

Portland Man Basks in Pulitzer Prize

Black author who overcame hardships now teaches creative writing

By BEVERLY CORBELL
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Mitchell S. Jackson, Portland native and Portland State University alumnus, was recently awarded the Pulitzer Prize, journalism's highest honor, for writing about the life and death of Ahmaud Arbery, a Black man who was shot dead after allegedly being racially profiled and chased by three white men while he was out jogging.

Jackson's long-form feature story in Runner's World magazine, "Twelve Minutes and a Life," (<https://www.runner-sworld.com/runners-stories/a32883923/ahmaud-arbery-death-running-and-rac->

ism/) weaves back and forth between significant and mundane events in Arbery's daily life and, in excruciating detail, the minute-by-minute events that led up to his stalking and killing in Brunswick, Ga. on Sunday, Feb. 23, 2020.

Arbery, whose nickname was Maud, was a formidable high school football player even though, at 5'10" and 165 pounds, he wasn't a real big guy. But what he lacked in bulk he made up for in heart, as Jackson described in the article.

"Game time, the opposing team calls the play that Maud put the fierce kaput on in practice, and beneath a metal-halide glare that's also a gauntlet, Maud barrels towards the running back and—BOOM!—lays a hit that sounds like trucks colliding," Jackson wrote.

Other excerpts show Arbery's tender side, such as helping his sister care for

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Writing about the life and death of Ahmaud Arbery has given Portland native Mitchell S. Jackson the Pulitzer Prize, the highest honor in the field of journalism. (Photo from Mitchell S. Jackson Facebook page)

The Week in Review

COVID Restrictions Lifted

Oregon and Washington lifted most of their COVID-19 restrictions last week after vaccinations against the disease neared 70 percent of the population 16 and older. Gov. Kate Brown called it a "truly a historic moment for our state," with more work to be done to reach everyone with a vaccine.



Fireworks Ban Limits Calls

Portland Fire & Rescue officials thanked residents Tuesday for adhering to a fireworks ban over the long July 4th holiday weekend. The responsiveness helped limit potential fireworks related fires to nine incidents, down from 44 during the same period last year, officials said.

Trump Company Charged

Donald Trump's company and its longtime finance chief were charged Thursday in what a prosecutor called a "sweeping and

audacious" tax fraud scheme that saw the Trump executive allegedly receive more than \$1.7 million in off-the-books compensation, including apartment rent, car payments and school tuition.

Nurse Sues for Unlawful Arrest

An OHSU nurse who was volunteering as a medic during a Black Lives Matter protest last year filed suit against the Portland Police Bureau last week, accusing an officer of chasing after him, knocking him to the ground, slamming his head to the pavement and then punching him repeatedly.

Hope Fades at Collapse Site

Search-and-rescue workers continued to look for open spaces where people might be found alive nearly two weeks after the Champlain Towers South tower collapse in Surfside, Fla. Officials sounded increasingly somber Tuesday about the prospects for finding anyone alive.



Cosby Freed from Prison

Pennsylvania's highest court overturned Bill Cosby's sex assault conviction last week finding it was unjust because of an agreement with a previous prosecutor that prevented him from being charged in the case. Cosby was released from prison shortly after the ruling.

Pedestrian Killed on 33rd

A pedestrian died after being hit by a vehicle at about 1:30 a.m. Monday on Northeast 33rd Drive near Columbia Boulevard. Portland Police identified the victim as Michael L. Bute, the 31st traffic death of the year.

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