

# METRO

The Portland Observer



## Jesus Walks, Mom Talks

Mother of Kanye West reflects with her own book

See Arts & Entertainment, inside

37  
years of  
community service

SECTION B

## Community Calendar

### Healing Revival

Wednesday, May 9 through Friday, May 11, at 7 p.m., the Allen Temple CME Church, 4236 N.E. 8th Ave., welcomes the community to a 'Spring Revival' for renewal, recovery and rejuvenating of the spirit. For more information, call 503-287-0261.

### Stamp Out Hunger

Saturday, May 12, the National Association of Letter Carriers will be collecting nonperishable foods to benefit the Oregon Food Bank Network.

### Walk For Mom

Sunday, May 13, the American Cancer Society hosts the 6th annual Making Strides Against Breast Cancer: Walk for Mom benefiting breast cancer awareness. The walk begins at 9:30 a.m. at 1875 S. W. Park Ave. For more information, call 503-795-3940 or visit cancer.org/stridesonline.

### Help Loaves & Fishes

The Two Rivers Loaves & Fishes Center, 9009 N. Foss St., needs volunteer drivers for meals-on-wheels to ensure that homebound seniors in St. Johns receive nutritional meals and a bit of companionship. Call 503-988-4088.

### "Say Hey, NW!"

Thursday, May 10, from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m., Partners in Diversity, 224 N.W. 13th, host the quarterly reception to welcome new professionals of color relocating to Oregon and Southwest Washington. For more information, email nakashimav@mac.com.

### Lents Home Buying Fair

Saturday, May 12, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Kelly Elementary School, 9030 S.E. Cooper St., a community fair will provide information on home buying. Three \$5,000 down payment assistance grants will be raffled off. For more information, call 503-788-8052, extension 105 or visit rosecdc.org.

### Open Meadow Arts

Thursday, May 17, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., students of Open Meadow Alternative Schools invite the family, friends and the community to share their music, art and poetry, at the Water Pollution Control Lab community room, 6543 N. Burlington Ave.

### Basketball Classic

Saturday, May 26, at SEI, 3920 N. Kerby, you invited to encourage and support high school athletes compete in the Portland Interscholastic League Basketball Classic. Doors open at 2:30 p.m. with tip-off at 3 p.m. Proceeds to benefit the Joyce Washington Memorial Scholarship Fund. Call Mark Washington at 503-288-0033 for more information.

### Staying Healthy

Tuesday, May 22, Tuesday, June 5, and Wednesday, June 6, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., the North East Health Center, 5329 N.E. MLK Blvd., will host the forum discussing issues of men and young men's health. A gift card will be given to all males attending. Call 503-988-3387, extension 22242 for more information.

### Ceramics Pottery Sale

Tuesday, May 29 through Thursday, May 31, the PCC Rock Creek campus, 17705 N.W. Springville Rd., ceramics guild will hold its semi-annual pottery sale in the art gallery and atrium in Building 3. For more information, call 503-848-0272.

### International Night

Friday, May 18, from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m., Portland State University will host the 31st annual event celebrating the student diversity at PSU. The event will be held in the Smith Memorial Student Union cafeteria, 1825 S.W. Broadway. Call 503-725-4094 or visit ois@pdx.edu for more information and ticketing.

### African American Council

You're invited on the third Tuesday of each month from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. when the African American Advisory Council meets at the King Facility, 4815 N.E. Seventh Ave. Call 503-823-0000.

### Community Support

The African American Health Coalition, a non-profit that touches the lives of millions of African Americans each year, reminds you to support your community organization. All donations, grants, and gifts are tax deductible. For more information, visit aahc-portland.org.



Interim Jefferson High School Principal Cynthia Harris is nurturing leaders for the north Portland school, including student Akela Auer (right) and teacher Andrew Kulak (left), who has taught English at Jefferson for seven years.

## Harris' New Vision for Jefferson

With Dudley gone, school seeks democracy

BY RAYMOND RENDELMAN  
PORTLAND OBSERVER

Jefferson High School's top-down management style may have left with Principal Leon Dudley. The strongest voice for inclusiveness at the north Portland school is now Dudley's boss,

Jefferson and Wilson Cluster Director and Interim Jefferson Principal Cynthia Harris.

The school administrator, who tried to shield Dudley from media scrutiny earlier this year by forbidding unapproved access to the school, is now pushing accountability as a replacement for Dudley's authoritarian style.

"There's not a one-time quick fix to anything," Harris says. "We have to begin to model a different message with the rules we put in place, with the staff we hire, with the clothes we wear, with every-

thing." For 35 years, Harris worked as a public-school teacher and administrator for the diverse and integrated districts of the east San Francisco Bay area, where she was praised for sticking to a vision that demanded measurable performance improvements.

After working in Portland for less than a year, Harris readily admits that her learning curve has been steep with a segregated Jefferson.

"I've been seeing a lot of research lately that the black African-American male student is different, and he requires a differ-

ent approach," she says. "Each community is different, so we need to learn from ourselves."

As evidence for Jefferson's newfound democracy, Harris cites weekly sound-offs in the school's Community Room, where all students, faculty and staff are invited to discuss the decision-making process with her and other administrators over free pizza.

"In schools that need to grow, the process needs to be listening to the

continued ▼ on page B6

## Brandon Roy Celebrates NBA Honor

Blazer is league's Rookie of the Year

(AP) -- The Portland Trail Blazers recognized early on that guard Brandon Roy's last name was an acronym for Rookie of the Year.

Roy lived up to it, leading all rookies with averages of 16.8 points, 4.0 assists and 35.4 minutes in 57 games, and on May 2 he was awarded the NBA's Eddie Gottlieb Trophy.

He received 127 out of 128 first-place votes (638 points) from a panel of sports writers and broadcasters. Toronto's Andrea Bargnani finished second with 264 points, and Memphis' Rudy Gay was third with 93 points.

"It's rare to see a rookie step in, assume a leadership role and become a go-to guy as Brandon did this past season," Trail Blazers coach Nate McMillan said. "Brandon is a phenomenal young talent and has a chance to become a very special player in this league."

Roy is the third Trail Blazer to win the award, joining Geoff Petrie (1970-71) and Sidney Wicks (1971-72).

The Blazers finished 32-50, with 11 more wins than in the previous season, but they failed to make the playoffs for the fourth



Portland Trail Blazer guard Brandon Roy celebrates receiving the NBA Rookie of the Year trophy during ceremonies at Self Enhancement, Inc. in north Portland last Wednesday. The Seattle hometown star is joined by his girlfriend Tiana Bardwell, his newborn son Brandon Roy Jr. and his mother Gina Roy.

straight year.

Roy was the Pacific-10 Conference's Player of the Year his senior season at Washington. He was drafted with the sixth overall pick by the Minnesota Timberwolves, then traded to Portland for the draft rights to Randy Foye.

The 6-foot-6 guard was honored as the West's Rookie of the Month in January, February and March. He also made the All-Star game's rookie squad. He scored at least 20 points 16 times, including a career-high 29 against Utah on April 4.

"This is a proud day for the city, the franchise, and Brandon, whose performance this past season speaks volumes to the direction we're headed as a franchise," Blazers general manager Kevin Pritchard said. "Both on and off the court, Brandon has demonstrated the maturity and poise of a veteran."

In his NBA debut Nov. 1 in his hometown of Seattle, Roy scored 20 points. He followed that with a 19-point game at Golden State.

"I love Brandon Roy. I love his game. He's so smooth and carefree. It seems like he never turns the ball over," Denver's Carmelo Anthony said earlier this season. "He sure doesn't seem like a rookie in this league. He's going to be The One in Portland."

## County Chair Responds to Racial Disparities

Yet minority programs slated for budget cuts

BY SARAH BLOUNT  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Newly installed Multnomah County Board Chair Ted Wheeler has unveiled

budget plans to restore fiscal responsibility to the county while paying closer attention to the most disadvantaged residents.

In other words, his county budget proposal includes actions to reduce racial and ethnic disparities, but at the same time he wants to cut millions of dollars from programs that affect minority residents.

Wheeler has outlined \$15 million in cuts to county services over the next year.

School-based programs stand a chance of losing \$3.8 million; that would mean goodbye to Touchstone, a program that helps low-income and minority families by providing utilities and warm clothes for children, as well as community assistance, domestic violence and counseling.

Wheeler calls existing racial disparities a "major problem among African Americans and increasingly Latinos, Native Americans and Asians," and he acknowl-

edges that his plan to cut Touchstone was a very tough decision to make.

"A lot of county employees will lose their jobs over this," he said. "But to return the county to fiscal stability we're going to cut a lot of popular programs."

He said there are many great leaders within the Touchstone program, but that the program lacks focus and is

continued ▼ on page B5