# Your electric meter is getting an **UPGRADE!**



Pacific Power is replacing your existing meter with a new smart meter as part of our commitment to making Oregon's power grid more resilient and efficient, while keeping the cost of service as affordable as possible.

### KEEP AN EYE ON YOUR MAILBOX

You will receive a letter with more detailed information about the installation process a few weeks before your area's installation window.

#### LOOKING TO LEARN MORE?

#### Visit pacificpower.net/smartmeter

Call toll-free at 1-866-869-8520

Si necesita hablar con un representante que habla español, llame al 1-888-225-2611.



SMART METERS, SMARTER TOGETHER



### The Hortland Observer Established 1970

4747 NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., Portland, OR 97211



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## Honoring Unsung Women

The community is invited to celebrate Women's History Month and explore the complex and inspirational roles black women play as positive role models when the empowerment group Sistas hosts its second annual "Visibly Invisible: Honoring Our Unsung Sheroes award ceremony.

The event will be held Saturday, March 9, from 5 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at The Old Church Concert Hall, 1422 S.W. 11th Ave. Admission is a suggested \$10 donation and all are welcome.

Special honors will be give to local women who through their resilience, perseverance and commitment to speaking truth to power are empowering warriors fighting for justice and equality for our society and families.

The evening will also feature the photo exhibit Albina Queens from the Portland African American Leadership Forum (PAALF). Shalonda Menefee, founder of the Sistas group, will present her spir-



Shalonda Menefee

it art dolls, and a marketplace with black women entrepreneurs will be included along with the serving of light refreshments. There will also be a creative cultural expression of African dance, a libation ceremony honoring ancestors and an African inspired print fashion

You can reserve a seat to the Sistas celebration online at empoweredsistas.com/events.

## The Week in Review

#### **Listening Session Chaotic**

A listening session hosted by Portland Police Chief Danielle Outlaw and Mayor Ted Wheeler at Maranatha Church in northeast Portland drew concerns over police interactions with right-wing groups and perceptions of bias against liberal groups. But the session before a packed crowd also resulted in a as people from various political perspectives aired grievances.

#### R. Kelly Posts Bail

R. Kelly walked out of a Chicago jail Monday after post-\$100,000 bail on charges that he sexually abused four people dating back to 1998,



including three underage girls. The recording artist has been trailed for decades by allegations that he violated underage girls and women and held some as virtual slaves. Kelly has consistently denied any sexual misconduct.

#### **House Passes Rent Control**

A statewide rent control policy and new eviction protections was passed by the Oregon House on LGBTQ Community Rallies Tuesday sending the bill to Gov. Kate Brown who plans to sign it. The bill would cap annual rent increases to 7 percent plus inflation throughout the state. It exempts new construction for 15 years, and landlords would be free to raise rent without any cap if renters leave of their own accord. Subsidized rent would also be exempt.

**Fire Damages Rail Bridge** 

A large fire on the Burlington Northern rail bridge that spans the Columbia River between north Portland and Hayden Island was extinguished Tuesday by Portland firefighters who called in a fire boat to stop the fire which was caused by railroad maintenance workers, officials said. The bridge lot of yelling, stomping and hissing is used for freight and for Amtrak's north-south route between Oregon and Washington.

#### **Diversity at the Oscars**

"Green Book," a film about a black musician and his white chauffeur driving in the segregated South, best picture at the 91st Acad-Awards Sunday. The Queen bi-



opic "Bohemian Rhapsody" took home four awards, while "Roma" and Marvel's "Black Panther" won three. Director Spike Lee won his first Oscar for best adapted screenplay award for "BlacKk-Klansman."

Hundreds gathered Sunday for a town hall at the Q Center in north Portland to support each other and talk about personal safety amid rumors of escalating violence against people in Portland's LGBTQ community. A trans woman was hospitalized after an alleged assault in southeast Portland on Feb. 10.