



The Portland Observer

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Committed to Cultural Diversity

Kitchen Killa & Friends 2nd Annual Community Cookout

Bringing Neighbors Together Through the Healing Power of Food

Beloved local chef and community champion, Chef Kiara Hardy, is back with the 2nd Annual Kitchen Killa & Friends Community CookOut, a heart-centered gathering created to nourish, uplift, and unite the Portland community through the universal language of good food.

Happening Saturday, July 26, 2025, at George Park in St. Johns (7240 Fessenden Street, Portland, OR 97203) from 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM. This free event invites single mothers, housing-vulnerable, at-risk LGBTQ+ youth, young adults, seniors, and anyone in need of a fresh, hot meal to come out and enjoy an afternoon of nourishment and neighborly connection.

In addition to enjoying a free meal, attendees have access to city of Portland resources, a clothing drive and free haircuts provided by Prolific Barber. Clean, gently used clothing, personal care products, and financial contributions are being accepted in advance of the event. Community members in need of cloth-



From left to right: State Representative Travis Nelson, Chef Kiara Hardy, Kitchen Killa Culinary Solutions and Crystal Chanel, Community Cookout event Producer, Press Release Marketing

ing are welcome to visit the Clothing Give-away Station at the event to select items for themselves and their families, no questions asked. To donate or get involved, email crystal@kitchenkilla.com.

Admission is free. All are welcome.

This year's event is made possible thanks to the generous support of New Seasons Market, KF Curates, Press Release Marketing, St. Paul Missionary Bap-

tist Church, DNA Community Consulting, DB Dessert Company & Cafe, Alejandro Jimenez Real Estate, State Representative Travis Nelson, Dunia, Woods Realty Group, and The Kidz Outside.

Reading Program Brings Summer Literacy to Ockley Green



Alex Green and Student (Photo Courtesy of Blosser Center)

NFL's Alex Green Visits 'Leap into 6th Grade' Camp

Even though it is summer vacation, the halls of Ockley Green Middle School in Northeast Portland were buzzing on Friday, July 18 as students waited for the arrival of former NFL Green Bay Packers player Alex Green. These incoming 6th grade students have been spending their summer break at Ockley Green participating in a new "Leap into 6th Grade" summer reading program.

When Green, who is a dyslexia advocate, walked into the cafeteria at Ockley Green Middle School, the students erupted into cheers. Green then led the students through an exercise with a one-dollar bill

to show students that even if they feel discouraged, they must keep working hard. "No matter what happens in life, you still have value," Green told the students.

The summer camp is a first-time partnership with the Blosser Center for Dyslexia and Portland Public Schools and represents more than just summer learning, it's a targeted response to incoming 6th grade students who may need extra reading help. About 35 rising sixth graders are participating in the month-long program, which runs from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. weekdays at no cost to families.

This partnership fills a critical gap in Oregon's literacy intervention efforts. While state funding has primarily focused on early elementary literacy programs for kindergarten through third grade, many students

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Welding Lights Career Paths for Native American Women

PCC Training Opens Doors to Trade Jobs

At Portland Community College's Swan Island Trades Center, the clang and bright sparks of welding tools gave way to a different kind of activity — one of celebration, accomplishment and new beginnings.

The Maritime Welding Program's recent completion ceremony honored a group of students who didn't just earn certificates in maritime welding and ship-fitting — they forged a path forward in a challenging, high-demand industry, many overcoming personal challenges that once seemed insurmountable.

The celebration was more than ceremonial. It marked a transition from training to opportunity where students emerged with the confidence, skill, and direction to transition successfully into the workplace. Through PCC's Career Pathways initiative and student scholarships provided by WorkSource, the Maritime Welding Program does more than teach a trade.

"It dismantles barriers," said Patty Hawkins, program dean for Electronics, Mechatronics, Advanced Manufacturing and PCC's OMIC Training Center. "The program supports education and training opportunities in maritime welding and the college provides support, including English language acquisition and housing stability. It welcomes adults who have been in custody, individuals in recovery, and those who served our coun-



Mis Ter Rae Two Crow (Photo Courtesy of Portland Community College)

try. Through the training and support, the Maritime Welding Program offers an essential lifeline."

One example is Mis Ter Rae Two Crow, who hails from the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation in New Town, North Dakota. She said her upbringing was grounded in both community and labor.

"I'm Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara on my mother's side and Anishinaabe on my father's," she said.

As a child, while her mother and aunts encouraged time in the kitchen, she gravitated to outdoor work alongside her uncle, who was a carpenter, plumber, electrician and one of her earliest mentors. Her ear-

ly exposure to carpentry, plumbing and electrical work sparked a passion that simmered under the surface for years.

"I always wanted to be outside doing hard manual labor," Two Crow said with a smile.

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Father Arrested in Front of the School During Drop-off

LOCAL NEWS

Second Death in Fatal Waterfall Accident Confirmed

One Person Died at the Scene and Three were Rescued from the River.

Oregon authorities on Monday confirmed a second death following a fatal waterfall accident as search and rescue operations continued for the one person who remains missing.

Search and rescue divers found the body of a second victim Monday morning, the Deschutes County Sheriff's Office said in a statement. The two confirmed deaths are both females, while the person still unaccounted for is male.

The accident happened Saturday afternoon when a group was swept over Dillon Falls on the Deschutes River, about 10 miles from Bend. One person died at the scene and three were rescued from the river.

Divers, boats, drones and dogs were deployed Monday as part of search operations for the missing on the river, said Jason Carr, spokesperson for the sheriff's office. He noted the unlikelihood of surviving the 15-foot (5-meter) falls and rapids.

"The whitewater lasts for a pretty decent stretch. So, this isn't just like, 'oh, it's a quick falls and it's over,'" Carr said, noting the cold temperature and rocks in the



In this photo taken March 28, 2016, a rainbow arcs up from the rushing waters of Dillon Falls as the early morning sunlight shines on the Deschutes River near Bend, Ore. (Andy Tullis/The Bulletin via AP, file)

swift water. "It's a pretty lengthy cascade of rushing water."

Detectives were working to determine how the group was swept over the falls and how those rescued were able to survive.

"The presumption is that the three to survive did not go through the falls because the chances of them living through that are almost slim to none," Carr said.

The body located Monday was found below the falls, the sheriff's office said.

The group was floating down the river but the type of flotation devices they were using have not been confirmed, Carr said.

People recreating on that area of

the river normally exit at the Dillon Falls day use area, as the waterfall is just around the bend, Carr said. Signs along the river warn of the hazardous waterfall ahead.

The three people rescued had minor wounds such as scrapes and bruises and were able to get out of the rescue boat on their own and walk. They were transported to a local hospital to ensure they had no other injuries, Carr said.

Officials have yet to release the identities of those in the group.

The Deschutes River, which runs through Bend, is popular in summer for rafting, inner tube floating, kayaking, paddle boarding and other water activities.

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Partying Gone Wrong

Four Teens Stabbed During a 'Pop-up' Rave

On Saturday, July 19, 2025 at 3:19 a.m., Portland Police officers from Central Precinct responded to a report of a stabbing on the Eastbank Esplanade at Southeast Salmon Street. When they arrived they found a large pop-up outdoor "rave" party involving hundreds of people. They found four people with knife injuries. All four were conscious and talking at the scene. EMS responded and the patients were transported to the hospital. Two patients with serious but non-life-threatening injuries, two others only requiring stitches or other bandaging.

The preliminary investigation at the scene led officers to determine one of those injured was the

suspect, and he was taken into custody at the hospital. Officers learned that during the party, there were multiple fights in the crowd, but it's unclear on how many people were involved. The suspect produced a knife and ultimately four people were stabbed (three adult males in their teens, one juvenile male in his teens).

One of the men transported, Peter M. Chalukian, 19, of Hillsboro, Oregon, was identified as the suspect. Detectives are not seeking any suspects at this time. About 4:00 p.m., Chalukian was released from the hospital, interviewed by detectives, and then transported to the Multnomah County Detention Center on charges of Assault in the First Degree (3 counts), and Unlawful Use of a Weapon (3 counts).

Detectives are still seeking evi-

dence and witness accounts as they work to determine the truth. Many potential witnesses left without talking to police. If anyone witnessed what happened, or has photos or video of this incident, are asked to e-mail crimetips@police.portlandoregon.gov attn: Major Crimes Unit and reference case number 25-192630.

Information can be submitted anonymously through Crime Stoppers of Oregon. Anyone wishing to submit a secure and anonymous tip regarding any unsolved felony crime should visit their website or visit the App Store and download P3 Tips for your mobile device.

Crime Stoppers of Oregon offers cash rewards of up to \$2,500 cash for information, reported to Crime Stoppers, that leads to an arrest in any unsolved felony crime and tipsters remain anonymous.

Trump Releases FBI Files on MLK Jr. Despite Family Objection

Records Sealed Since 1977
Now Released by Court Order

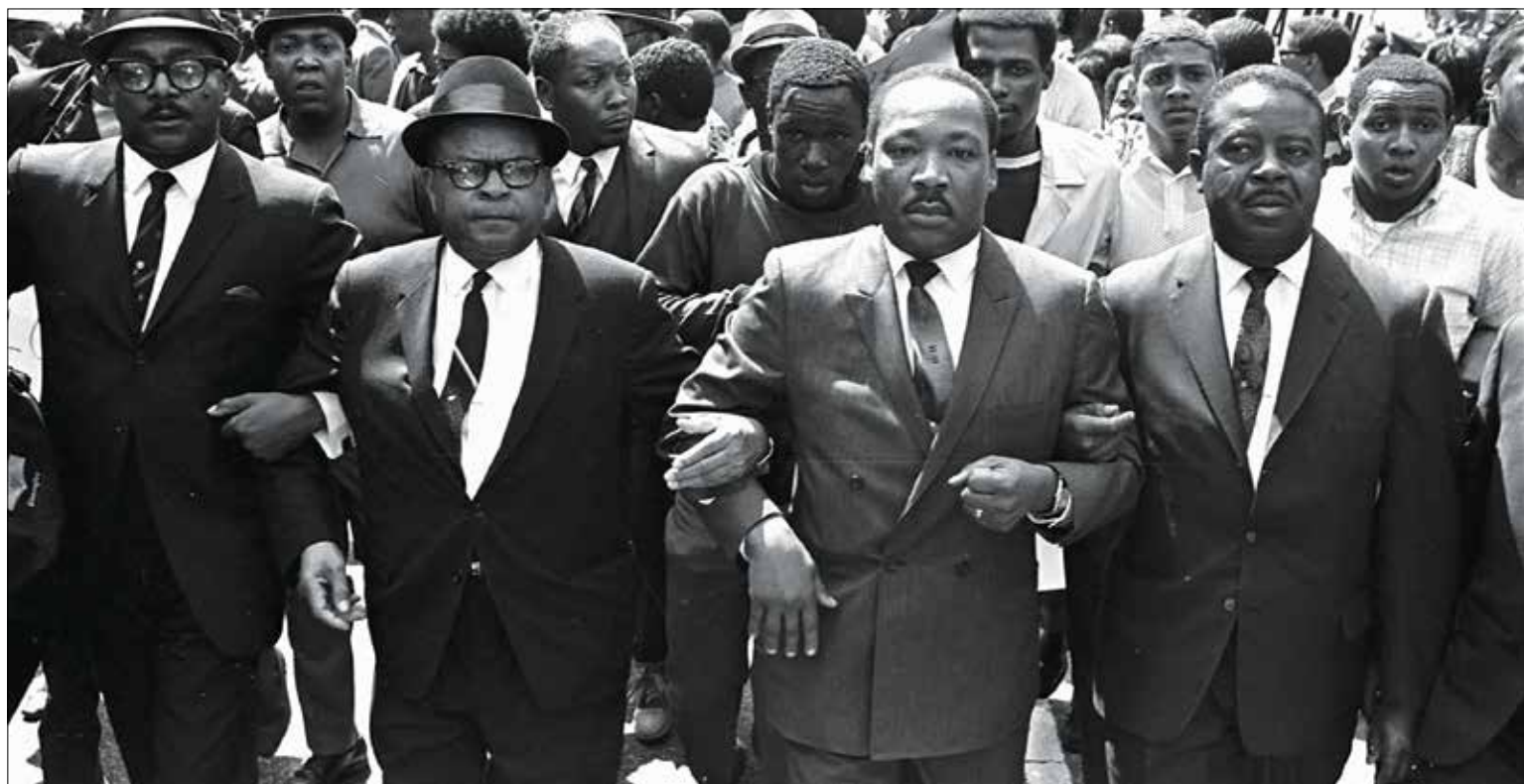
(AP) The Trump administration on Monday released records of the FBI's surveillance of Martin Luther King Jr., despite opposition from the slain Nobel laureate's family and the civil rights group that he led until his 1968 assassination.

The digital document dump includes more than 240,000 pages of records that had been under a court-imposed seal since 1977, when the FBI first gathered the records and turned them over to the National Archives and Records Administration.

In a lengthy statement released Monday, King's two living children, Martin III, 67, and Bernice, 62, said their father's killing has been a "captivating public curiosity for decades." But the pair emphasized the personal nature of the matter and urged that the files "be viewed within their full historical context."

The Kings got advance access to the records and had their own teams reviewing them. Those efforts continued even as the government granted public access. Among the documents are leads the FBI received after King's assassination and details of the CIA's fixation on King's pivot to international anti-war and anti-poverty movements in the years before he was killed. It was not immediately clear whether the documents shed new light on King's life, the Civil Rights Movement or his murder.

"As the children of Dr. King and Mrs. Coretta Scott King, his tragic death has been an intense-



The Trump administration has released records of the FBI's surveillance of Martin Luther King Jr., despite opposition from the slain Nobel laureate's family and the civil rights group that he led until his 1968 assassination (AP Photo/File)

ly personal grief — a devastating loss for his wife, children, and the granddaughter he never met -- an absence our family has endured for over 57 years," they wrote. "We ask those who engage with the release of these files to do so with empathy, restraint, and respect for our family's continuing grief."

They also repeated the family's long-held contention that James Earl Ray, the man convicted of assassinating King, was not solely responsible, if at all.

Bernice King was 5 years old when her father was killed at the age of 39. Martin III was 10.

A statement from the office of Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard called the disclosure "unprecedented" and said many of the records had been digitized for the first time. She praised President Donald Trump for pushing the issue.

Trump promised as a candidate to release files related to President John F. Kennedy's 1963 assassination. When Trump took office in January, he signed an executive order to declassify the JFK records, along with those associated with Robert F. Kennedy's and MLK's 1968 assassinations.

The government unsealed the JFK records in March and disclosed some RFK files in April.

The announcement from Gabbard's office included a statement from Alveda King, Martin Luther King Jr.'s niece, who is an outspoken conservative and has broken from King's children on various topics — including the FBI files. Alveda King said she was "grateful to President Trump" for his "transparency."

Separately, Attorney General Pam Bondi's social media account featured a picture of the attorney general with Alveda King.

Besides fulfilling Trump's order, the latest release means another alternative headline for the president as he tries to mollify supporters angry over his administration's handling of records concerning the sex trafficking investigation of Jeffrey Epstein, who killed himself behind bars while awaiting trial in 2019, during Trump's first presidency. Trump last Friday ordered the Justice Department to release grand jury testimony but stopped short of unsealing the entire case file.

Bernice King and Martin Luther King III did not mention Trump in their statement Monday. But Bernice King later posted on her personal Instagram

account a black-and-white photo of her father, looking annoyed, with the caption "Now, do the Epstein files."

And some civil rights activists did not spare the president.

"Trump releasing the MLK assassination files is not about transparency or justice," said the Rev. Al Sharpton. "It's a desperate attempt to distract people from the firestorm engulfing Trump over the Epstein files and the public unraveling of his credibility among the MAGA base."

The King Center, founded by King's widow and now led by Bernice King, reacted separately from what Bernice said jointly with her brother. The King Center statement framed the release as a distraction — but from more than short-term political controversy.

"It is unfortunate and ill-timed, given the myriad of pressing issues and injustices affecting the United States and the global society," the King Center, linking those challenges to MLK's efforts. "This righteous work should be our collective response to renewed attention on the assassination of a great purveyor of true peace."

The King records were initially intended to be sealed until 2027, until Justice Department attorneys asked a federal judge to lift the sealing order early. Scholars, history buffs and journalists have been preparing to study the documents for new information about his assassination on April 4, 1968, in Memphis, Tennessee.

The Southern Christian Leadership Conference, which King co-founded in 1957 as the Civil

Rights Movement blossomed, opposed the release. The group, along with King's family, argued that the FBI illegally surveilled King and other civil rights figures, hoping to discredit them and their movement.

It has long been established that then-FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover was intensely interested if not obsessed with King and others he considered radicals. FBI records released previously show how Hoover's bureau wiretapped King's telephone lines, bugged his hotel rooms and used informants to gather information, including evidence of King's extramarital affairs.

"He was relentlessly targeted by an invasive, predatory, and deeply disturbing disinformation and surveillance campaign orchestrated by J. Edgar Hoover through the Federal Bureau of Investigation," the King children said in their statement.

"The intent ... was not only to monitor, but to discredit, dismantle and destroy Dr. King's reputation and the broader American Civil Rights Movement," they continued. "These actions were not only invasions of privacy, but intentional assaults on the truth — undermining the dignity and freedoms of private citizens who fought for justice, designed to neutralize those who dared to challenge the status quo."

The Kings said they "support transparency and historical accountability" but "object to any



Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. walks across the balcony of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, April 3, 1968. (AP Photo/Charles Kelly, File)

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Damian Lillard is Back Where He Started



Damien Lillard

Returning with a 3-Year Deal Worth \$42 Million Reportedly

AP- Lillard signed a three-year deal worth \$42 million to return to the Portland Trail Blazers, a person with knowledge of the deal told The Associated Press on Thursday. The person spoke to the AP on the condition of anonymity because the deal had not been officially announced.

ESPN first reported the deal.

Lillard, 35, was the sixth pick in the 2012 NBA draft by the Trail Blazers and spent 11 seasons with Portland before he was traded to the Milwaukee Bucks just before the 2023-24 season.

However, it might not be Lillard Time in Portland just yet for the player known for pointing at his wrist after sinking key shots.

Lillard tore his left Achilles tendon during a first-round NBA playoff series against the Indiana Pacers and required surgery, meaning he could miss the entire 2025-26 season. The Bucks had waived him earlier this month and stretched the remaining \$113 million on his contract over five years.

Lillard ranked 10th in the league in scoring (24.9) and assists (7.1) this season while earning his ninth All-Star Game selection. But he played only 58 games because of deep vein thrombosis. Lillard confirmed the deal, posting

a video to his Instagram of the Trail Blazers' locker room, ending with a frame of a locker labeled with his name, followed by the words "Together Again."

He wrote "RipCityyyyyyyyy!!!!!!!"

Lillard averaged 32.2 points his final season in Portland. He became just the seventh player in NBA history to score more than 70 points in a game when he finished with 71 against the Houston Rockets that season.

But Portland won only four playoff series during Lillard's tenure, getting to the Western Conference finals once.

Lillard was beloved in Portland and always insisted there are no hard feelings over his separation with the Blazers. He wanted to try and chase a championship with Giannis Antetokounmpo and the Bucks, while Portland was focused on developing young talent, like Scoot Henderson and Shaedon Sharpe.

Lillard, who has a signature shoe deal with Adidas, hinted during an event at the company's North American headquarters in 2024 that someday he might be willing to return to the Trail Blazers.

Lillard holds Portland records for points (19,376) and 3-pointers (2,387). He's the only Trail Blazers player to score 70 or more points in a game. He had five games of 60 or more points with Portland.

For his career, Lillard averaged 25.1 points and 6.7 assists. He was the 2013 Rookie of the Year and was named to the NBA's 75th Anniversary team in 2021. He won a gold medal at the Tokyo Olympics.



People attend a launch event announcing Portland Fire as the name of Portland's WNBA basketball franchise outside the Moda Center on Tuesday, July 15, 2025, in Portland, Ore. (AP Photo/Jenny Kane)

Coming Back with Heat and Bringing the Fire!

Expansion WNBA Team Brings Back the Original Portland Fire Name

AP- Oregon's WNBA team stepped back in time for its new name, reintroducing the Portland Fire.

The expansion franchise, which begins play next next season along with the Toronto Tempo, announced its name and branding on Tuesday — reviving the moniker of the city's previous WNBA team that played from 2000 to 2002.

"Our feeling is that the fire never died," interim Fire president Clare Hamill said. "Fans have been waiting for us to come back, and we're back with the Portland Fire." In addition to the name, the team has a new "Rose on Fire" logo and a color palette of red, brown, blue and pink.

Portland Trail Blazers owner Paul Allen, the co-founder of Microsoft who died in 2018, was chairman of the original Fire and the two teams played at the Rose Garden, now the Moda Center.

The NBA owned the WNBA teams until 2002, then sold them to affiliated NBA teams or independent owners. Allen declined to buy the Fire and the team folded.

Portland was awarded a new WNBA team last September. The team is run by Raj Sports, led by Lisa Bhathal Merage and Alex Bhathal, who also own the Portland Thorns of the National Women's Soccer League. They paid \$125 million for the WNBA franchise.

The Fire and the Thorns will share a new joint-training facility in the first such partnership between the two women's leagues.

The Fire already have sold more than 11,000 season ticket deposits, surpassing the WNBA's previous best. The team will play at the Moda Center, where the original

Fire averaged some 8,000 fans a game.

But the launch of the team hasn't been smooth.

Indications that the team planned to return to the Fire name were previously revealed when a local publication, the Rose Garden Report, published the team's trademark application.

The team's president, Inky Son, parted ways with the team late last month after less than three months on the job. Son was announced as the first employee of the team in early April, tasked with leading all aspects of the business, including marketing, ticket and sponsorship sales, and community relations. The Toronto Tempo, meanwhile, are further along in the process, announcing a team name back in December and hiring a general manager earlier this year.

Hamill, a former Nike executive, took over for Son until a permanent president can be found. She said the launch of the team's name and logo is just a slice of what the team is activating in the coming weeks. The Fire's website also went live on Tuesday.

"We're pointing everybody to the launch and the pace at which we're moving, and just giving everyone confidence that we have our arms around it," Hamill said. "We're moving fast, and you're going to hear from us a lot."

The team celebrated the launch of the name and logo at a community party outside the Moda Center on Tuesday. Several hundred fans, including former WNBA players Olympia Scott and Lindsey Yamasaki, were in attendance.

"This is amazing. Look, the city showed up," said Karina LeBlanc, the Fire's executive vice president of strategic growth development. "This is the global epicenter of women's sports for a reason, because our fan base and our community show up with a fire within them that's different from anywhere else."

Kenton Library Welcomes Readers Back



Exterior of Kenton Library; photo courtesy of Multnomah County Library

Doors Reopen to Updated Space

Kenton Library is reopened to the public on July 9, 2025, welcoming patrons into an engaging, updated library space.

The work at Kenton is a continuation of the Refresh projects, providing smaller but still import-

ant upgrades to 11 libraries. Kenton Library closed to the public on February 21, 2025 to undertake these bond-funded improvements.

Multnomah County Library is building, expanding and renovating library spaces for the public as a result of the voter-approved 2020 Library building bond. This year, the library system is seeing a dramatic reinvention by building

and expanding five libraries and a series of Refresh projects to libraries across the system. This includes Albina Library, which is reopened as a larger, transformed space on Saturday, July 19.

New features at Kenton include improved shelf heights to create more space for people and better sight lines, along with an inviting children's area featuring new, mov-

able furniture such as soft seating and fun animal chairs. The updated teen area offers plush seating, study tables, lounge chairs, and reading chairs with and without arms, while the adult area now includes comfortable reading room chairs and new lounge chairs. A SmartShelf from Lyngsoe, arriving in August 2025, will allow materials to be easily checked in when placed on

any shelf. The new Tech Bar provides space for patrons to use the copy machine, scanner, and computers while freeing up other areas for reading, sitting, and charging devices. Additionally, Kenton now features new, lightweight meeting room chairs and tables, along with fresh paint and new carpet to create an updated, inviting experience for all visitors.

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Sen. Jeff Merkley, D-Ore., speaks during a transgender rights rally at the Lutheran Church of the Reformation on Capitol Hill, Wednesday, June 18, 2025, in Washington. (AP Photo/Jose Luis Magana,File)

I'm Not Backing Down!

Sen. Jeff Merkley Says He's Running for Reelection

In a statement, the 68-year-old denounced the Trump administration and described efforts to stand against growing threats to democracy as "the fight of our lives, and I'm not backing down."

"This is a dark and dangerous time for our democracy, and the only way through it is together," he said.

Merkley is the top Democrat on the powerful Senate Budget Committee. His most recent reelection to the Senate was in 2020, with nearly 57% of the vote.

Merkley has served in Congress since 2009. Before that, he served roughly a decade in the Oregon House of Representatives.

Oregon's other Democratic senator, Ron Wyden, isn't up for reelection until 2028.



Photo Courtesy of Blosser Center



Cece and Student. Photo Courtesy of Blosser Center

Reading Program Brings Summer Literacy to Ockley Green

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

who struggled during remote learning during the Covid pandemic have been left without adequate support as they advance through middle school.

"What's so exciting about reaching these incoming 6th grade students is that we're not just teaching them to read, we're igniting a passion for learning that will carry them through life," says Suzanne LaGrande, Executive Director of the Blosser Center for Dyslexia Education. "When a sixth grader discovers they can master a book and falls in love with reading, that transforms their entire educational trajectory. We're giving them back their confidence and showing them that learning can be joyful again."

The students participating in the program were identified through the four elementary schools that feed into Ockley Green Middle School. The camp's struc-

ture reflects research-backed approaches to reading intervention that focuses on intensive one-on-one tutoring. Students rotate through different learning blocks, including small group writing sessions, robotics activities, and an hour of individualized instruction with trained tutors who address each student's needs.

This pilot program represents the kind of targeted intervention that literacy experts believe is necessary to address Oregon's reading crisis. With only 42.5% of students meeting English and language arts proficiency standards statewide, the need for programs that serve struggling readers has never been more urgent.

LaGrande hopes this partnership with Portland Public Schools will expand beyond this summer. "When kids get behind, they also get discouraged. They start to believe that they're not smart," she explains. "So the faster we can get them to grade-level reading proficiency, the more we can get them caught up, and launch them into the future."

Arts &
ENTERTAINMENT

Cosby Show' Actor, Dead at the Age of 54



Malcolm-Jamal Warner arrives at the 65th annual Grammy Awards, Feb. 5, 2023 in Los Angeles. (photo by Jordan Strauss/AP, File)

Malcolm-Jamal Warner drowns while in Costa Rica

(AP) — Malcolm-Jamal Warner the actor who played teenage son Theo Huxtable on "The Cosby Show," has died at age 54 in an accidental drowning in Costa Rica, authorities there said.

Costa Rica's Judicial Investigation Department said Monday that Warner drowned Sunday afternoon on a beach on Costa Rica's Caribbean coast. He was swimming at Playa Cocles in Limon province when a current pulled him deeper into the ocean.

"He was rescued by people on the beach," the department's initial report said, but first responders from Costa Rica's Red Cross found him without vital signs and he was taken to the morgue.

Warner created many TV moments etched in the memories of Generation

X children and their parents, including a pilot-episode argument with Bill Cosby's Cliff Huxtable about money and an ear piercing he tries to hide from his dad. His Theo was the only son among four daughters in the household of Cliff Huxtable and Phylicia Rashad's Clair Huxtable on the NBC sitcom, and he would be one of the prime representations of American teenage boyhood on a show that was the most popular in America for much of its run from 1984 to 1992.

He played the role for eight seasons in all 197 episodes, winning an Emmy nomination for supporting actor in a comedy in 1986. For many the lasting image of the character, and of Warner, is of him wearing a badly botched mock designer shirt sewed by his sister Denise, played by Lisa Bonet. The "Gordon Gortrell" shirt later became a memeable image. Anthony Mackie wore one on "The Tonight Show" with Jimmy Fallon and the profile picture on Cosby's Instagram shows a toddler sporting one.

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Oregon Ballet Theatre, Albina Head Start Mark 35 Years

Partnership Brings Dance to Portland Kids

Oregon Ballet Theatre has introduced classrooms of excited and inquisitive preschool students from Albina Head Start to the world of dance for the past 35 years. This partnership has provided and will continue to provide an invaluable bridge between a diverse group of students and the art form of ballet. Through dance sessions in their classrooms, field trips to the OBT studios, and no-cost tickets to George Balanchine's *The Nutcracker*, OBT and AHS have been committed to inspiring a love of movement within students for decades.

The initial connection between OBT and AHS was made by Joe Wyatt, former OBT Principal dancer and the first Director of OBT School. He and his late wife Elena Carter came to Portland after dancing with the Dance Theatre of Harlem, a company dedicated to giving Black dancers opportunities to perform. "I always want to find a way to continue the legacy of Dance Theatre of Harlem and develop opportunities for dancers of color. That was when I thought of teaming up with Ron Herndon, head of the Albina Ministerial Alliance, to have preschoolers in their Head Start program exposed to creative movement," Wyatt said. "With \$1,000 from the school budget, the goal was to send teachers from OBT School to one of their centers and introduce preschoolers to dance. With support from OBT's board and local companies, the program expanded over time. One outstanding teacher, Kasandra Gruener, took over the program and took it to new heights." Kasandra, who was with OBT from 1992-2020 says "As Oregon Ballet Theatre looks back on 35 years of offering multi-faceted ballet experiences to our broad community both onstage and off, I reflect on the many unique and worthy partnerships that have been forged. There is one partnership that I hold especially dear to my heart, for we have sustained and grown our work together since OBT's earliest years. That partnership is with Albina Head Start."



Albina Head Start students exploring creative movement on a field trip to OBT Studios



Teaching Artist and Speaker Brook Manning hosting a field trip for AHS students



OBT Community Partnership Specialist Sarah Ward-Brown dancing in an AHS classroom

Albina Head Start is dedicated to providing child development and family support services to low-income families. Through their partnership with OBT, Albina has also made arts education accessible, recognizing the importance of movement for young students. It is the hope of both organizations that students may recognize dance as a joyful activity, a means to explore other topics, and as an opportunity for them to continue to pursue in the future, whether as a hobby or a profession.

"OBT is a wonderful partnership for Albina," shared Ann Obuhoro Site Coordinator and 34-year employee of Albina Head Start. "When we first started the partnership with

OBT, Kasandra was one of the first teachers. She brought so much knowledge not only to the children and families, but she also inspired me and other teachers to gain a better understanding of what ballet was all about." Obuhoro continues, "She encouraged and inspired so many children and staff from Albina over the years. Albina is so fortunate to continue our partnership with OBT."

"It is hard to describe the awe and impact this program has on the children and their families. Otherwise boisterous, the children sit speechless, raptly watching the rigor, skill and focus of the company dancers at work when they visit OBT. Everyone - kiddos, AHS teachers, family

chaperones and OBT dancers are smiling," said Gruener. "The power of this partnership builds more than a love of ballet. The welcoming nature of it blurs the notion of ballet for an elite group only. It presents a physical example of what can happen when one focuses and perseveres at a very difficult task."

These field trips leave a lasting impression on young students. Weeks after a studio visit, one child reflected on what they learned during their visit to OBT. She said, "I am a dancer, I saw dancers, and I can be a dancer."

"And that pretty much sums up everything we're trying to do!" says current OBT Director of Education and Community Engagement, Robyn Ulibarri.

"I hope that our AHS/OBT partnership continues in the way it always has, with support, respect for what we each do and of course love, shares Sarah Brown, OBT Community Partnership Specialist. "I hope that any AHS student who wants to continue dancing has the support and opportunity, and those students that don't wish to continue have happy memories of dancing together."

This program is the product of many teachers, support staff, administrators, and Teaching Artists' belief in the power of movement. OBT is thrilled to celebrate the 35th anniversary of this partnership with Albina Head Start and is excited about future anniversaries to come.



A guardian drops off a child at the Guidepost Montessori school on Friday, July 18th, 2025, in Beaverton, Oregon. (AP Photo/Jenny Kane)

Immigration Arrest Outside Preschool Rattles Parents

Father Arrested in Front of the School During Morning Drop-off

(AP) — Parents at a preschool in a Portland suburb are reeling after immigration officers arrested a father in front of the school during morning drop-off hours, breaking his car window to detain him in front of children, families and staffers. “I feel like a day care, which is where young children are taken care of, should be a safe place,” Natalie Berning said after dropping off her daughter at the Montessori in Beaverton on Friday morning. “Not only is it traumatizing for the family, it’s traumatizing for all the other children as well.”

Mahdi Khanbabazadeh, a 38-year-old chiropractor and citizen of Iran, was initially pulled over by Immigration and Customs Enforcement, or ICE, while driving his child to the school Tuesday. After asking if he could drop off the child first, he continued driving and called his wife to tell her what happened, according to his wife, who spoke on condition of anonymity due to privacy concerns for her and her young child.

His wife rushed to the school, took their child from his car and brought him inside. Khanbabazadeh stayed in the vehicle in the parking lot and asked if he could move somewhere not on school grounds out of consideration for the children and families, his wife said. He pulled out of the lot and onto the street and began to open the car door to step out when agents broke the window and took him into custody, according to his wife. Kellie Burns, who has two children attending the preschool, said her husband was there and heard the glass shatter.

“More than anything we want to express how unnecessarily violent and inhumane this was,” she said. “Everyone felt helpless. Everyone was scared.”

ICE said it detained Khanbabazadeh because he overstayed his visa, which his wife disputes.

“Officers attempted to arrest Khanbabazadeh during a traffic stop when he requested permission to drop his child off at day-care,” ICE said in a statement. “Officers allowed him to proceed to the daycare parking lot where he stopped cooperating, resisted arrest and refused to exit his vehicle, resulting in ICE officers making entry by breaking one of the windows to complete the arrest.”

Immigration officials have dramatically ramped up arrests across the country since May. Shortly after President Donald Trump took office in January, his administration lifted restrictions on making immigration arrests at

schools, health care facilities and places of worship, stirring fears about going to places once considered safe spaces.

After U.S. military strikes on Iran in June, officials trumpeted immigration arrests of Iranians, some of whom settled in the United States long ago.

Khanbabazadeh’s wife said he has always maintained lawful status. After he arrived on a valid student visa and they subsequently married, she said, they submitted all required paperwork to adjust his status and were waiting for a final decision following their green card interview months ago. Khanbabazadeh is being held at the ICE detention facility in Tacoma, Washington, she said. Guidepost Global Education, which oversees the Montessori school, called the incident “deeply upsetting.”

“We understand that this incident raises broader questions about how law enforcement actions intersect with school environments,” CEO Maris Mendes said in a statement. “It is not lost on us how frightening and confusing this experience may have been for those involved — especially for the young children who may have witnessed it while arriving at school with their parents.”

Parents said they want to support the family and teachers.

“We know it’s happening across the country, of course, but no one is prepared for their preschool ... to deal with it,” Burns said. “It’s really been a nightmare.”

Man Dies in MRI Chain Accident



Keith McAllister (Photo: Gofundme)

Incident Triggers Medical Emergency

A man who was pulled into an MRI machine in New York after he walked into the room wearing a large weight-training chain around his neck has died, according to police and his wife, who told a local television outlet that he waved goodbye before his body went limp.

The man, 61, had entered an MRI room while a scan was underway Wednesday afternoon at Nassau Open MRI. The machine’s strong magnetic force drew him in by the metallic chain around his neck, according to a release from the Nassau County Police Department.

He died Thursday afternoon, but a police officer who answered the phone at the Nassau County police precinct where the MRI facility is located said the department had not yet been given permission to release the name Saturday.

Adrienne Jones-McAllister told News 12 Long Island in a recorded interview that she was undergoing an MRI on her knee when she asked the technician to get her husband, Keith McAllister, to help her get off the table. She said she called out to him.

She told News 12 that the technician summoned into the room her husband, who was wearing a 20-pound chain that he uses for weight training, an object they’d had a casual conversation about during a previous visit with comments like: “Ooooooh, that’s a big chain!”

When he got close to her, she said, “at that instant, the machine switched him around, pulled him in and he hit the MRI.”

“I said: ‘Could you turn off the machine, call 911, do something, Turn this damn thing off!’” she recalled, as tears ran down her face. “He went limp in my arms.”

She said the technician helped her try to pull her husband off the machine but it was impossible.

“He waved goodbye to me and then his whole body went limp,” Jones-McAllister told the TV outlet.

Jones-McAllister told News 12 that McAllister suffered heart attacks after he was freed from the MRI machine.

A person who answered the phone at Nassau Open MRI on Long Island declined to comment Friday. The phone number went unanswered on Saturday.

It wasn’t the first New York death to result from an MRI machine.

In 2001, 6-year-old Michael Colombini of Croton-on-Hudson was killed at the Westchester Medical Center when an oxygen tank flew into the chamber, drawn in by the MRI’s 10-ton electromagnet.

In 2010, records filed in Westchester County revealed that the family settled a lawsuit for \$2.9 million.

MRI machines “employ a strong magnetic field” that “exerts very powerful forces on objects of iron, some steels, and other magnetizable objects,” according to the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering, which says the units are “strong enough to fling a wheelchair across the room.”

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Cold Case Finally Solved?

Man Arraigned on Murder Charge for Death of His Then-Girlfriend in 1980s

(AP) — A man who is suspected in the disappearance of his then-girlfriend in the 1980s and was recently extradited from California to Oregon has been arraigned on a murder charge stemming from the cold case.

Mark Sanfratello, 72, was arraigned Wednesday in Josephine County Circuit Court in southern Oregon after a grand jury indicted him for second-degree murder in the death of Teresa Peroni, the Oregon attorney general's office said in a statement.

Sanfratello is being held without bail, according to online court records. His defense attorney, Elizabeth Baker, said he is "claiming all the rights afforded him under the law."

Peroni disappeared in 1983 at age 27 after attending a party in a rural area near the small town of Selma. Authorities say she was last seen walking into the woods with Sanfratello, her boyfriend at



This undated photo released by the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System shows Teresa Peroni before her disappearance in 1993. (NamUs via AP)

the time. Authorities investigated, but there was not enough evidence to move forward with charges.

In 1997 a human skull was found on a nearby property, which was then searched with the use of a cadaver dog, according to the Josephine County Sheriff's Office. The skull was sent to the University of North Texas for examination. The sheriff's office reopened

the case in 2024, with investigators collecting new DNA evidence and using modern forensic testing. With the additional DNA, experts at the university were able to confirm that the skull was Peroni's.

Sanfratello was taken into custody last month in Chico, California.

Investigators are still seeking information from anyone who attended the party.

"What happened to Teresa Peroni left her family with decades of uncertainty and grief," Oregon Attorney General Dan Rayfield said. "While the legal process is now underway and it's important not to prejudge its outcome, this arrest reflects the progress that's possible when law enforcement agencies persist and evolve with new tools. It's a powerful reminder that time doesn't erase the need for answers."

It is the second recent Oregon cold case that has been linked to someone in California. State police said in May that a man who was found dead along Interstate 5 in Oregon had been identified after nearly 45 years and that notorious California serial killer Randy Kraft was the only person under investigation for the 1980 killing.

Welding Lights Career Paths for Native American Women

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

That early exposure to the trades planted a seed, even if it did not immediately blossom into a career path. After high school, she enrolled in automotive and wood-shop courses, then began a years-long journey across the country — searching not just for work, but for meaning.

She landed in Los Angeles in 2018, taking on a role as a project coordinator in construction, which offered exposure to a range of trades. Though she loved the experience and soaked up knowledge from seasoned professionals, a sense of incompleteness lingered.

Then came the pandemic.

With construction halted and bills piling up, Two Crow returned home. She briefly worked in road construction and earned a heavy equipment certification. Yet, once again, she felt the pull toward something else. When a former boss suggested welding, she remembered the spark her aunt — a welder herself — had lit years ago. The idea took root.

By 2022, Two Crow was enrolled at Lynne's Welding School in Fargo, working as a tank welder for True North Steel. Her experience was "insightful and

gratifying," exposing her to the diversity and depth of the welding profession.

"I met people from all different backgrounds and experiences," she said. "It was at this time in my life where I was finally starting to feel content."

But it was Portland, where she had previously attended PCC, that called her back.

"Portland is my home away from home," she explained. "My friends are my family, and my peers are my friends."

Two Crow began exploring opportunities that went far beyond her initial dream of underwater welding. The turning point came when she joined PCC's Maritime Welding Program. Guided by instructor Todd Barnett — whom she credits with breaking down complex skills like blueprint reading into digestible lessons — Two Crow found not only technical mastery but also personal clarity.

"The most challenging part for me was understanding the blueprints but with time and patience my understanding has evolved tremendously, and now I feel more confident than I did at the beginning," she said. "After being here and learning about all the different opportunities, I feel like my options are endless."

She praises the program not just for its technical rigor, but for its emotional and educational support. Central to her success, she says, has been the guidance of Barnett.

"He's challenged me mentally in the best way possible," she said.

Two Crow isn't content to specialize in one technique or one domain.

"If it's metal, I want to weld it," she declares. "GMAW, FCAW, stick, flux, dual shield — on land or at sea."

Two Crow is also a passionate advocate for women in the trades, especially in welding — a field traditionally dominated by men but rapidly diversifying. Between 2016 and 2019, the number of female welders rose by 30%. As of 2025, women now make up more than 6% of the welding workforce — a significant shift that reflects broader societal changes and the efforts of programs like PCC's.

"It's always growing, and the opportunities are limitless," she said. "This program means a great deal to me and my future. My journey started on a foggy path but coming to the end of this chapter, I'm finally starting to see things clearly. I know that welding is what I want to do."

Trump Releases FBI Files on MLK Jr. Despite Family Objection



Martin Luther King Jr., head of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, speaks to thousands during his "I Have a Dream" speech at the Lincoln Memorial during the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, Aug. 28, 1963, in Washington. (AP Photo/File)

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

attacks on our father's legacy or attempts to weaponize it to spread falsehoods." died

Opposition to King intensified even after the Civil Rights Movement compelled Congress and President Lyndon B. Johnson to enact the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. After those victories, King turned his attention to economic justice and international peace. He criticized rapacious capitalism and the Vietnam War. King asserted that political rights alone were not enough to ensure a just society. Many establishment figures like Hoover viewed King as a communist threat.

King was assassinated as he was aiding striking sanitation workers in Memphis, part of his explicit turn toward economic justice.

Ray pleaded guilty to King's murder. Ray

later renounced that plea and maintained his innocence until his death in 1998.

King family members and others have long questioned whether Ray acted alone, or if he was even involved. Coretta Scott King asked for the probe to be reopened, and in 1998, then-Attorney General Janet Reno ordered a new look. Reno's Justice Department said it "found nothing to disturb the 1969 judicial determination that James Earl Ray murdered Dr. King."

In their latest statement, Bernice King and Martin Luther King III repeated their assertions that Ray was set up. They pointed to a 1999 civil case, brought by the King family, in which a Memphis jury concluded that Martin Luther King Jr. had been the target of a conspiracy.

"As we review these newly released files," the Kings said, "we will assess whether they offer additional insights beyond the findings our family has already accepted."

In Loving Memory



Shannon Olive

October 28, 1978 – June 26, 2025

Visionary - Community Leader

As the Founder, Executive Director, and Board President of WomenFirst Transition and Referral Center, and dedicated Commissioner for Home Forward in Portland, Oregon, Shannon devoted her life to advocating for the empowerment, housing stability, and holistic well-being of women impacted by the justice system. She created transformative pathways for countless women to rebuild their lives with dignity and purpose, and brought compassion, insight, and unwavering commitment to the pursuit of equitable housing for all. Her loss is profoundly felt across the community she served with passion, courage, and tireless resolve. Shannon's legacy will endure in the lives she touched, the voices she uplifted, and the change she inspired. Celebration of life was held on Friday, July 18.

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Do Good Multnomah Purchases Former North Portland Hotel

New Veteran Recovery Shelter to Open

Do Good Multnomah has purchased a former North Portland hotel with plans to open a 17-bed recovery shelter to better serve veterans experiencing homelessness. With the help of a Multnomah County loan, Do Good Multnomah was able to buy the Kenton Hotel on North Interstate Avenue to serve as a recovery shelter for veterans.

The facility, which is planned to open in late 2025, will prioritize creating a supportive space for veterans who are currently in recovery from substance use disorders or are wanting to begin their recovery journey. The program will be called The Thayer Family Foundation Veterans Shelter, named for a local charitable foundation focused on veteran projects who donated funds to support the purchase.

The project fills a gap identified by Do Good Multnomah staff and shelter participants, who have expressed a need for a shelter designed to support veterans who are both experiencing homelessness and recovering from substance use disorders.



Do Good Multnomah has purchased the former Kenton Motel, located on North Interstate Avenue, to serve as a shelter for veterans in recovery from substance use disorders. (Photo courtesy of Multnomah County)

“There isn’t anything like this out there right now,” said Matthew Harvey, U.S. Navy veteran and a Do Good Multnomah case manager, who has himself previously experienced homelessness in multiple states. “Recovery beds are very few and far between. Having a recovery community, especially one that’s veteran-centered, is something that would have changed everything for me when I was going through

my struggles. We’re building a space that’s been so needed and the Do Good community has been ready for.”

“Veterans experiencing homelessness deserve a shelter that meets their needs for support and recovery. We’re excited Do Good is making this vision a reality,” Multnomah County Chair Jessica Vega Pederson said. “This place will transform lives — providing a safe place

for veterans to find stability and hope, alongside peers who truly understand what they’re going through.”

The shelter will be open 24/7 for participants and offer structured, clean and sober programming and support, helping each participant build the skills and community connections needed to succeed in stable housing.

The shelter will be staffed with a Certified Drug and Alco-

hol Counselor, along with peer wellness specialists and recovery mentors.

Do Good Multnomah will provide a range of services directly on-site, including case management to help participants meet their individual goals, such as accessing health care and obtaining necessary documents for housing applications like identification cards, Social Security cards, and birth certificates. The organization will also offer support and expertise to assist participants in working toward permanent housing goals, including help with applications and connections to resources. Additionally, there will be a food pantry, a pet supply pantry, and a clothing closet available to participants, along with daily dinners provided on-site. Free transportation to all external appointments will be available through TriMet or Lyft, ensuring participants can attend necessary meetings and services. Do Good Multnomah will also offer connections to services provided by partner organizations to further support participants on their path to stability and housing.

“This project is so much more than putting a Band-Aid on veteran homelessness,” said Harvey. “We’re creating a place that will change somebody’s life immensely.”







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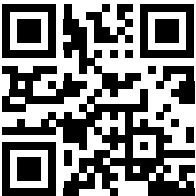
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