

The Week in Review



The Shape of Water Wins Big at the Academy Awards

The love story fantasy 'The Shape of Water' snagged four Oscars at the 90th Academy Awards Sunday, including best picture and best director. Frances McDormand won best actress for her role in 'Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri,' Gary Oldman won best actor for 'Darkest Hour,' and Kobe Bryant won an Oscar for his short animated film 'Dear Basketball.'

Downtown O'Bryant Square Plaza Closed for Safety

O'Bryant Square, a small downtown park, will be closed indefinitely due to safety concerns with the parking garage below the site, city officials announced Monday. The parking structure was temporarily closed back in September, but engineers recently found additional problems.

Hundreds of Students Rally at Capital for Gun Control

Hundreds of high school students, carrying signs and clamoring for gun control, traveled to Oregon's state capital in Salem Monday as they joined a swelling tide of activism in the wake of the recent deadly Florida school shooting.

Gov. Brown Signs Law to End Gun Loophole

On Monday, Gov. Kate Brown signed into law a bill banning possession of guns and ammunition by people convicted of domestic abuse and under restraining orders. The bill closed a loophole in a 2015 law that excluded some abusers from the ban, such as boyfriends who abuse partners they don't live with.

TriMet Begins Service for Three New Bus Lines

TriMet launched three new bus lines on Monday, with services to Beaverton, east Portland and Gresham. Ribbon cutting ceremonies were held to celebrate the largest expansion of bus service the public transportation agency has had in years.

Hardesty Steps Down from NAACP for Election Race

Activist Jo Ann Hardesty resigned as president of the Portland NAACP last week to avoid a conflict with the organization's rules as she runs for election to the Portland City Council. The civil rights group has a policy requiring its officers to step aside if they run for political office.

Net Neutrality in Oregon Passes Legislature

A local version of net neutrality passed both houses in the Oregon Legislature last week and is headed for the governor's desk. The bill would prevent public bodies such as state and local governments and school districts, from contracting with broadband providers that engage in "paid prioritization." Three students from Mt. Tabor Middle School testified in support of the measure.



Jordan Peele became the first African American to win an Oscar for best original screenplay for his film 'Get Out,' at Sunday's 90th annual Academy Awards. (AP photo)

'Get Out' Writer Wins Oscar

Writer and director Jordan Peele, 39, made movie history Sunday by becoming the first African American to win an Academy Award for best original screenplay for the movie 'Get Out.'

"I stopped writing this movie about 20 times...I thought it was impossible," the former sketch comedy star said while accepting

the award. "I want to dedicate this to all the people who raised my voice and let me make this movie."

The film, which satires racism, was a box office smash and critical darling when it hit theaters one year ago. It was also the first time a black writer-director hit \$100 million in revenues with their debut film.

"Get Out" previously brought Peele a Directors Guild award; best feature and best writer awards at the Independent Spirit Awards; and for best original screenplay by the Writers Guild of America.

The Academy also nominated "Get Out" for best picture and Peele for best director.

Rebuke to Arming Teachers

Union leaders speak out against the idea

BY DANNY PETERSON
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The idea of arming some teachers with guns as a response to the rising number of school shootings across the country is drawing a rebuke from community leaders, including the union presidents of

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