



Black Education Elders Honored for Their Legacy

Community Honors Lifelong Support for Students

Believe in Black children. Draw inspiration and strength from your ancestors, elders and community. Build the school system students deserve. And don't let anyone dim their light.

These were the messages from visionary Black educators honored this summer by Oregon Community Foundation. Some honorees led sweeping institutional change. Others built community organizations from the ground up. And many worked within the system to inspire and educate generations of Oregon students.

The event “Honoring Our Legacy, Investing in the Future” marked Juneteenth and recognized 13 educators for contributions spanning more than 50 years. It was hosted by OCF's Black Student Success Initiative.

“My grandmother's mother was born into slavery. So this is not a theory for me,” said Ron Herndon, honored for his advocacy for Portland children and nationally recognized early childhood education leadership. “We have to build upon the strength that has been given to us through our ancestors.”

Herndon recommended that anyone working with Black students familiarize themselves with the works of Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune, Dr. W.E.B. Du Bois, Booker T. Washington and Dr. Carter G. Woodson.

With those educators and authors in mind, Herndon co founded the Black Edu-



From left to right Ron Herndon, Barbara Ward, Tony Hopson, Cynthia Richardson, Dr. Ernest Hartzog, Harriet Adair, Renee Anderson, Linda Harris, Ellis Ray Leary, Lorenzo Poe, and LaNae Johnson

cation Center and led the Portland chapter of the Black United Front, which helped end harmful student busing practices in Portland Public Schools in 1979 and influenced the selection of the district's first Black superintendent, Dr. Matthew Prophet, in 1982. He later became director of Albina Head Start and president of the National Head Start Association.

“Honoring these leaders shows where we've been, how far we've come and how far we still have to go,” said Marcy Bradley, chief community engagement and equity officer for OCF. “Their work improved education for Black children

and for all Oregon students.”

The evening featured tributes from leaders inspired by those honored, including Joe McFerrin, president and CEO of Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center and Kali Thorne Ladd, CEO of Children's Institute and co founder of KairosPDX. Marsha Williams, also a co founder of KairosPDX, served as emcee.

During a panel moderated by OCF President and CEO Lisa Mensah, Herndon and fellow honoree Dr. Harriet Adair shared personal reflections.

Adair recalled that her own mother was barred from teaching in Portland

Public Schools. While her family and community believed in her, the system often did not.

When Adair was a high school senior her counselor expressed surprise that she intended to attend college after she'd been offered a scholarship to Bryn Mawr College, adding that Adair lacked the math classes to attend. Adair said she vowed never be the adult who kills a child's dream.

Adair became a middle school teacher then principal of King Elementary School

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Day Center for Homeless to Open in North Portland

St. Johns Site to Offer Daytime Resources

The North Portland Drop-In Center, a space providing daytime services for people experiencing homelessness, is set to open in St. Johns in mid-July 2025, following a ribbon-cutting and open house held Wednesday, June 25.

Operated by Do Good Multnomah and supported by Multnomah County with Metro Supportive Housing Services funding, the facility will provide a central location for community members to access a variety of services in a safe, trauma-informed space, while also providing respite from the elements. While not an overnight shelter, the center will be able to help people access longer-term services that could include referrals to shelter.

“Until everyone has a permanent place to call home, places like the North Portland Drop-In Center are filling important needs for our neighbors experiencing homelessness in a part of town that needs this resource,” said Multnomah County Chair Jessica Vega Pederson. “Whether someone is engaging for the first time and simply drops in for a quick cup of coffee or visits regularly to work with a case manager, they'll be greeted with a safe, welcoming space that supports them with their goals.”

“Do Good Multnomah's vision for the North Portland Drop-In Center is to serve as a vibrant, community-oriented hub of resources in the heart of St. Johns. Businesses, non-profits, and neighbors — both housed and unhoused — have been vocalizing the need for more accessible resources for years,” said Do Good Multnomah's Rae Fender, program manager for the drop-in center. “We're ready for this: Over

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Ribbon Cutting and Open House Held on June 25, 2025. (Photo Courtesy of Ryley Ha'o-Magno, Multnomah County)

Dr. Shon Neyland Transitions After Six Years Leading Portland Church

Community Honors Neylands at Farewell Banquet

Dr. Shon Neyland, Senior Pastor of Highland Christian Center (HCC), Portland Oregon is transitioning, effective July 2025, after six years and a half at Highland Christian Center. Dr. Neyland and his wife, First Lady, Madeline Neyland have served HCC and the greater Portland Community with honorable service, dedication, commitment and love. Madeline served as the Women's Director at Highland for nearly two years, providing fellowship, hope and growth for many. Dr. Neyland and Madeline were celebrated in the community recently with close to 300 attendees at his farewell banquet. As testament to his leadership and impact, many leaders from across the city came to bid farewell to the Neylands.

Highland is a large, diverse, and growing church with over 825 members on the roll. The sprawling two Acre Campus takes up an entire city block. Dr. Neyland led the way with his Operations and Renovation Team in renovating the campus with over \$750K in upgrades in line with the



Dr. Shon Neyland, Senior Pastor of Highland Christian Center and his wife, First Lady, Madeline Neyland (Photo Courtesy of Highland Christian Center)

vision of a 21st Century Ministry of Excellence. Highland is truly a light in the community. A true visionary, Dr. Neyland garnered over \$700K in grants and oth-

er monetary incentives to offset the work needed at Highland Christian Center. As the Senior Executive leader of ministries, Dr. Neyland led a vast community ministry

which is comprised of 14 paid employees, over sixty-five ministries, an annual budget of \$850K, and manages facilities valued over \$14M. HCC impacts the church and entire community through a variety of ministry opportunities designed to improve members both spiritually and practically. Highland feeds over 1,200 monthly through its food bank program and Sunday breakfasts for the houseless. Dr. Neyland led the way at Highland with the church's Motto: "The Right Place, Building Community and Changing Lives." Changing Lives was a key aspect of Dr. Neyland's ministry with close to 800 new converts to the Christian faith, over 375 baptized, and 450 new members joining the church. He trained, licensed, and ordained over 45 Ministers, Elders, Deacons, and Deaconess during his tenure. The annual "Thanksgiving Feed" fed over 3,000 with hot meals and the annual Christmas giving touched the lives of 1,000s of families and children who were less fortunate with free gifts and toys. Highland will miss the leadership of Dr. Neyland, no doubt the church's leadership will continue to carry the legacy and is designed to be a light into the community.

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Oregon's (WIC) is updating its food package for participants

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LOCAL NEWS

New Screening Tech Speeds Up U.S. Checkpoints

Shoes Stay on at Airport Security

(AP) For the first time in almost 20 years, travelers may no longer be required to take off their shoes during security screenings at U.S. airports. The Transportation Security Administration is looking to abandon the additional security step that has for years bedeviled anyone passing through U.S. airports, according to media reports.

If implemented, it would put an end to a security screening mandate put in place almost 20 years ago, several years after "shoe bomber" Richard Reid's failed attempt to take down a flight from Paris to Miami in late 2001.

The travel newsletter Gate Access was first to report that the security screening change is coming. ABC News reported on an internal memo sent to TSA officers last week that states the new policy allows travelers to keep their shoes on during standard screenings at many U.S. airports, beginning Sunday. That would expand to all airports shortly.

The plan is for the change to occur at all U.S. airports soon, the memo said.

Travelers have previously been able to skirt the extra security requirement if they participate in the



In this Wednesday, Jan. 10, 2007, file photo, a belt and shoes sit in a trays with advertising that is being used in the safety screening of travelers done by the Transportation Security Administration, at the Los Angeles International Airport in Los Angeles. (AP Photo/Ann Johansson, File)

TSA PreCheck program, which costs around \$80 for five years. The program allows airline passengers to get through the screening process without removing shoes, belts or light jackets. All passengers between the ages of 12 and 75 are required to remove their shoes, which are scanned along with carry on luggage.

The TSA has not officially confirmed the reported security screening change yet.

"TSA and DHS are always exploring new and innovative ways to enhance passenger experience and our strong security posture," a TSA spokesperson said in a state-

ment Tuesday. "Any potential updates to our security process will be issued through official channels."

The TSA began in 2001 when President George W. Bush signed legislation for its creation two months after the 9/11 attacks. The agency included federal airport screeners that replaced the private companies airlines had used to handle security.

Over the years the TSA has continued to look for ways to enhance its security measures, including testing facial recognition technology and implementing Real ID requirements.

Dog Off-Leash Issues Top Community Concerns

Rangers Have Started Piloting the New Policy

Not all parks are for the dogs. But Portland Parks & Recreation (PP&R) has more than 30 designated dog off-leash areas across the city. Since 2013, PP&R Park Rangers have been authorized to issue citations for off-leash dogs outside of designated areas, but the policy required a warning first. This made it difficult to enforce. That old policy has changed, and now there are new protocols.

Dog off-leash issues are a top concern for many community members all across the city. These policy changes will help keep our parks safe and clean for all park visitors, and make sure they are welcoming for everyone.

Rangers have begun piloting the new policy at parks with significant dog off-leash issues. This is part of a robust notification and education effort by Portland Park Rangers before any citations are potentially issued as a first measure.

Portland Park Rangers will still have the option to issue warnings if it is the first time a dog-owner allows their dog off their leash outside of designated dog off-leash areas and can provide free leashes and park-branded poop bag holders to help the public comply with this policy and will continue efforts to promote the PP&R Leave No Trace Urban Park Principles.

Portland Parks & Recreation has offered dog off-leash areas (DOLAs) since 1995 to support healthy, fun places for dogs to play while promoting compliance with leash laws by providing designated areas where dogs can roam freely. These areas encourage responsible park use through common-sense regulations and help balance the needs of different park users, especially in parks with limited space.

Leashed dogs are allowed in nearly all of Portland's parks and natural areas.

Dogs are not allowed at Tanner Springs Park, Whitaker Ponds



Dogs are PAWsome on Leash (Photo Courtesy of Portland Parks & Recreation)

Nature Park, Foster Floodplain Natural Area, and the Mt. Tabor Park amphitheater. They are also prohibited from sports courts, running tracks, and sports fields with artificial or manicured turf, as well as fountains, lakes, ponds, and streams. Dogs are not permitted in fenced sports facilities, including the sports complex at Delta Park, or in any other area marked by the director of Portland Parks & Recreation as prohibited to dogs.

TriMet's First MAX Train Preserved at Oregon Museum

Oldest MAX Train Nears Retirement

After more than 38 years of service and 2.2 million miles traveled, one of TriMet's oldest MAX trains neared its next stop – retirement.

TriMet donated Type 1 vehicle "101" to the Oregon Electric Railway Museum, preserving the first MAX train car ever manufactured. The vehicle joined the museum's vast collection of electric trolleys and streetcars, but with a twist that delighted TriMet diehards and rail fans across the state.

In recognition of the donation and the vehicle's legacy, TriMet bid farewell to MAX car 101 at the Ruby Junction Rail Operating Facility on Tuesday, July 8. The car was transported to the museum later that month, ensuring the MAX car remained in the Willamette Valley for in-person experiences. The museum, located in Brooks, Ore., is about 38 miles south of Portland via Interstate 5.

The donation also came with a special goal: to keep the car running. That has been the long-term mission of the museum, which features a mile-long track running through its property. This ensured that a vital piece of Portland's transit history continued to roll into the future.

The donation comes as we phase out our fleet of Type 1s and introduce the new Type 6s, our most technologically advanced MAX trains yet. If you're interested in catching a Type 1 before they disappear, you're in luck. A



TriMet's first MAX Train Car Destined for Operating Museum this Summer (Photo Courtesy of TriMet)

few trains will continue serving riders through the start of 2026.

If you're unsure about which type of MAX train you're boarding, just look for the number at the top of the train. Another rule of thumb – if there are stairs, it's a Type 1. Because the stairs make the Type 1s inaccessible to some, they are always coupled with either a Type 2 or Type 3 MAX car that has low floors.

Most Type 1s are being sent to Radius Recycling, where they're

being turned into materials like rebar that will be used for local construction projects. Preserving at least one of the cars will keep a vital piece of the state's rail transit history in the region for generations to come.

"This is a great opportunity to give back to the community and ensure the legacy and history of light rail is recognized," TriMet's Project Manager for Vehicle Engineering Joe Taylor said. "The Type 1s were designed and built

in 1983 and went into service in 1986. They have been a fantastic workhorse for the agency, and we are excited to partner with the Oregon Electric Railway Museum to preserve one for future generations."

The donation fulfills a long-standing goal that has been more than 30 years in the making, museum leadership said.

"This donation continues the story of Portland's transit history at our museum for future gener-

ations to enjoy," Oregon Electric Railway Heritage Society Secretary Mark Kavanagh said.

The Oregon Electric Railway Museum's home is the 62-acre Powerland Heritage Park, a campus of 14 museums reflecting the preservation, restoration and operation of historic equipment. The museum has a collection of over 30 pieces, including streetcars, interurbans and electric freight locomotives, representing not just Portland but also other cities in the U.S., as well as Europe, Asia and Australia.

"As soon as the first Type 1 light rail vehicle started operation in 1986, we were making plans for the museum to acquire one upon retirement," said Greg Bonn, the museum's former director and son of its founder.

The museum plans to make modifications to its overhead trolley wire to allow the donated MAX car to operate. In the near term, the museum will display the vehicle near the museum's trolley depot at Powerland Heritage Park during the Great Oregon Steam-up, scheduled for July 26-27 and August 2-3.

After Steam-up, it will be moved to the museum's vehicle barn for occasional tours, where it will join two original 1904 Council Crest Portland Streetcars and the last streetcar purchased by the Portland Traction Company in 1932.

The museum is open on Saturdays in the summer months, along with special events with trolley rides. The Oregon Electric Railway Historical Society, an all-volunteer 501(c)3 non-profit corporation, also operates the Willamette Shore Trolley between Lake Oswego and Portland.

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SPORTS

Portland WNBA Team Splits with President



From left, WNBA Commissioner Cathy Engelbert, Alex Bhathal and Lisa Bhathal Merage appear at an event to award Portland a WNBA franchise at the Moda Center on Sept. 18, 2024, at the Moda Center in Portland. (AP Photo/Anne M. Peterson, File)

Inky Son departs before first season

(AP) Inky Son, president of the expansion WNBA team in Portland, is leaving the organization after less than three months on the job.

RAJ Sports, led by team owners Alex Bhathal and Lisa Bhathal Merage, announced the move Friday.

"During her brief but impactful tenure, Son helped lay the foundation for the franchise's presence in Portland, shaping its early business operations and community engagement efforts," the firm said in a statement. "Son will return to New York, where she was previously based, and the organization thanks her for her leadership during this important phase and wishes her success in her next chapter."

The team is set to start play next season, along with the expansion Toronto Tempo. Portland's team does not yet have a name, a coach or a general manager.

Portland's branding is expected to be announced on July 15.

Son was announced as the first employee of the team in early April. As president of business operations, Son was tasked with leading all aspects of the business, including marketing, ticket and sponsorship sales, community relations, finance, legal, and human resources. She was also responsible for hiring.

Before working for the team, Son was chief administrative officer for the National Basketball Players Association.

Portland was awarded an expansion team in September. The Bhathal family paid \$125 million for the franchise.

Ayton Joins LeBron, Luka, Lakers After Buyout



Portland Trail Blazers center Deandre Ayton (2) and Denver Nuggets center Nikola Jokic (15) vie for the ball in the second half of an NBA basketball game, Feb. 10, 2025, in Denver. (AP Photo/David Zalubowski, File)

Blazers Part Ways with Center as He Heads to L.A.

(AP) Center Deandre Ayton has agreed to join the Los Angeles Lakers as a free agent, two people with knowledge of the deal told The Associated Press.

The people spoke on condition of anonymity because the deal could not yet be announced between the Lakers and Ayton, the No. 1 overall pick in the 2018 NBA draft — two spots ahead of Luka Doncic.

The Portland Trail Blazers bought out Ayton's contract last weekend, and he has agreed to join Doncic and LeBron James on a deal for the upcoming season with a player option for 2026-27. He will be paid more than \$25 million by the Blazers while playing for the Lakers next year.

Ayton's arrival fills the Lakers' most glaring offseason need, providing a lob target for James and Doncic. And while Ayton isn't known as a defensive stopper, the 7-footer will provide the size in the middle that the Lakers have missed since trading Anthony Davis to Dallas for Doncic.

Ayton, who turns 27 this month, spent his first five NBA seasons with Phoenix

before joining the Trail Blazers two years ago as part of the three-team trade sending Damian Lillard to Milwaukee.

Ayton struggled at times in Portland while playing for mediocre teams, but he has averaged 16.4 points and 10.5 rebounds during his seven NBA seasons while making 59% of his shots. He played only 40 games for the Blazers last season, getting sidelined for the rest of the year in February by a strained calf.

While he has never been an All-Star, Ayton is the only player to average a double-double in points and rebounds in his first seven NBA seasons since former Lakers center Dwight Howard did it over a decade ago.

Ayton also knows Southern California after moving from the Bahamas to San Diego to play high school basketball. He went on to the University of Arizona before the Suns drafted him.

The Lakers struggled without Davis in the paint last season, with Jaxson Hayes playing poorly enough to get benched by coach JJ Redick in their final two playoff games. Los Angeles was eliminated from the first round of the postseason by Minnesota in five games, with big man Rudy Gobert racking up 27 points and 24 rebounds in the clinching victory while the Lakers largely played without a center.

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Shereef Elnahal Named OHSU's Sixth President

Health Care Leader to Take Office Aug. 11, 2025

In a unanimous vote, the Oregon Health & Science University Board of Directors today selected Shereef Elnahal, M.D., M.B.A., to serve as OHSU's next president. He is the sixth president to lead Oregon's public academic health center since it became an independent organization in 1974.

"I am thrilled that OHSU's brilliant community has entrusted me with this important responsibility," said Elnahal. "OHSU is an organization that exudes clinical excellence, servant leadership, and world-changing science. Joining this community will be the honor of my professional life, and I pledge to lead OHSU's superlative team to even greater milestones of success and impact into the future."

Elnahal was selected by the board after a months-long national search that included interviews with nearly 200 OHSU members, a public presentation to the OHSU community, and a comprehensive review of feedback submitted by hundreds of learners and employees, as well as external partners and collaborators.

"Throughout a competitive and extensive search process, Dr. Elnahal demonstrated his ability to inspire and lead complex organizations, while remaining committed to his values, which align with OHSU's mission," said OHSU Board of Directors Chair Chad Paulson, J.D. "The board firmly believes he has the attributes needed to strengthen and grow OHSU's impact and reputation on a national scale."

Prior to joining OHSU, Elnahal most recently was appointed by President Joseph R. Biden to serve as Under Secretary for Health at the Department of Veterans Affairs, or VA, and confirmed by the United States Senate on July 21, 2022, with a bipartisan vote. In this role he led, alongside a team of nearly 400,000 professionals, the largest academic health system in the nation. The VA delivers world-class care to 9 million enrolled Veterans, and trains more than 122,000 health professionals across more than 60 clinical disciplines, includ-



Shereef Elnahal, M.D., M.B.A. (OHSU)

ing medicine, nursing, psychology, pharmacy and physical therapy. The VA also is affiliated with 95% of medical schools and academic health systems in America, including OHSU, with more than 1,800 affiliations with health professions schools of all types.

"This is an exciting time for OHSU," said OHSU Interim President Steve Stadium, J.D. "Dr. Elnahal's experience, skills and values align perfectly with the needs of our university, and I believe he will be a transformational leader."

During his tenure with the VA, Dr. Elnahal oversaw the Veterans Health Administration's implementation of the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act, the largest expansion of Veteran benefits and care in a generation. Implementation of the law began in August of 2022, and under Elnahal's watch, two years later, the VA enrolled more than 800,000 new Veterans into health care, and upgraded health care coverage for more than 900,000 Veterans already enrolled in VA.

Despite this large increase in demand, the VA improved access to care -- an ongoing and pressing challenge for hospitals and health systems across Oregon -- by growing appointment volumes, expanding infrastructure through innovative partnerships with top medical

institutions and the Department of Defense, and more. After Elnahal initiated system-wide hiring and retention initiatives, which also helped reduce average new patient wait times for primary care and mental health, the VA is now better staffed with clinicians than at any point in its history.

Under his leadership, the VA grew care delivery in all services and improved ambulatory care productivity by 9% in two years. He has also advanced care access for women Veterans, including extending maternity care coordination benefits for up to one year after birth for Veteran mothers to reduce maternal morbidity and mortality risks, and enrolling more than 50,000 new women Veterans into health care over the last year. For the first time in the VA's history, he also made policy that allowed clinicians in the VA to offer abortion counseling and services to pregnant Veterans with threats to their life and health.

Prior to his role at the VA, Elnahal served as President and Chief Executive Officer of University Hospital in Newark, NJ. University Hospital is a Level I trauma center, the principal academic medical center for Rutgers NJ Medical School, and New Jersey's only public hospital. Elnahal led University Hospital through the COVID-19 public health emergency, and the hospital served as a model for urban and regional response efforts.

In addition, New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy tasked the hospital with coordinating regional pandemic response efforts across dozens of hospitals in northern New Jersey, as well as with activating a military field hospital alongside the National Guard. In addition to his leadership during the pandemic, Elnahal oversaw substantial improvements in care quality and patient safety at the hospital, leading to improvements against national benchmarks.

Elnahal also improved University Hospital financially, which, when he started, was almost out of cash and had been experiencing significant operating losses. Due in part to the turnaround under his tenure, Fitch recently upgraded University Hospital's Issuer Default Rating, or IDR, and revenue bond rating to 'BBB+' from 'BB-'. The upgrade reflected the hospital's strengthened financial position, including improved liquidity and better revenue cycle management.

Underpinning this turnaround was Elnahal's work, through a series of important moves, to increase revenues and capture efficiencies, while regaining the trust of the hospital's staff and community. He established new and fair contracts with the hospital's seven unions. He also engaged the community meaningfully in the hospital's programming, to include a partnership with the NJ Housing and Mortgage Financing Authority to provide supportive housing to homeless patients; a hospital-based violence intervention program that has served as a national model; and a program that deploys trusted chaplains to serve as community health workers.

Elnahal received his medical degree from Harvard Medical School and his master's in business administration, with distinction, from Harvard Business School. He also was appointed by President Barack Obama to the 2015-16 class of White House Fellows. His perspective on the American health care system's COVID-19 response, including on matters of health equity, has been featured on national media outlets including CNN, MSNBC, the New York Times, and Fox Business Network.

Elnahal, 40, and his wife, Marwa, have four children ages 1 to 9. He plays guitar and electric bass, enjoys fitness and the outdoors, and plans to take advantage of Oregon's natural beauty with his family as much as he can when he arrives.

PCS's JAW New Play Festival Returns

Featuring Readings of Bold New Works

Portland Center Stage's annual JAW New Play Festival returns July 25–27, 2025, at The Armory, continuing a two-decade tradition of celebrating new work through staged readings, workshops, and community performances. All events are free and open to the public.

Each July, playwrights, directors, actors, and dramaturgs gather to develop new scripts in a collaborative setting, with the public invited to attend readings, offer feedback, and join post-show discussions. This year's JAW lineup centers queer stories during Portland's PRIDE month, featuring the new musical *Out There* along with works from local playwrights Amy Driesler, Virginia Baeta, and Carlos Zenen-Trujillo. PCS will also partner with Fuse Theatre Ensemble for the Say Gay Plays, a series of short works created in response to Florida's "Don't Say Gay" bill.

"Come join us for the rush of a new play reading this summer," says PCS Artistic Director Marisa



JAW 2021 (Photo Courtesy of Portland Center Stage)

sa Wolf. "This lineup is on fire, offering space to celebrate collective humanity and queer joy in the face of violence and erasure."

Festival highlights include *The Sugar Hole* on July 25 at 7:30 p.m., a time-hopping comedy exploring lesbian communi-

ty and belonging; the JAW Teen Playwrights Showcase on July 26 at 4 p.m., featuring bold 8–10 minute plays from local teen writers; and *Out There* on July 26 at 7:30 p.m., a new musical exploring love and friendship against a stormy Pacific North-

west backdrop. On July 27 at 1 p.m., Say Gay Plays will bring short plays from top queer playwrights to the stage, curated by Voyage Theater.

The festival will also feature Press Play pre-show events with local artists, including street

dance showcases, the Bridging Voices Choir, Ballet Folklórico, and a Queer Literaoke Drag Edition, ensuring The Armory buzzes with creative energy throughout the weekend.

For schedules and more details on attending, visit pcs.org.

Black Education Elders Honored for Their Legacy

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

in a historically Black Northeast Portland neighborhood. She later earned a doctorate and served as assistant superintendent of PPS. Her former high school, once named for slave owning President James Madison, is now named for Leodis V. McDaniel, a Black principal who once led it.

Another honoree reflected on how her grandfather inspired her.

"If my grandfather could get an education when it was against the law then I could learn to do anything," said Renee Anderson, who battled racism to become a mathematics teacher in the 1960s and founded and led Oregon MESA for 40 years. The organization offers science, technology, engineering and math education and mentoring to students of color, girls and non binary students, low income students and



Oregon Community Foundation's Juneteenth Event honoring 13 Black Educational Leaders.

those who are the first in their families to attend college.

"Now we call it STEM education but Renee Anderson did this long before it had a name," Bradley said.

Honorees included Dr. Darrell Millner, professor emeritus and former chair of Portland State University's Black Studies Department, and Lorenzo Poe, who launched Multnomah County's

Schools Uniting Neighborhood program and co chaired the Portland School Board.

As chief equity and diversity officer for PPS, Poe developed the district's Racial Educational Equity Plan. The initiative helped raise Black student graduation rates.

"Lorenzo has been a giant force for equity in Portland and Multnomah County," Thorne Ladd said, calling Poe "the Black god-

father of Portland's electoral and political scene."

Many of those honored were instrumental in advocating for the Oregon Legislature's landmark investments in Black student success. They pushed for policies requiring community voice in how funds are spent and urged OCF to get involved.

Since 2019 OCF has invested more than \$6 million in the

Black Student Success Initiative and a network of 25 Black led, Black serving organizations that provide direction to funders on best practices from early childhood through post secondary.

"When you let the community that knows the challenge create the solutions what you get are practices that work for all children. Best practices spread out from one group of children to the next," Bradley said.

For Bradley, the event was as much about looking forward as looking back. Black student achievement continues to lag other groups in Oregon.

"Improving student achievement it's a tough nut to crack," she said. "There's not just one place for educators to learn how to do it. The people we honored are bold and brilliant educators. We can all learn from them and draw courage for the challenging work that lies ahead."

SW Main Closes for Thompson Elk Work



routes changing as work progresses. Drivers should use caution and follow all instructions when passing through the area, staying alert and prepared for traffic to suddenly slow or stop.

The Water Bureau is proud to repair the historic Thompson Elk Fountain and return the iconic statue to its original location on SW Main Street. The elk statue has been a site of political expression since the city's early marches for women's suffrage, most recently serving as a backdrop for protests against racial inequities in 2020. The elk continues to bring the environment to the foreground as a symbol of the city's lost wildlife.

The Regional Arts and Culture Council removed the bronze elk statue from its perch and salvaged the remaining undamaged stonework in July 2020, after fires set in its base posed a risk of toppling the structure.

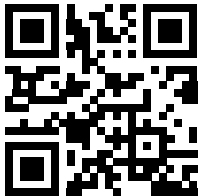
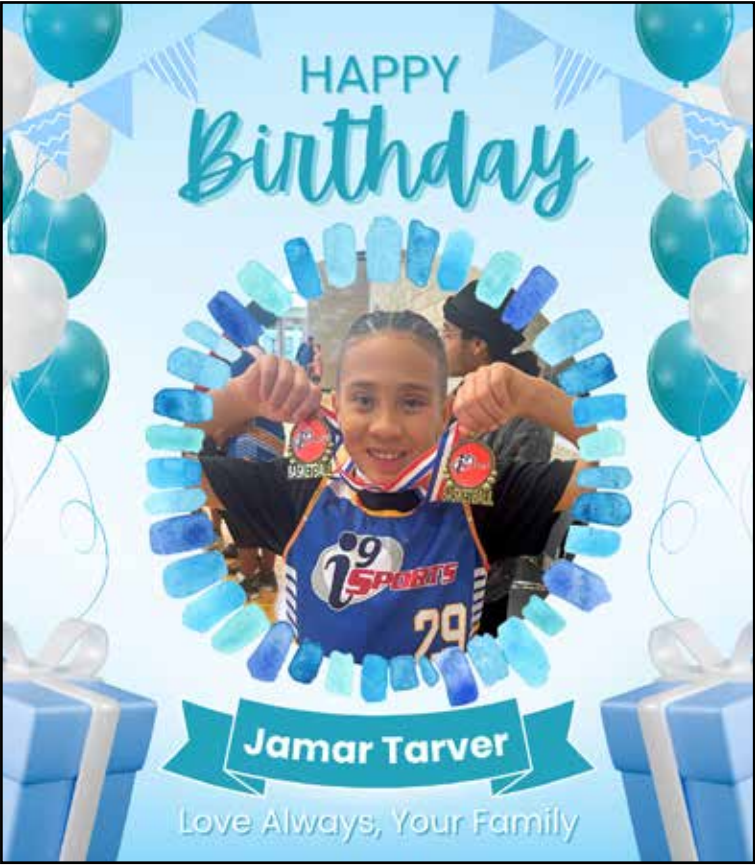
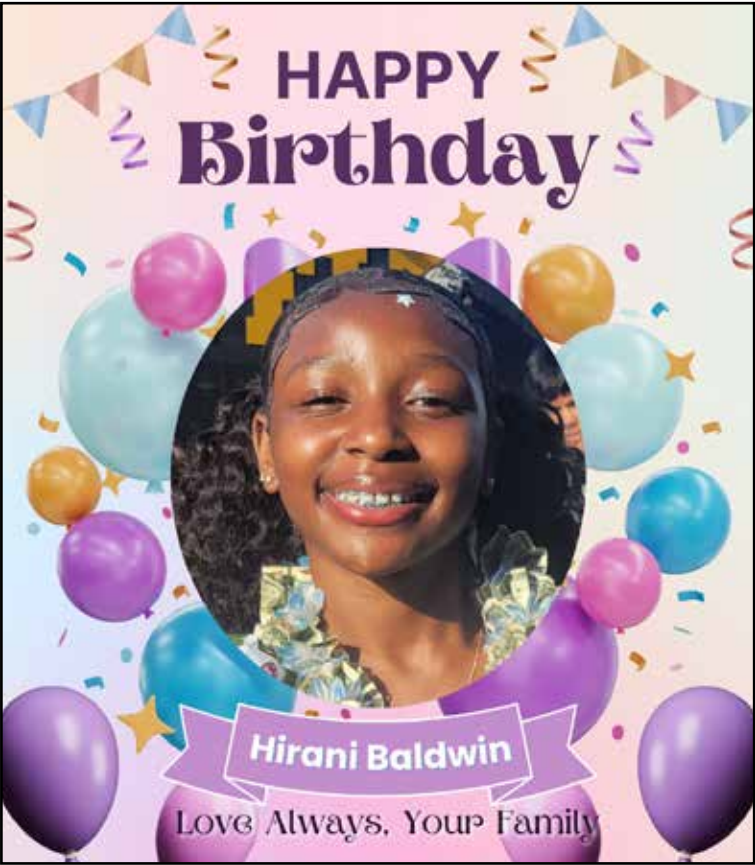
Construction activities will restore, rehabilitate, and reinstall the fountain in its original location while complying with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties. The project will also increase the seismic stability of the Thompson Elk statue and retrofit the fountain with a recirculating water system.

Closures Expected to Last Through Winter

Beginning Monday, July 7, road closures began on SW Main Street between SW 3rd and SW 4th Avenues. Construction to pre-

pare for the return of the Thompson Elk statue closed SW Main Street from Lownsdale Square to Chapman Square. Closures are expected to last through winter.

Plan ahead for the road closure. Westbound traffic from the Hawthorne Bridge will follow traffic signs and flaggers around the closure area, with detour



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Oregon WIC Expands Food Options

More Fruits, Grains, Proteins Added

Oregon's Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) is updating its food package today for participants to enhance nutrition and expand choice for families statewide.

The updated WIC food package reflects the latest nutrition science and aligns with healthy dietary patterns recognized around the world. This marks the third update to WIC foods in the program's 50-year history of promoting family and child health.

The last update to the WIC foods was in 2009 and introduced improvements such as fruits, vegetables and whole grains. The new update builds on that progress by expanding access to healthy foods for families across Oregon.

"The changes bring increased flexibility, variety and choice, allowing families to honor cultural traditions, enjoy shared meals and have healthy and whole food options," said Tiare Sanna M.S., RDN, Oregon WIC director. "There are even better supports now for special dietary needs, including gluten-free, vegan and allergen-free options."

Enhancements to the WIC Food Package include more fruits and vegetables, now expanded to include fresh-cut herbs. Families will have a wider variety of protein and plant-based options, including fish for all kids and adults, more cheese varieties such as sliced, string, and shredded, new yogurt brands with reduced added sugar, new plant-based milks, and new nut and seed butters. Whole-grain bread choices have also



Young mother with her little baby boy at the supermarket. (Adobe Stock/By Serhii)

expanded to include 100% whole wheat buns, bagels, pita, and naan, along with new gluten-free, whole-grain bread options. WIC now offers a dozen whole grains, including quinoa, teff, corn masa flour, and barley.

In response to WIC's nutrition standards, food manufacturers have improved the nutritional content of products available to all consumers.

Sanna explained that when WIC increases choices and options for WIC participants, it improves choices and access for the whole community.

"When grocery stores improve access to more nutritious food options for WIC participants, it has a positive ripple effect on the entire community," Sanna said. "For the stores, that means more customers."

Sanna added that WIC conducts a price and availability survey throughout Oregon to ensure participants in every community across the state have similar access to food.

Starting July 1, Oregon WIC participants can shop for foods on the updated list using their benefit card at any of the 426 WIC-authorized grocery stores across Oregon.

Dr. Shon Neyland Transitions After ... Leading Portland Church

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Dr. Neyland was heavily involved in the community and served on or with committees such as the Albina Ministerial Leadership Council, Lines for Life, OHA Black COVID-19 Strategy Working Group, and the Northwest Church Fund Working Group to aid churches with grants. Additionally, Dr. Neyland served as the CEO of the Highland Haven for the first four years of his tenure where he obtained over \$1.75Mil in grants for the local community and church. He led robust summer camps with over 30 employees and 60 plus youth attending each summer. The Highland Haven also was critical to youth mentorship, leadership development, and countering drug usage and addiction. Further, Dr. Neyland leaves his position as Second Vice President of the Coalition of African and African-American Pastors/Imams (CAAAP), which exists to empower our community to achieve positive change through equitable quality of life programs, development, empowerment, and education. Dr. Neyland served as one of the co-founders of the CAAAP organization which now reaches 1,000s in the community annually with healing summits, interfaith breakfasts, soul-to-



Dr. Shon Neyland. Photo by Antonio Harris

soul and other community outreaches. Dr. Neyland also leaves behind his leadership role on Council for the Luis Palau Association and his role as a Re-

gional Convener for the greater Portland (Together PDX), promoting community growth through spiritual development and partnerships with over 100 churches. Dr. Neyland through CAAAP, founded and led a monthly Care for the Caregiver breakfast for almost six (6) years with 15 to 20 local pastors attending monthly and three annual leadership conferences/retreats. The breakfasts were designed to provide fellowship, care, and growth for those who do so much for the community. The Care for Caregiver breakfast was also sponsored by the Murdoch Trust Fund and Luis Palou Association. Even through COVID-19, Dr. Neyland played a key role as special advisor to then Governor Kate Brown regarding the reopening of churches across the state and he personally provided a strategy to aid her team in their efforts.

Dr. Neyland was instrumental in during COVID-19 with the promotion of vaccination clinics where the first clinic at a house of worship was held at HCC with over 1,000 receiving vaccinations that day. The Highland Haven, nonprofit community arm of the church and HCC partnered with local officials to provide the opportunity for 1,000s to be vaccinated monthly over a two-year period. HCC was featured in the New York Times,

MPR News, and by the state of Oregon for their humanitarian work in saving lives. Dr. Neyland also was a key spokesman for the media during the George Floyd protests and was often featured in the news for his advocacy for unity and peace in the community and respect of all people. He led several marches, rallies, townhalls, and conferences to combat youth violence. He brokered meetings with local police and youth to form a new path forward to decreasing murder and violence. Along with Apostle Levell Thomas, President of CAAAP, Dr. Neyland created and led the Healing from Trauma Summit that has become an annual staple in the community, reaching hundreds each year to provide healing and hope. Dr. Neyland was on the CAAAP team that secured close to \$1Mil in housing assistance from the state legislators to assist with rental assistance.

Dr. Neyland will be missed by our community and we wish he and his wife well as he moves forward in his new start in San Antonio, TX. Dr. Neyland and Madeline are relocating due to Madeline's medical concerns and a warmer climate was needed to ensure better health. Dr. Neyland and First Lady Madeline will be truly missed as they certainly leave a legacy of Building Community.

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS



RFQ 44-25: SAFE STREETS AND ROADS FOR ALL – FOURTH PLAIN SAFETY AND MOBILITY IMPROVEMET PROJECT (SS4A)

Notice is hereby given that the City of Vancouver, Washington is interested in receiving proposals from consulting firms with expertise in design engineering, environmental process, final PS&E and other related professional services for the improvements of the Fourth Plain Safety and Mobility Project. The agreement will be for approximately five years in duration.

The City reserves the right to amend terms of this Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to circulate various addenda, or to withdraw the RFQ at any time, regardless of how much time and effort consultants have spent on their responses.

Project description: The City of Vancouver is requesting the services of a qualified Consultant Team to perform the necessary design engineering, environmental process, final PS&E, and other related professional services for the improvements of the Fourth Plain Safety and Mobility Project – Safe Streets for All. Features of this Project include evaluation of right-of-way requirements, storm drainage, environmental evaluation, coordination with Bonneville Power Administration, pedestrian and bicycle facilities including a crossing over Burnt Bridge Creek, and utility and agency coordination.

The Consultant shall develop preliminary geometric designs and intersection plans for City review and approval. The Consultant shall revise the Preliminary Plan as necessary to respond to review comments and resubmit the Plans to the City for approval.

The Consultant, during the construction of the Project, shall provide limited bidding and engineering services.

- Evaluation Criteria:** Proposals will be evaluated and ranked based on the following criteria:
- 1.General Information Form (Pass/Fail)
 - 2.Required Forms (Pass/Fail)
 - 3.Project Approach and Understanding (45 points maximum)
 - 4.Proposer Capabilities and Qualifications (45 points maximum)
 - 5.Format and Clarity of RFQ (10 points maximum)

The City reserves the right to conduct interviews of a short list of proposers. If the City decides to conduct interviews, the interview sessions will be evaluated in a manner similar to the proposals. Topics covered in the interview session shall include the topics listed hereinbefore under the "Submittal Criteria" section plus any additional, relevant topics which may arise during both the formal presentation and the question and answer portions of the interview.

Submittals: Please submit online at: www.cityofvancouver.bonfirehub.com no later than 3:00 p.m., Pacific Local Time on August 6, 2025. Submittals will not be accepted after that date and time. Any questions regarding this project should be directed to Sr Procurement Specialist Michael Woods at michael.woods@cityofvancouver.us.

Title VI Statement: The City of Vancouver in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252,42 U.S.C. 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award.

Equal Opportunities and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Information

The City of Vancouver is committed to providing equal opportunities to State of Washington certified Minority, Disadvantaged and Women's Business Enterprises in contracting activities. (Section 4 of Chapter 56, Laws of 1975, 1st Ex. Sess., State of Washington).

The City of Vancouver in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (Section 504) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), commits to nondiscrimination on the basis of disability, in all of its programs and activities. This material can be made available in alternate format by emailing Sr. Procurement Michael Woods at michael.woods@cityofvancouver.us or by calling 360-487-8430.

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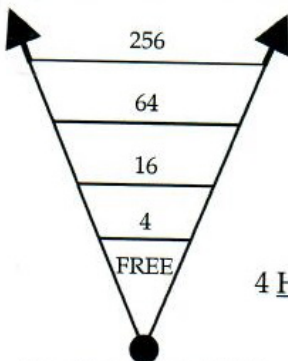
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SUB-BIDS REQUESTED

University of Oregon
- Friendly Hall
Bid Package 02 - Selective Demolition, Structure Shoring and Interior Excavation

Eugene, OR

Bid Due Date:
July 29th, 2025, at 2:00 PM

UO Friendly Hall includes deferred maintenance (MEP), seismic safety and historic preservation upgrades; interior renovation; building addition; and site modifications to on existing building on the University of Oregon-Eugene Campus, originally built in 1893. Scopes not bid as part of Bid Package 02 will be bid at subsequent times in 2025. The project is located at 1161 East 13th Avenue, Eugene, OR 97403.

Start of Construction: September 2025
Substantial Completion: November 2027

BOLI Commercial prevailing wage rates, participation and apprenticeship training are required on this project. The goal for this project is to achieve DBE participation rate of 15%. The goal for this project is to achieve LEED Gold.

For bid documents, visit Bremik.com/planroom



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Day Center for Homeless to Open in North Portland



Photo by Quayuana Washington.

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

the past year, Do Good has been engaging in direct street outreach and building trust and relationships throughout the neighborhood. We're beyond excited for the Drop-in Center to open so we can deliver on those commitments."

Located in the same building as Multnomah County's North Portland Health Center (9000 N. Lombard St.), the site fills a long-discussed need in North Portland for low-barrier, daytime services.

"As a former provider, I know just how powerful a role that a day space can play in someone's life. Whatever a person has going on, they know that this space and the Do Good staff will be there for them," said County Commissioner Shannon Singleton, who represents North and Northeast Portland. "Whether it's a shower, receiving a piece of mail from a loved one, or finally hearing that they made it into housing, this space can and will be a transformative force for the folks walking through these doors."

Once it officially opens, the center will operate from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays. It will offer case management through peer support specialists, who will help

guests obtain documents needed for housing, make referrals to community partners, and connect people with benefits such as Supplemental Security Income or Medicaid. Showers will be available from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., along with personal care items as supplies allow. Meals will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis, and a small pantry of microwaveable ready-to-eat food will be available, along with hot and cold beverages throughout the day. The center will also offer mailing address services to help people receive mail, which can often be a barrier for those seeking housing.

The center joins other drop-in and daytime programs funded by the Homeless Services Department, using voter-approved dollars from the Metro Supportive Housing Services Measure. "Voters who passed the Metro Supportive Housing Services measure made the opening of the North Portland Drop-In Center possible," said Metro Councilor Mary Nolan. "And by opening these doors, we are sending an invaluable message to our unhoused neighbors — that they are seen, they are valued, and that this community believes they deserve dignity and a chance to rebuild."

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Campers and Counselors Among Nearly 90 Dead in Historic Flooding

Texas Floods Kills 27 at Girls Camp

(AP) Crews trudged through debris and waded into swollen riverbanks Monday in the search for victims of catastrophic flooding over the July Fourth weekend that has killed nearly 90 people in Texas, including more than two dozen campers and counselors from an all-girls Christian camp.

With additional rain on the way, the risk of more flooding was still high in saturated parts of central Texas. Authorities said the death toll was sure to rise as crews looked for the many people who were still missing.

Operators of Camp Mystic, a century-old summer camp in the Texas Hill Country, said Monday that they lost 27 campers and counselors, confirming their worst fears after a wall of water slammed into cabins built along the edge of the Guadalupe River.

"We have been in communication with local and state authorities who are tirelessly deploying extensive resources to search for our missing girls," the camp said in a statement.

Authorities said Monday that 10 girls and a counselor from the camp remain missing.

In the Hill Country area, home to Camp Mystic and several other summer camps, searchers have



A Camp Mystic sign is seen near the entrance to the establishment along the banks of the Guadalupe River after a flash flood swept through the area in Hunt, Texas, Saturday, July 5, 2025. (AP Photo/Julio Cortez)

found the bodies of 75 people, including 27 children, Kerr County Sheriff Larry Leitha said.

Twelve other deaths were reported in Travis, Burnet, Kendall, Tom Green and Williamson counties, according to local officials.

The floods, among the nation's worst in decades, swept away people sleeping in tents, cabins and homes along the river Friday in the middle of the night.

Reagan Brown said his parents, in their 80s, managed to escape uphill as water inundated their home in the town of Hunt.

When the couple learned that their 92-year-old neighbor was trapped in her attic, they went back and rescued her.

"Then they were able to reach their tool shed up higher ground, and neighbors throughout the early morning began to show up at their tool shed, and they all rode it out together," Brown said.

Gov. Greg Abbott said Sunday that 41 people were unaccounted for across the state and more could be missing.

Families were allowed to look around Camp Mystic beginning

Sunday morning. A man whose daughter was rescued from a cabin on the highest point in the camp walked a riverbank, looking in clumps of trees and under big rocks.

Crews operating heavy equipment pulled tree trunks and tangled branches from the river. With each passing hour, the prospect of finding more survivors dimmed.

Search-and-rescue crews at one staging area said Monday that more than 1,000 volunteers had been directed to an area of hard-hit Kerr County.

Authorities faced growing questions about whether enough warnings were issued in an area long vulnerable to flooding and whether enough preparations were made.

President Donald Trump signed a major disaster declaration Sunday for Kerr County and said he would likely visit Friday. "It's a horrible thing that took place, absolutely horrible," he told reporters.

Survivors shared terrifying stories of being swept away and clinging to trees as floodwaters carried trees and cars past them. Others fled to attics, praying the water wouldn't reach them.

At Camp Mystic, a cabin full of girls held onto a rope strung by rescuers as they walked across a bridge with water whipping around their legs.

Among those confirmed dead were an 8-year-old girl from Mountain Brook, Alabama, who was at the camp, and the director of another camp up the road.

Two school-age sisters from Dallas were missing Sunday after their cabin was swept away. Their parents were staying in a different cabin and were safe, but the girls' grandparents were unaccounted for.

On Thursday the National Weather Service advised of potential flooding and then sent out a series of flash flood warnings in the early hours of Friday before issuing flash flood emergencies — a rare alert notifying the public of imminent danger.

Authorities and elected officials have said they did not expect such an intense downpour, the equivalent of months of rain for the area.

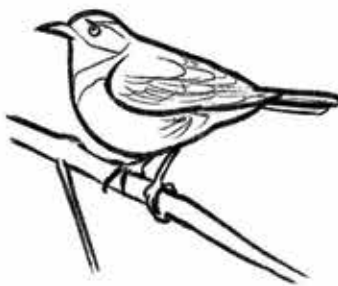
Kerrville City Manager Dalton Rice said authorities are committed to a full review of the emergency response.

Sen. Ted Cruz, a Texas Republican, said recent cuts to FEMA and the National Weather Service did not delay warnings ahead of the flood.

"This is not a time for partisan finger pointing and attacks," he said. "There will be a time to find out what could be done differently. My hope is in time we learn some lessons to implement the next time there is a flood."

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This is a great time of year to step away from the screens and reconnect; take a stroll on the riverfront or reach out to a friend, and simply engage in all that Oregon has to offer. It's a great boost to your mental wellbeing, and, if you gamble, it can help you gain new perspective.

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