



Established in 1970



Introducing Rutherford Park

First Portland park named for black woman

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Juneteenth Elevates Significance

As day becomes holiday, NFL star leads youth on justice march

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The Portland Observer

Volume XLVIV • Number 15



'City of Roses'

www.portlandobserver.com
Wednesday • June 24, 2020

Committed to Cultural Diversity

Toppled in Protest



PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEIGHTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A historic bronze statute commemorating the namesake for Jefferson High School sits on the ground awaiting transport to school district storage on Monday, June 15, after being toppled one night earlier during a protest against police brutality and racism.

Community healing is priority now, principal says

A historic bronze statute commemorating the namesake for Portland's Jefferson High School has sparked new conversations about the appropriate name for the school and its future after the statute was toppled to the ground during a June 14 protest over police brutality and racism.

A crowd of several hundred people had gathered for a Black Lives Matter demonstration to hear speeches and participate in a planned march to Alberta Park, located several blocks to the east on Northeast Killingsworth Street. But when the marchers moved away from the school, another splinter group descended and tore down

the statute, school officials said.

Automobile tire tracks could be seen nearby, indented into the all-weather athletic track that surrounds the football field, the apparent evidence that a vehicle was used to help pull the statute down.

Jefferson High School Principal Margaret Calvert said the goal now for school leaders is to promote community healing.

Calvert acknowledged that in recent years both the statute and name for the school have become more controversial because of the historical context to Thomas Jefferson, the nation's third president and the author of the U.S. Declaration of Inde-

pendence, but also a slave owner.

Some members of the school community have advocated for the statute's removal along with the name of the school, others want the Jefferson High School name preserved because of its long history as Portland's most diverse high school serving African American families for generations.

Jefferson High School alumnus Clifford Walker has led community efforts to remove the Jefferson name and statute for several years, saying a slave owner isn't an appropriate centerpiece for the histori-



Jeremy Christian

Killer Taunts Victim

Heated exchange delays Christian sentencing

BY MICHAEL LEIGHTON
PORTLAND OBSERVER EDITOR

Sentencing for the Jeremy Christian, the racist-spewing Max rider convicted of killing two men and injuring a third as they defended two black teenagers he was verbally assaulting on a MAX light rail train in 2017 was delayed on Tuesday after Christian was thrown out of court for going on a tirade against the first victim who spoke.

Demetria Hester was testifying about her encounter with Christian the day before the fatal stabbings on a different MAX train when he threatened to kill her for being a black woman and struck her in the eye with a bottle.

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