

47  
years  
of  
community service



2017  
Washington  
Classic  
SECTION B



### Cemented in History

Oregon marker to honor black paratroopers

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# Portland Observer

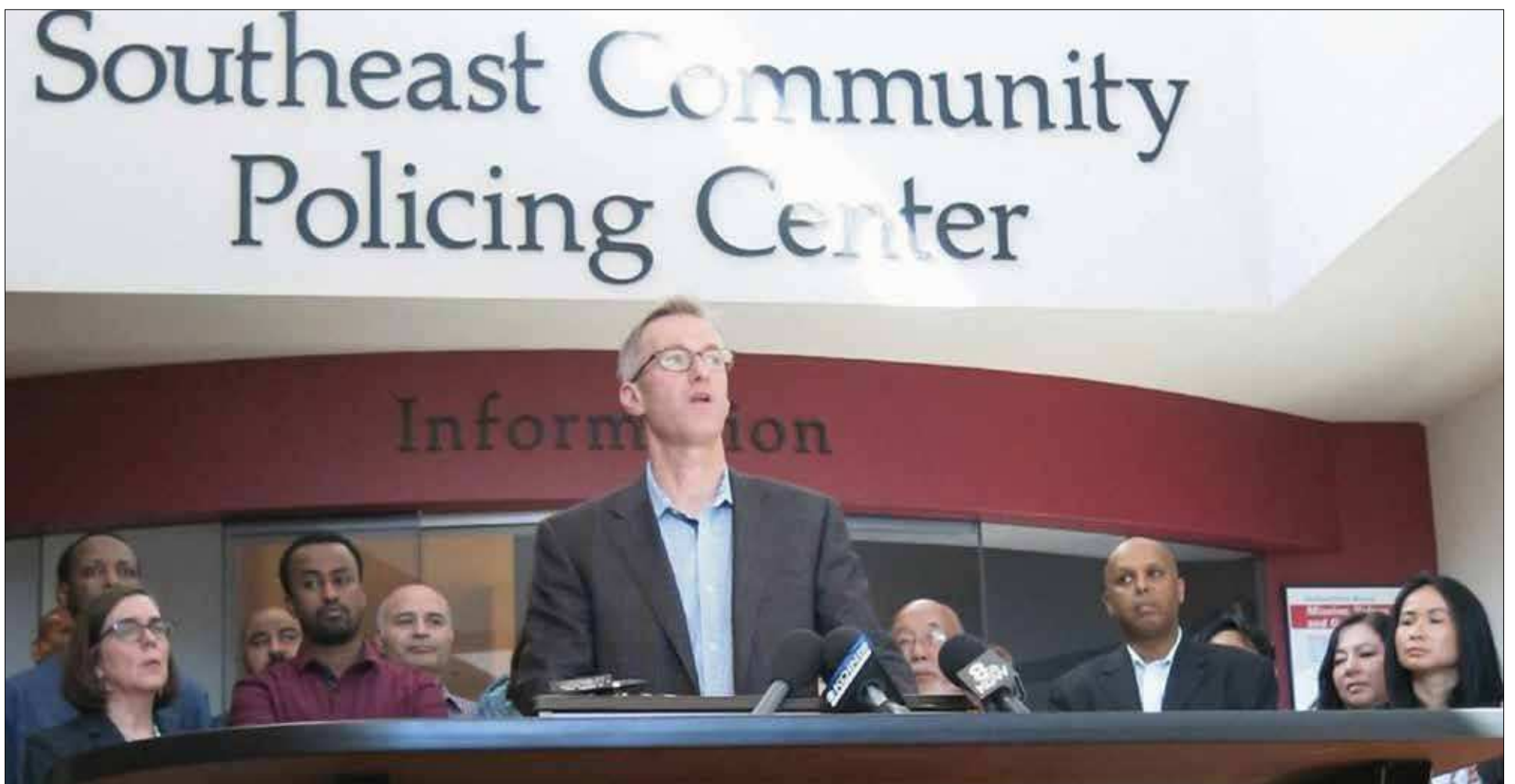
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Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler speaks at a news conference attended by Oregon Gov. Brown and other community leaders after a man fatally stabbed two other men Friday on a light-rail train when they tried to stop him from yelling anti-Muslim slurs at two young women, one of whom was wearing a hijab. Jeremy Joseph Christian, 35, of Portland was arrested for aggravated murder and attempted murder in the attack. (AP Photo/Gillian Flaccus)

## Inappropriate protests feared after two killed in attack

Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler urged officials and organizers Monday to cancel a “Trump Free Speech Rally” and other similar events, saying they are inappropriate and could be dangerous after two men were stabbed to death on a MAX train as they tried to help a pair of young women targeted by an anti-Muslim tirade.

Wheeler said he hopes the victims will inspire “changes in the political dialogue in this country.”

Taliesin Myrddin Namkai Meche, 23, and Ricky John Best, 53, were killed Friday as they tried to stop Jeremy Joseph Christian from harassing the women on the light-rail train near the Hollywood Transit Center in northeast Portland, one of whom was wearing a hijab, authorities said. Another who stepped in was seriously injured.

Christian’s social media postings indicate an affinity for Nazis and political vio-

# Standing Up to Hate

lence. He is accused of aggravated murder, intimidation — the state equivalent of a hate crime — and being a felon in possession of a weapon.

The federal government has issued a permit for the free-speech rally Saturday and has yet to give a permit for an event June 10. The mayor says his main concern was participants “coming to peddle a message of hatred,” saying hate speech is not protected by the Constitution.

A Facebook page for the event says

there would be speakers and live music in “one of the most liberal areas on the West Coast.” It says it will feature Kyle Chapman, who describes himself as an American nationalist and ardent supporter of President Donald Trump.

Chapman was arrested at a March 4 protest in Berkeley, the birthplace of the U.S. free speech movement in the 1960s that has become a flashpoint for the extreme left and right since Trump’s election.

The University of California, Berkeley,

has been criticized for canceling an appearance by conservative commentator Ann Coulter in April and another by right-wing provocateur Milo Yiannopoulos in February. It canceled Coulter’s speech amid threats of violence, fearing a repeat of rioting ahead of the Yiannopoulos event.

Trump has condemned the stabbing, writing Monday on Twitter: “The violent attacks in Portland on Friday are unacceptable. The victims were standing up to hate and intolerance. Our prayers are w/ them.”

Wheeler said he appreciated Trump’s words but stressed the need for action.

“I hope we rise to the memory of these two gentlemen who lost their lives,” the mayor told reporters. “Let’s do them honor by standing with them and carrying on their legacy of standing up to hate and bigotry and violence.”

The mother of one of the targets of the rant said she was overwhelmed with gratitude and sadness for the strangers who died defending her daughter, 16-year-old Destinee Mangum.

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