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Fred Meyer
What's on your list today?

LOCAL NEWS

Alarmed by Trump

Professor sees
parallels to era of
Martin Luther King Jr.

BY ZACHARY SENN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

As the nation transitions from its first black president to an incoming president-elect who ran his campaign on divisive and racially-charged language, an expert in race relations at Portland State University sees parallels between our current time and the era of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Dr. Shirley Jackson is a professor and chair of the Black Studies Department at PSU. Since assuming her position in January of last year, she has continued the department's nearly 50-year legacy of educating students and the community at large about the issues facing communities of color in the Portland area.

Jackson says one of the defining characteristics of MLK's civil rights era was political activism by students, the response to injustices that she believes has once again reached a fever-pitch on today's campuses.

"We do see students on college campuses again taking the lead, as they did in the 1960s... Pushing for answers," she says. However, one big difference



Shirley Jackson

Jackson cites between then and now, are fears for the future of free speech, with activists and students of color "feeling as though their voices are going to be stifled with the new administration coming in."

Jackson says that modern-day activists should also prepare to face the same repercussions that

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Drum Major Ecumenical Service

Panel
discussion to
highlight MLK
celebration

BY CHRISTA MCINTYRE
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

One of the oldest African American congregations in the state, the Vancouver Avenue First Baptist Church, will host people of faith from across the state this weekend to honor of the late civil rights leader Dr. Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

The two-day commemoration of Dr. King's work for justice, peace and righteousness will begin Saturday, Jan. 14 with a noon luncheon in the church fellowship hall to honor students and community members who live their lives in the drum major spirit of King; and conclude with the annual Drum Major Awards and Ecumenical Service on Sunday, Jan. 15, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the



Rev. Matt Hennessee

church's main sanctuary, 3138 N. Vancouver Ave.

Pastor J.W. Matt Hennessee will lead the service. Pastor E.D. Mondainé will sing the African American National Anthem, and Gov. Kate Brown and new Mayor Ted Wheeler will share a few brief words. A special focus will be a

panel discussion, "Where do we go from here," led by moderator Bill Deiz.

It has been a tradition at the Drum Major celebration for a keynote speaker to address the congregation, but when Pastor Hennessee saw the fears, anger and sadness which have risen in the community since the recent presidential election, he decided to address them with a panel of speakers to cover a diverse cross section of community and city leaders.

Members of the panel are Rabbi Michael Cahana from Congregation Beth Israel, Attorney and Portland Urban League President Nkenge Harmon Johnson, U.S. District Attorney of Oregon Billy J. Williams, Portland Police Chief Mike Marshman, Executive Director of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon Jan Elfers, Director of the Muslim Education Trust Wajdi Said, Multnomah County District Attorney Rod Underhill, Nathaniel Williams of Unify

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