiana, and Arkansas – have these trigger laws in place, and many other states, especially in the South, are moving to severely restrict or outright ban abortion.

The impact of new abortion bans and restrictions will be felt most acutely by poor and working-class Black women – Black women are significantly more likely to live in poverty compared to white women.

For these women, the overturning of *Roe* won’t mean that abortions will end; it will mean that access to critical, potentially life-saving healthcare will move hundreds of miles out of reach. It will mean time off of work (likely unpaid) and travel and childcare costs – expenses



Glynda Carr

that may not be possible for women living paycheck to paycheck, struggling to simply put meals on the table.

At a time like this, when daughters suddenly have fewer rights than their mothers and grandmothers, it is challenging to imagine a way forward. But the answer is to do everything we can to restore our rights and ensure every woman has access to the healthcare they need and deserve, a right afforded to them under our nation’s Constitution. To do that, we need to elect and elevate more Black women.

Black women have been at the forefront of the fight to protect and expand reproductive rights – from members of Congress like Reps. Cori Bush, Ayanna Pressley, and Lauren Underwood, to our first Black woman Vice President Kamala Harris, to soon-to-be-seated Supreme Court Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson.

We must elect Stacey Abrams to lead the state of Georgia – one of the states that is now positioned to severely restrict, or overturn the right to access abortion care under the leadership of their current Governor, Brian Kemp. And finally, we need to not only encourage, but throw our unwavering support behind more Black women from all across the country to run for office – women who personally understand the deep impact that a lack of healthcare and abortion restrictions have on communities that have lacked fair representation for far too long.

Today and every day, I stand with my partners and allies ready to continue the critical fight for access to affordable, safe, legal abortions for all women, no matter where they live, how they identify, or how much money they have. We will not back down.

Glynda Carr is president and CEO of *Higher Heights for America*, a national organization dedicated to harnessing the power to expand Black women’s elected representation and voting participation, and advance progressive policies.

CLASSIFIEDS/BIDS

INVITATION FOR BIDS

The Vancouver Housing Authority will receive bids for a 113-2021-01 Shelter Renovation until 10:00 a.m., August 11, 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 mandatory pre-bid conference for interested bidders is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on July 12, 2022, alternate dates allowed via request. The project includes, but is not limited to renovation of an existing 2-story building plus basement with new floor layouts, seismic upgrade, upgraded MEP systems, exterior residing with new doors and windows and some site work.

Complete IFB solicitation documents found at this link: J2Plan at <https://www.plans.j2b.com> or at www.vhausa.org after June 28, 2022. Attention is called to the provisions for payment of not less than the minimum prevailing wages and 15% mandatory apprenticeship requirement as set forth in the solicitation documents. Solicitation contact is Amanda Chezem at 360.993.9579 or achezem@vhausa.com.

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Economic Justice Advocate Coming Home

Oregon Community Foundation names new CEO



Lisa Mensah

A nationally recognized advocate for economic justice will return to Oregon to lead the Oregon Community Foundation, a major institution that works with donors and volunteers to award grants and scholarships to improve lives for all Oregonians.

Lisa Mensah will be the foundation's next chief executive officer when she begins her official duties in September. She was named last month as the Oregon Community Foundation's fourth CEO in its nearly 50-year-old history, succeeding Max Williams who is transitioning out of his role after a decade of leadership.

Since its founding in 1973, OCF has distributed more than \$2 billion toward advancing its mission to improve lives for all Oregonians.

Mensah is widely considered an expert on access to capital in distressed and low-wealth communities and on the role of finance in social, economic and racial justice. She has served as the president and CEO of the Opportunity

Finance Network and currently heads one of the nation's leading networks of Community Development Financial Institutions.

Born and raised in Oregon, Mensah is returning to her home state following an illustrious career that has taken her from working on rural poverty with the Ford Foundation to serving as Undersecretary for Rural Development at the USDA in the Obama Administration, managing a \$215 billion loan portfolio, officials said.

"I am excited to return to my roots here in Oregon; to leverage my expertise and the sum of my experiences," Mensah said. "In this moment, I feel very fortunate to join hands with a 50-year tradition at Oregon Community Foundation, working to help this state and its people flourish."

Obituary



In Loving Memory of Paul E. Stewart Jr.

Paul E. Stewart Jr. was born October 22, 1945 in Portland, and passed away June 23, 2022. Paul enjoyed the outdoors and was a long time Portland resident.

For more information please see www.terryfamilyfuneralhome.com



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Tasty Home Baked Treats



The Erika and Anthony Warren family (from left, BeeJay, Erika, Bubba and Tony) proudly display delicacies from their Cake'n it Better home bakery operating out of the Eastport food carts near Southeast 82nd and Center.

Cake'N it Better opens at Eastport food carts

Erika and Anthony Warren are the proud owners of Cake'N it Better, a new and upcoming home bakery that reaches customers through the Eastport food

carts near Southeast 82nd and Center and from other locations.

Featuring such delicacies as cupcakes, cakes, chocolate-dipped rice krispy treats, pretzels, and specialty flavored sugar coated marshmallows, customers are encouraged to stop by during regular operating hours, Tuesdays through Thursdays from noon to 5 p.m.

Cake'N it Better also pro-

vides catering services, specialty orders and make appearances at different vendor events around town. You can also follow Cake'N it Better on Facebook and/or Instagram, where it posts daily updates on sales locations.

The mobile bakery also accepts orders by email at cak-enitbetter@gmail.com or phone or text 503-388-0701.

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A vibrant purple and pink poster for the East Portland Summer Arts Festival. The background features a collage of images: a man with dreadlocks playing a drum, a woman singing into a microphone, and a woman painting. The text is arranged in a dynamic, layered fashion with various font sizes and colors (white, black, yellow, pink, blue).

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