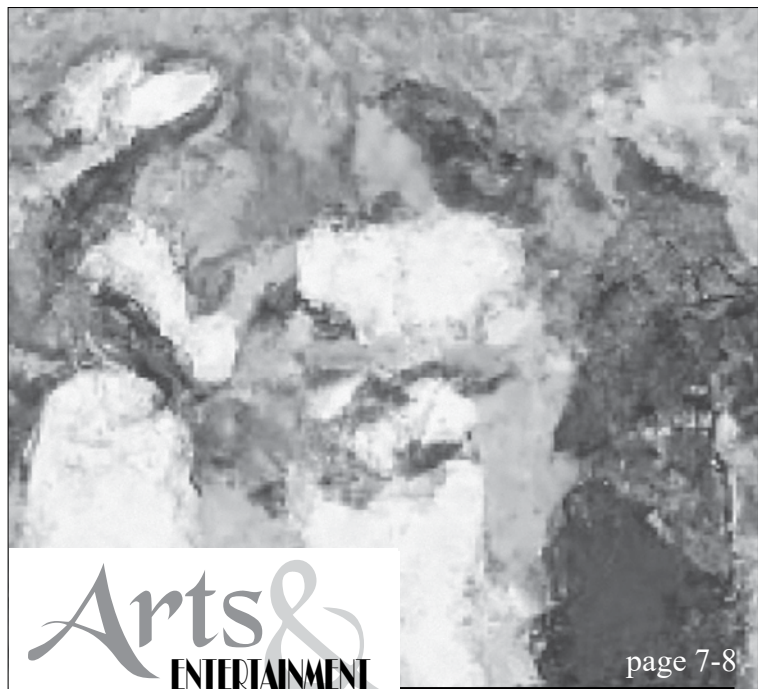


# The INSIDE

# LOCAL NEWS

## LET'S TALK ABOUT

# RACE



Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

page 7-8

## Missing for Over a Week

### Police search for missing Vancouver mother and 8-year-old daughter

A Vancouver mother and her young daughter have been reported missing, and the Vancouver Police Department is seeking the public's help finding them. Kirkland C. Warren, 28 is accused of violating a no contact order. According to The Columbian Vancouver police did not confirm if Warren is a suspect in the disappearances of 27-year-old Meshay "Karmen" Melendez and her daughter, Layla Stewart. But Sgt. Julie Ballou said investigators believe there is a criminal connection to their disappearances.



Layla and Meshay, photo courtesy of the VPD

27-year-old Meshay Melendez, and her 8-year-old daughter Layla Stewart were last seen in the early morning of March 12 in the 7700 block of Vancouver Mall Drive. Meshay is 5'9" and 185lb with black hair and brown eyes. Layla is about 4' and 50 lbs with brown hair and hazel eyes.

A vehicle believed to belong

to Meshay was found a short distance away on March 19. Information provided by the Vancouver Police Department.

Anyone with information about their location is asked to please contact Detective Givens robert.givens@cityofvancouver.us, Detective Nolan chadd.nolan@cityofvancouver.us, or call 911.

## CLASSIFIED/BIDS pages 4, 9 - 10

## Celebrate the People Who Keep Our Region Moving

### Give 'thanks' to TriMet's nearly 1,400 bus and train operators

Gov. Tina Kotek signed a proclamation declaring March 18, 2023, Transit Driver Appreciation Day. "Every day, you connected people with opportunity, providing a safe, reliable ride to work, school, appointments, services and so much more," Kotek said. Gov. Kotek is inviting everyone in the state of Oregon to observe Transit Driver Appreciation Day. TriMet bus and train operators always go the extra mile. They're up early and out late, maneuvering giant vehicles, often through challenging conditions. They can be the first and sometimes the last person riders see in their day.

They help move millions, yet welcome one at a time, for a safe, reliable ride. Although Transit Driver Appreciation Day traditionally falls on March 18, TriMet has moved our celebration up one day last Friday, to bring it into the traditional work week, when



March 18th is now Transit Driver Appreciation Day. Photo courtesy of TriMet News

more people ride and more operators are at work, to experience the extra community support. In case you have missed it this year here are a few things to remember for next year's Transit Driver Appreciation Day.

Shine a light! If your operator is coming to your stop early in the morning when it's still dark, use your cell phone as a light to help them see you and stop to pick you up! Take care not to flash bright lights directly at the operator. Say hello! Consider sharing a kind word when you step on the

bus, to let the operator know that you're a nice person and appreciate their work.

Help make their day! Show common courtesy for our operators and others, by following the rules for riding and helping create a pleasant atmosphere for everyone on board. Consider a not-so-random act of kindness! Say thanks in your own way - with a wave, a smile or a nice note. Community members can visit trimet.org/hello to leave a digital note for an individual operator or the entire team!

The Portland Observer

Established 1970 USPS 959 680  
4747 NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.,  
Portland, OR 97211

The Portland Observer welcomes freelance submissions. Manuscripts and photographs should be clearly labeled and will be returned if accompanied by a self-addressed envelope. All created design display ads become the sole property of the newspaper and cannot be used in other publications or personal usage without the written consent of the general manager, unless the client has purchased the composition of such ad. © 2008 THE PORTLAND OBSERVER. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. REPRODUCTION IN WHOLE OR IN PART WITHOUT PERMISSION IS PROHIBITED. The Portland Observer--Oregon's Oldest Multicultural Publication--is a member of the National Newspaper Association--Founded in 1885, and The National Advertising Representative Amalgamated Publishers, Inc, New York, NY, and The West Coast Black Publishers Association



PO QR code

PUBLISHER: Mark Washington, Sr.

EDITOR: Shawntell Washington

OFFICE MNGR/CLASFDS: Lucinda Baldwin

ADMIN COORD: Quayuana Washington

CREATIVE DIRECTOR: Kenya Anderson

ADVERTISING MNGR: Tony Washington

CALL 503-288-0033 • FAX 503-288-0015 • news@portlandobserver.com  
ads@portlandobserver.com • subscription@portlandobserver.com

Postmaster: Send address changes to Portland Observer, PO Box 3137, Portland, OR 97208

# Subscribe! 503-288-0033

Fill Out & Send To:

## The Portland Observer

Attn: Subscriptions, PO Box 3137, Portland OR 97208  
\$45.00 for 3 months • \$80.00 for 6 mo. • \$125.00 for 1 year  
(please include check with this subscription form)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

or email subscriptions@portlandobserver.com