

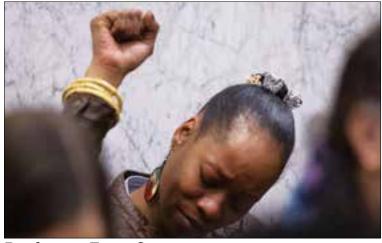
COVID Closes Geneva's for Good

May 20 – Paul Knauls and Paul Knauls Jr., owners of Geneva's Shear Perfection, a legacy barbershop and salon located in the heart of Portland's African-American community, announced the closing of their landmark business due to economic losses caused by the coronavirus public health crisis.



Class of 2020: Year Cut Short

June 10 -- The Portland Observer dedicated an entire issue to the Class of 2020, giving voice to graduating students at Jefferson High School who created all of the content with reflections on a school year cut short by the coronavirus pandemic, and their thoughts about a social justice uprising following the police custody death of George Floyd, a Black man in Minneapolis.



Racism at Every Step

May 20 – As Jeremy Christian awaited sentencing for his deadly and racist attacks on TriMet, Demetria Hester, a brave survivor from the violence, told her story to the Portland Observer, saying she wants the community, judge and jury to understand how the legacy of white supremacy impacted the case at every step and continues to feed racism in Portland and the nation.



Vandalism, Arson Hurts Cause

July 8 -- Advocates for Portland's African American community spoke out against the vandalism and arson that has marred many of the protests over unjust police shootings and racial bias in the criminal justice system. "We have to be smart," said Joe "Bean" Keller, a Black father who lost his son to a police shooting in 1996 and who was leading a group to Washington, D.C. for the 57th anniversary of the March on Washington.

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