



Inspired in the Fight Against Cancer
Survivor shares story for upcoming walk
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HOUSING *Special Edition*



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Committed to Cultural Diversity



PHOTO BY DANNY PETERSON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Community Alliance of Tenants Executive Director Katrina Holland (second from right) and members of her staff reach out to explain new tenant and landlord laws in Portland and statewide while advocating for low-income tenants and other people renting homes and apartments. The other CAT team members pictured (from left) are Thuy Phan, Dung Ho, Violeta Alvarez and Ostin Merkle-Lawler.

Renter Rights in Focus

Alliance reaches out to explain new rules, regulations

BY DANNY PETERSON
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Tenant and landlord laws have undergone some dramatic changes both in Portland and statewide. To help navigate the recent changes, the Portland Observer sat down with Katrina Holland, executive director of Community Alliance of Tenants, a membership-driven organization focusing on tenant rights, housing education and advocacy.

Most of the new laws and regulations lean toward more protections for renters, both in the city and statewide, a “positive direction,” according to Holland. One of the biggest changes in state law came with the passage of Senate Bill 608. The housing legislation put limits on rent increases and the use of no cause eviction notices.

“A tenant whose occupancy has been at least a year or longer will be protected from no cause terminations in the

sense that a landlord will no longer be able to just say all right you’re done...that won’t exist anymore. Now they actually have to provide a reason,” Holland said.

Valid reasons for eviction can now include a tenant violating a lease agreement, but for which a landlord is compelled to provide notice to the tenant each time that occurs, Holland added.

There are also new landlord-based causes for termination of a lease, which include the landlord intending to demolish or remove the unit from the market, plans for the landlord to move into it, or if a family member of the landlord is moving in. There could also be cause for termination of the lease if the property is determined to be uninhabitable, or a person who purchased the property from the landlord decides to move in.

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Helmet Traced to Proud Boys

Robert Banks keeps up with the activities of the racist Proud Boys and was surprised when he saw one of them throw their helmet away in Washington Park after a march, which Banks quickly retrieved. He said he felt the helmet was discarded because the man did not want to be recognized. Helmets have been worn by both right and left wing protesters at rallies in Portland that spiraled into combat.

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Benson Cancels Football

A lack of players has resulted in Benson High School canceling the football season, coach Mychal Gann said Monday. It came after the Techman's game against Madison was canceled Friday for having less than the school district's required 25 players. There won't be any junior varsity football at Benson either, Gann said.

House Fire Claims Victim

A woman rescued but critically injured from a fire that gutted a North Albina Avenue apartment building on Sept. 4 died on Thursday in the hospital, four days later. Authorities identified the victim as Sarah Oxenreider, 26. The cause of the fire has not been determined and arson investigators are asking the public to contact them if they have any information.



MAGA Hat Brawl Dismissal

A Multnomah County grand jury refused to indict a white man and black woman last week who were charged by police with assault, accused of attacking a man at a Portland bar last month for wearing

The Week in Review

the "Make America Great Again" hat associated with President Trump's election. Other witnesses said the man and a woman were the aggressors and wanted to provoke hostilities.

Neighbor Guilty of Threats

A 61-year-old white man who yelled racist epithets at two young black brothers because one of them was looking at him and then threatened to use a knife on one of the boys was sentenced Thursday to three years in prison. The judge said Michael Tori Amatullo did real damage to the brothers, ages 7 and 15, and deserved a harsh sentence.

Vaping Death in Oregon

The Oregon Health Authority announced an investigation last week into the state's first death believed linked to an e-cigarette or vaping device, the second such death nationwide. Authorities said the person had been using an e-cigarette containing a product purchased from a cannabis store.

Greyhound Moves Out

Greyhound has closed its bus station in Portland's Old Town, opt-

ing to sell the two-acre transportation hub the city helped establish in mid-1980s in favor of a curb-side pickup location a few blocks away. The development was reported Thursday by the Portland Business Journal.



New Buses Hit Streets

The next generation of TriMet buses has started to roll into service. TriMet announced last week that between now and next summer you'll see 71 new buses on the street which go hand in hand with better service because they help improve reliability and reduce delays.

Afro Sheen Founder Dies

Joan Johnson, 89, the co-founder of Johnson Products Company, the pioneering black hair care company which made iconic products such as Ultra Sheen and Afro Sheen, died Friday in Chicago after a long illness. Johnson and her husband, George Johnson, started the company in 1954 with a \$250 investment.



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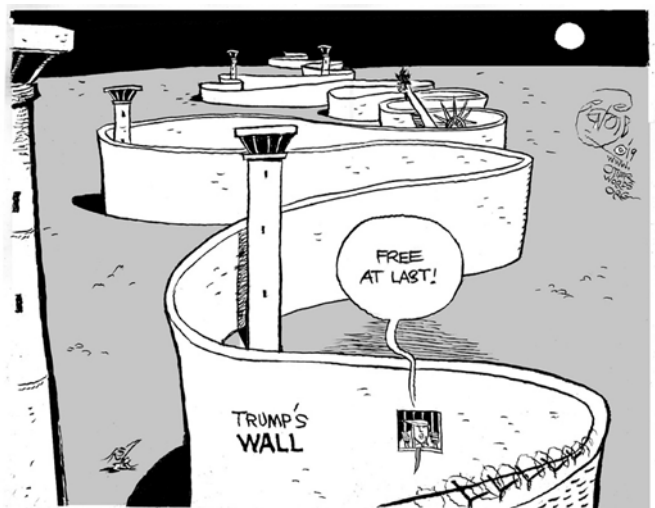
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LOCAL NEWS



PHOTO BY BEVERLY CORBELL/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Community volunteer Lisa Klein visits with Ray Turner Jr. of Portland 5 Center for the Arts as she hands out free hot dogs, chips and water at Holladay Park during a special event to celebrate a successful effort to reduce crime in the park.

A More Peaceful Holladay Park

Community celebrates reduction of crime

BY BEVERLY CORBELL
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A small group of neighbors joined officers from the Portland Police Bureau and volunteers from several nonprofit agencies last week for hotdogs, snacks and snow cones at Holladay Park to celebrate a successful collaborative effort to reduce crime and questionable activity in the park which is bordered by Lloyd Center and a MAX Light Rail station.

Although Portland police came

up with the idea, the Holladay Park Safety Plan relied heavily on community involvement, and more than a dozen nonprofits stepped up to help. They included Because People Matter, Vancouver Avenue First Baptist Church, SOLVE, Portland Parks & Recreation, Office of Youth Violence Prevention, Multnomah County District Attorney's Office, Portland OIC, Portland Public Schools, Transit Police Division, Bonneville Power Administration, Federal Protective Services, Portland Police Bureau, Providence Health Care, Connect, Church of Scientology, Portland's 5 Centers for the Arts, Lloyd EcoDistrict, and Oregon Youth Authority.

Over the past few months, many groups have added events and ac-

tivities in the park to strengthen its community use, and increased police patrols have helped protect the space as a public resource.

The results show a dramatic 50 percent decrease in 911 calls over the summer months compared with last year, along with a 44 percent decrease in thefts, 30 percent decrease in disturbance calls, 22 percent decrease in unwanted persons, and a 34 percent decrease in assaults.

The point of the safety campaign is to keep wholesome activities going in the park, said Capt. Anthony Passadore of Portland police. He said the model has been successful and he's working with security personnel in nearby Lloyd Center Mall to bring the ef-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Portland Service for Winters

Later this month, there will be a memorial service in Portland honoring the life of service of Oregon State Sen. Jackie Winters.

On May 29, 2019, Winters, known as the soul of the Oregon Legislature, passed away after a battle with lung cancer. A memorial service at the state capitol in Salem followed in June and filled the legislative chambers with lawmakers, supporters, family and friends.

Sen. Winters, the only black Republican in the Oregon Legislature, impacted thousands of people's lives during her lifetime, providing them with hope and a future through her legislative ad-



Sen. Jackie Winters

vocacy and with Jackie's Ribs, her restaurant with locations in Salem and in Portland.

"Sen. Jackie Winters was a true

pioneer, stateswoman and valiant leader," Senate Republican leader Carl Wilson R-Grants Pass, said in a statement. "For many years, Sen. Winters embodied the spirit in Oregon, overcoming obstacles, setting a course for others to follow and bridging divides."

The Portland memorial service will take place on Friday, Sept. 27 at 1 p.m. at Vancouver Avenue First Baptist Church, 3138 N. Vancouver Ave. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend. There will be a reception following the service for those who were touched by Winters' life to share their experiences and love for her with her family.

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A More Peaceful Holladay Park

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fort indoors as well.

"It's community involvement to occupy spaces with positive activities," he said.

As he munched on chips and talked with volunteer Lisa Klein, who was handing out chips and other snacks, Ray Turner Jr. of Portland 5 Center for the Arts agreed that utilizing city parks is important.

"If we don't, someone else will," he said.

Serving snow cones for the celebration was Steve Dilworth of Because People Matter, leading a group of young people who have taken a snow cone machine and performed music at parks in Portland and Gresham that have been impacted by violence or higher crime rates.

Portland police and the mayor

asked us to show up with our snow cones and music," he said. "Our people bring joy to the park and that lessens negative behavior."

Some groups, like Connect, simply walk the parks on a regular basis and others, like SOLVE, work to keep the parks clean. Park rangers have also ridden along with police officers on patrol.

Despite improvements, the news isn't all good. Although reports of assaults and disturbances have fallen since May, calls about stolen vehicles and collisions have increased.

Passadore said police are keeping a close eye on crime statistics as a team of one sergeant and four officers shift their focus not only to Holladay but to other hotspot parks in northeast Portland.

"Our goals is to measure our success, learn from it and create a long-term strategy," he said.



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People gather at a free community resource fair to learn about how to repair and weatherize homes and find affordable pathways to home ownership.

Resource Fair on Housing

Minority contractors co-sponsor Saturday event

BY BEVERLY CORBELL
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Minority contractors in Portland are encouraging current and future homeowners alike to benefit from a free Community Resource Fair to be held Saturday, Sept. 14 from 9 a.m. to noon at New Song Community Church, 2511 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

Co-sponsored by the Oregon Chapter of the National Association of Minority Contractors, the Portland Housing Bureau and Energy Trust of Oregon, the event promises to be an opportunity for

people to learn about programs and resources that are available to help them repair and weatherize their homes, save money on energy consumption, find affordable ways to buy a house, and even information on job and apprenticeship possibilities.

The resource fair is open to everyone but people of color are especially encouraged to attend to learn about minority contractors to work with, and minority contractors can also learn about opportunities through the Portland Housing Bureau.

You can also learn how home improvements can qualify for energy rebates as well as learn about other helpful programs, said Eddie Lincoln, program manager for the minority contractors.

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The process of becoming a first-time home buyer can be daunting, but Portland Community Reinvestment, Inc. (PCRI), the African American led community non-profit, can help with counseling designed to help you overcome obstacles.

Home Ownership Action Plan

Are you interested in becoming a homeowner? You could be closer to your dream house than you think.

Pathway 1000, an initiative by Portland Community Reinvestment Initiatives, Inc. (PCRI), an African American led community nonprofit, is here to help!

PCRI's Homeownership Education and Counseling program assists first-time buyers in creating a successful homeownership action plan. One-on-one counseling is designed to help overcome obstacles that would prevent af-

fordable mortgage financing.

PCRI can help analyze financial and credit situations, identify barriers and develop a plan to remove these barriers. It also works to assist participants with debt-load management by preparing a manageable, monthly budget plan.

Space is still available for a session on Wednesday, Sept. 18 at 6 p.m. at the PCRI Annex at 6601 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. To sign up for this class or future ones, visit pcrihome.org or pathway1000.org.

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Inspired in the Fight Against Cancer

Survivor shares story for upcoming walk

Tia Moore has survived two breast cancer diagnoses and says she wouldn't be here if not for being her own best advocate on health matters. But she also knows she needed the best medical care to fight the disease, something she sees many other black woman lack.

Many women in the African American community don't get the treatment they need to survive the disease, she says, and that's why Moore has been inspired to change outcomes for the better by getting out the word on breast cancer research and treatment options as a volunteer with the Susan G. Komen Oregon and Southwest Washington.

She will be out front and center and on stage to tell her story when thousands of other breast cancer survivors and supporters gather Sunday, Sept. 22 for the re-imagined Komen Race for the Cure, now the More Than Pink Walk, on the downtown Portland waterfront.

Moore's first fateful day with a cancer diagnosis came on July 18, 2011. At just 31 years old, she was told that she had stage 3 breast cancer. After 18 rounds of chemotherapy, a bilateral mastectomy and radiation therapy, she remained hopeful that her cancer would be gone for good; however, 6 years later, the hammer dropped: she was diagnosed with stage 4 metastatic breast cancer in her lungs. To say the news was hard on her family would be a colossal understatement. It's been a year and a half since Moore was given a 2-year life expectancy and to that she said, "No Way"

Moore acknowledges the presence of cancer in her life but continues to live like "[her] life isn't going to end, she explained in an interview with Komen leaders. She says cancer has been hard for her children to process; however, she makes sure they know how much they are loved, attends their activities to the best of her ability, and as they grow older and more curious about the disease, she incorporates their ideas into her routine and answers their questions.

Though optimistic about life in general and spreading that light to her family and others, Moore, a director of grants administration at George Fox College in Newberg, knows that at some point, each new care option will eventually stop working.

"It's that finality that's scary to think about," she admitted. "That there will be a time when treatment options run out, unless we find the cure[s]."



Tia Moore is passionate about spreading awareness about treatment and prevention of breast cancer. She will share her own story of the medical care she needed to fight the disease when she takes the stage as a guest speaker and volunteer at the re-imagined "Race for the Cure," now the "More Than Pink Walk," on Sunday, Sept. 22 on the downtown waterfront.

Moore's passion about spreading awareness as an African American woman is an important example for others to know they too can get treatment.

"Black women have a higher mortality

rate when it comes to breast cancer, but we are often left out of the commercials, ads, [and] research opportunities," she stated.

Though many black women have not shared their breast cancer stories, she con-

tinues to share her own, in hopes that it will inspire and encourage these important conversations within the community.

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Arts &
ENTERTAINMENT

PHOTO BY SHERVIN HESS, COURTESY OF THE OREGON ZOO

A pride of lions relaxing at the Oregon Zoo. On Safari Day, coming Tuesday, Sept. 18, anyone 65 or over (along with one companion) can visit the zoo for free.

Seniors Free
on Safari Day

Local seniors can reconnect with wildlife during Senior Safari, a free day at the Oregon Zoo for anyone 65 or older.

"Most people think of the Oregon Zoo as a great place for kids to learn about wildlife conservation — and it is," said Dr. Don Moore, zoo director. "And it's a great place for older adults to connect with animals too. We've planned this day especially for the seniors in our community because we want all ages to have that opportunity."

The special event is scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 17, from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Seniors (who may each bring along one free companion for the day) can attend animal talks, explore the grounds, and enjoy free rides on the zoo train. The event is presented by Oregon Eye Specialists and Providence Medicare Advantage Plans.

Navigating Racial Barriers

Musician to
lead talk on
listening without
judgment

A free talk on listening to opposing beliefs without striking back will be presented Thursday, Sept. 12 at 7 p.m. at Portland Baha'i Center in St. Johns featuring an esteemed R&B and Blues musician known for his efforts to improve race relations in America.

The polarization of beliefs around racism is growing wider and deeper by the day. How can we begin to build a bridge over this enormous divide when so many can't even face each other without verbal or physical abuse? We don't have to accept a person's viewpoint, but we can initiate conversations to learn more about each other and build respectful relationships.

Organized by a grass roots community organization called Take PART (Portland Anti-Racism Team), the guest speaker will be Daryl Davis, an author, actor and bandleader from Chicago known for his energetic style of boogie-woogie piano.



Daryl Davis

Over the years, Davis is credited with convincing many Klansmen to leave the racist group and denounce the KKK.

His talk in north Portland is sponsored by Take PART (Portland Anti-Racism Team) as part of a monthly series that explores the many ways people are bombarded with racist messages, how to recognize and delete these messages, and to consciously build equitable communities.

The Baha'i Center is located at 8720 N. Ivanhoe St.

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 A photograph of Wyclef Jean sitting down, surrounded by several electric guitars. He is wearing a blue t-shirt and black pants, and is holding a small object in his hand.


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Participants at the Beaverton Night Market hold signs welcoming people of all backgrounds. On Saturday, Sept. 14, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., a Welcoming Walk at Beaverton's Greenway Park will bring immigrants and U.S. born residents together to celebrate diversity.

Welcoming Walk to Embrace All

A family-friendly, 2-mile "Welcoming Walk" to celebrate our immigrant and refugee community members is coming to Beaverton on Saturday, Sept. 14.

The Tualatin Hills Park and Rec-

reation District and Unite Oregon are co-sponsoring the walk which will be held from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Greenway Park at Southwest Hall Boulevard and Scholls Ferry Road.

The event is free and open to

people of all abilities.

The recreation district and the city of Beaverton are participating in National Welcoming Week, a series of events to raise awareness of the benefits of welcoming everyone.

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Canoeing the Columbia Slough will be part of the fun Saturday, Sept. 14 when the Portland Water Bureau and the Columbia Slough Watershed Council host Aquifer Adventure, a free Pirate-themed Groundwater festival in northeast Portland.

Aquifer Adventure for Family Fun

What do pirates and groundwater have in common? Buried treasure! Portland's important underground drinking water resource is celebrated Saturday at a family festival on the Columbia Slough in northeast Portland called Aquifer Adventure.

Co-sponsored by the Portland Water Bureau and the Columbia Slough Watershed Council, the

festivities will be held from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. with hands-on activities for all ages including a treasure hunt, face painting, and the chance to build aquifers out of ice cream and cookies! Participants can also enjoy the wooded trail along the Columbia Slough before joining a canoeing tour of the Slough. There will even be free children's t-shirts available

while supplies last.

The annual event focuses on groundwater protection and water conservation, including tips and tools for use at home. It takes place at the Portland Water Bureau canoe launch at Northeast 166th and Airport Way. Pirate dress, pirate lingo, and pirate swagger are highly encouraged.

Opinion articles do not necessarily represent the views of the Portland Observer. We welcome reader essays, photos and story ideas. Submit to news@portlandobserver.com.

OPINION



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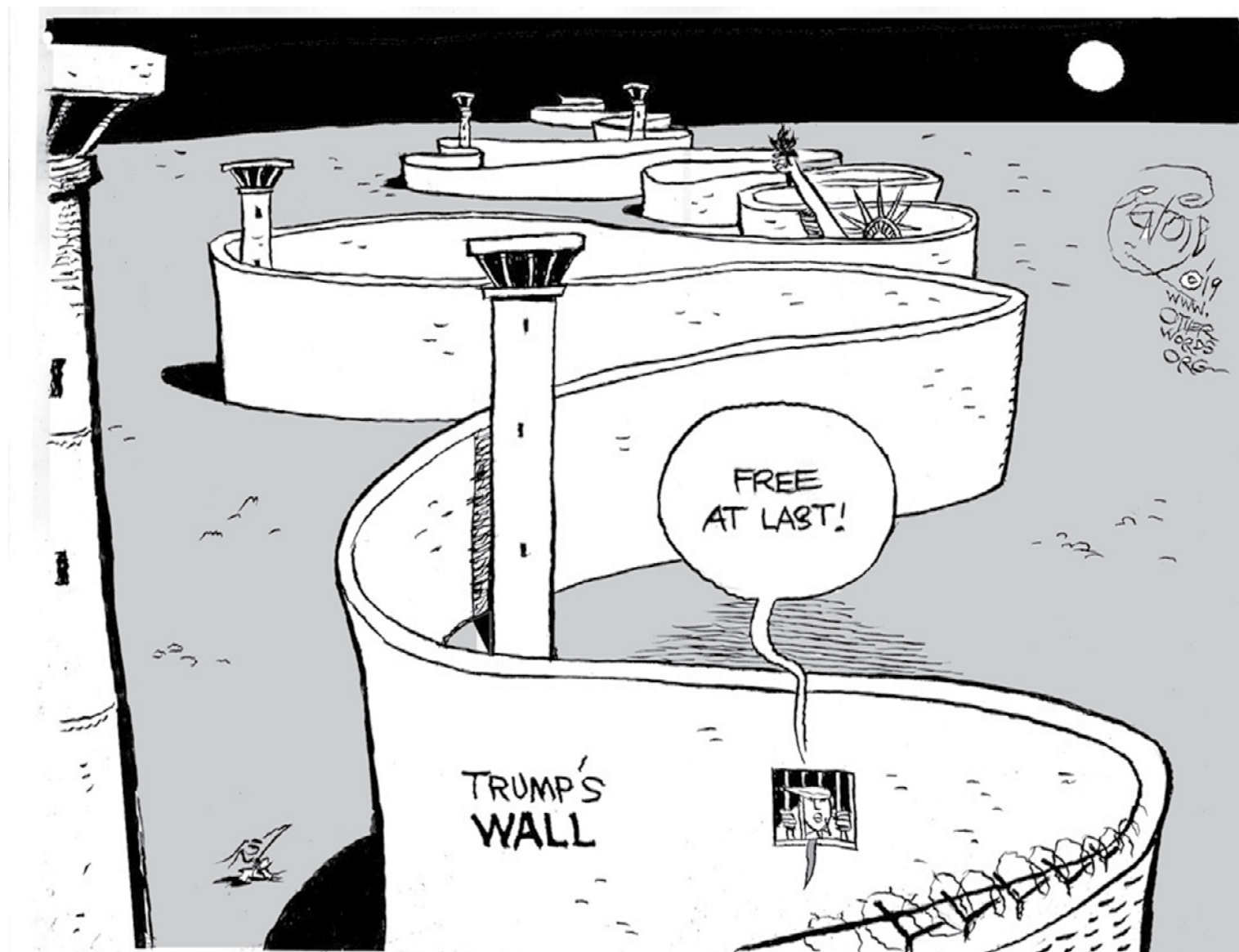
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Stark Economic Divides around Race

No more band-aids

BY JESSICAH PIERRE

Four hundred years ago this summer, the first enslaved people from Africa arrived in Virginia.

Slavery is often reduced to a crime of America's long-ago past. But enslaved labor created the backbone for America's capitalistic economy, allowing it to grow into — and remain — the world's leading economy today.

The effects of this reliance on unpaid African slave labor is still felt in America's current racial wealth divide. Today the racial wealth divide is greater than it was nearly four decades ago, and trends point to its continued widening.

Although slavery officially ended in 1865, the unequal treatment of African Americans continued through Jim Crow, red lining, and mass incarceration, among many public policies. Our country's historic racial wealth disparities continue to be perpetuated and increased by the trend



towards extreme inequality in the United States.

To further paint a dire picture, a report released earlier this year by the Institute for Policy Studies found that between 1983 and 2016, the median black family saw their wealth drop by more than half, compared to a 33 percent increase for the median white household.

Our economy is still thriving off the backs of African Americans and other poor people. While black wealth plummets, the number of households with \$10 million or more skyrocketed by 856 percent during those years.

On the other end, 37 percent of black families have zero or "negative" wealth, meaning their debts exceed the value of their assets. Just 15 percent of white families are in the same position.

The racial wealth divide is an issue that affects all Americans — and the overall health of our economy.

As the black population increases, low levels of black wealth play a key factor in the overall decline in American median household wealth — from \$84,111 in 1983

to \$81,704 in 2016. Across all races, the number of households experiencing negative wealth has increased from one in six in 1983 to one in five households today.

Many conversations around the depletion of black wealth point towards false narratives about the work ethic of African Americans. This is a myth — studies show that college-educated black families have less wealth than high school-educated white families. And single-parent white families are twice as wealthy as two-parent black families.

The Institute for Policy Studies concludes that these outcomes are not the result of individual behavior, but the result of black Americans having fewer resources to begin with — resources they've been denied for 400 years, ever since the first slaves were kidnapped from Africa and brought to America to provide free, strenuous, and valuable labor.

Employment, income, homeownership, stock ownership, entrepreneurship, and virtually all other economic indicators show stark divides around race. To truly overcome these divides, we need a massive, targeted investment simi-

lar to the massive, targeted investments that historically appropriated wealth to white communities.

It'll take bold structural reform and the political will to finally achieve economic justice for African Americans, because clearly ending slavery wasn't enough.

By creating a formal commission to study the issue, lawmakers can take a serious look at what reparations for descendants of enslaved Africans in America could look like. Inaction — or worse, repeating the same mistakes that led to this situation — will simply widen the divide and create greater economic instability for the country at large.

Four hundred years later, it's time to stop putting a temporary bandage on the painful and relevant history of American slavery. It's time to heal the deep wounds of racism and inequity once and for all.

Not only to finally provide African Americans with the economic equity they deserve, but to ensure the health of our economy for generations to come.

Jessica Pierre is the inequality media specialist at the Institute for Policy Studies. Distributed by OtherWords.org.

Resource Fair on Housing

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

The event will begin with breakfast, followed by a few introductions and will then break out into informational sessions and workshops for the final two hours.

The Community Energy Project will give a weatherization workshop on saving energy, and visitors can also learn about first-time homeowner programs, including counseling, down payment assistance and tax credit information.

"The Housing Bureau helps repair homes for health and safety and accessibility updates," Lincoln said. "This is a great opportunity for the community. There will be lots of tradespeople there to help show and demonstrate energy conserving methods."

Other groups participating in the fair include Constructing Hope, Hacienda, Oregon Tradeswomen, and Portland Community Reinvestment Initiatives, Inc. (PCRI).

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OPINION

A Sense of What We Lost with Last Election

I'm reading Michelle Obama's memoir

BY TOM H. HASTINGS

It is summer, I'm a teacher, nearly unpaid, and have the gift of prep time for fall classes. I'm also being indulgent and reading a bit for enjoyment, currently Becoming, the Michelle Obama memoir.



This is a moving story, not the least reason for that being the aching sense of what we lost in the last presidential election and what we are still missing.

We had a First Lady whose watchword was, "When they go low, we go high."

I hope we all miss that. What we witness on a daily basis now is the we-can-go-lower approach. I mean, we even have a regime who just informed the parents of children with life-threatening conditions that they have a month to leave our country. I am struggling to think how any US presidency has ever sunk lower than that.

In her autobiography, Obama describes getting to know Barack, a man who had been a community organizer making \$12,000 a year, working to improve conditions in poor neighborhoods. She tells of waking up at 2 a.m. to find him reading some policy paper and thinking about income disparity and structural solutions. That sort of focus, she tells the reader, is when she knew Obama was simply a good man. He was a hotshot young law intern for a prestigious Chicago law firm—Michelle was actually his senior mentor, which is how they met—but his heart was still in worrying about how to help create more systemic justice.

She writes about accompanying Barack to an African Methodist Episcopal church where he

helps the social committee—primarily mothers and grandmothers—develop a plan to create some betterment for the community. She recounts how he described to the church women how a similar small group of women in a very poor neighborhood in Chicago organized and successfully forced the city, the state and corporations to remediate pollution at the Altgeld Gardens section of town.

Now, of course, we have a "leader" devoted to increasing income and wealth disparity. We have someone in charge who just yanked methane pollution emission standards so corporate owners can take a bigger slice of profits because they won't be burdened with paying for the technology to prevent so much climate chaos causal contamination.

Was Barack Obama perfect? No, of course not. But what a stark difference. He reduced the federal deficit; Trump radically increased it. Obama got the best health care plan possible given stiff Republican opposition; Trump and his Republican Senate have done zero despite fabricated promises. Barack Obama spoke in modulated, well formed complete sentences; Trump's public utterances and tweet storms are a showcase of self-reversing, truth-avoiding, gaslighting, impenetrable, enraged ignorance.

I recommend Becoming, Michelle Obama's delightfully and movingly written memoir of an American story of rising from working class to a far higher social, income and political stratum. She and Barack were both given the richness of family love growing up, and both were lower middle class at "best," far more relatable to far more of us than the pampered spoiled brat who never quite escaped the cruelest years of adolescence we see in power now.

The total stock of what we are missing is too voluminous to entirely adduce. I sincerely hope we grow enough collective wisdom to begin to rectify that in 2020, if not sooner.

Tom H. Hastings of Portland is the director of PeaceVoice.



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**Patton Square Park
Celebration**

— On Saturday, Sept. 14, 1-3 p.m., join the Friends of Patton Square Park, the Overlook Neighborhood Association and Portland Parks & Recreation in celebrating the completion of improvements at Patton Square Park's playground with a free kid-friendly community party featuring face-painting by Mystique's Fancy Faces, community info tables, free cupcakes and ice cream and a music performance by Ants Ants Ants.

Tumultuous 1960s on Stage — Lauren Steele of Portland portrays 13 different characters in "Queens Girl in the World," a coming-of-age story about a young black girl attending school in the 1960s where she is one of only four black students and race suddenly matters. Directed by Damaris Webb, co-founder of The Vanport Mosaic. Now showing through Sept. 29 at Clackamas Community College. For tickets, visit clackamasrep.org or call 503-594-6047.



More Than Pink Walk — Susan G. Komen Oregon and Southwest Washington will premiere its first More Than Pink Walk in Portland on Sunday, Sept. 22. The next evolution in the history of the Race for the Cure series will include a new interactive opening ceremony and new activities. For race signups, donations and more information, visit komenoregon.org.

Rose City Comic Con — Comics, comic creators and the creative process is showcased at the Rose City Comic Con, Friday, Sept. 13 to Sunday, Sept. 15, at the Oregon Convention Center. Enjoy panels,

**ENTERTAINMENT
GUIDE**

workshops, celebrity appearances, and more. For a full schedule, visit rosecitycomiccon.com.

Norman Sylvester Band — The 'Boogie Cat' Norman Sylvester band plays Friday, Sept. 13 at the C I Bar and Grill in Tualatin; Saturday, Sept. 14 at the Peninsula R&B Festival in Nahcotta, Wash. (Ocean Park); Friday, Sept. 20 at 6 p.m. for the St. Johns Plaza Concert; Saturday, Sept. 21 at the Spare Room; Sunday, Sept. 22 at 3 p.m. at the Falls View Tavern in Oregon City; and Friday, Sept. 27 at Clyde's.



Truck Stop Barbecue — In honor of National Truck Driver Appreciation Week, the Jubitz Truck Stop and Travel Center in northeast Portland will host a free barbecue lunch and celebration to anyone with a commercial driver's license on Wednesday, Sept. 11 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friends and family of the commercial drivers can eat at the event for only \$2.

Beach Clean Up — SOLVE is calling on you to show your love for Oregon by volunteering on Saturday, Sept. 21 for the SOLVE Beach and Riverside Cleanup. Just a few hours of hands-on work can make a big difference. Find your favorite project and sign up at solveoregon.org.

Zoo for All — The Oregon Zoo has launched "Zoo for All," a discount program that provides \$5 admission for low income individuals and families. Visitors may purchase up to six of the \$5 tickets by bringing a photo ID and documentation showing they participate in low income service, like the Oregon Trial Card,

Medicaid, Section 8, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, and Head Start.



Columbia Gorge Express — The Oregon Department of Transportation's Columbia Gorge Express bus provides transportation to Rooster Rock State Park and Multnomah Falls. For more information, visit columbia gorgeexpress.com

Discount Tickets — Low income families and individuals can purchase \$5 tickets to classical musical performances in Portland as part of a unique program called Music for All. Participating organizations include the Oregon Symphony, Portland Opera, Oregon Ballet Theater, Chamber Music Northwest, Portland Youth Philharmonic, Portland Baroque Orchestra, Friends of Chamber Music, Portland Chamber Orchestra, Portland Piano International, Portland Symphonic Choir, Cappella Romana and Portland Vocal Consort.



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Inspired in the Fight Against Cancer

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

In doing so, Moore wants to say "when I share my story, please don't feel sorry for me. Just listen, [take action], and don't give up!"

When the New More Than Pink celebration takes place on Sept. 22, participants will experience an all new ceremony, new colors and a renewed energy that is sure to leave the community feeling invested and inspired.

The evolution of the event is meant to better celebrate and

honor survivors and forever fighters and highlight the importance of the 4 pillars of work Komen focuses on every day — Research, Care, Community and Action.

Action means advocating, educating, and empowering the community around breast cancer. Moore is taking action and is on a mission to touch as many lives as she can through her own journey.

Thanks to Susan G. Komen Oregon and Southwest Washington for contributing to this story.



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REV. AL SHARPTON
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1 P.M. - 3 P.M.
KENNY SMOOF

3 P.M. - 7 P.M.
D.L. HUGHLEY

7 P.M. - 9 P.M.
PAPA SMURF

9 P.M. - 12 Midnight
MIKE SHANNON

SUNDAY

12 Midnight - 3 A.M.
MIKE SHANNON

3 A.M. - 6 A.M.
TOYA BEASLEY

6 A.M. - 12 NOON
SUNDAY MORNING GOSPEL
WANGELA

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Renter Rights in Focus

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

A statewide rent increase limit for units was also put in place by the statewide measure. That amounts to no more than 7 percent plus the consumer price index, which this year is calculated by Oregon Department of Administrative Services to be 10.3 percent and is adjusted annually. Rental units that have received a certificate of occupancy within the last 15 years are exempt from the rent increase limitation.

Holland said her group and other renter advocates were hoping to see rent increases capped much lower.

"I don't know that I can afford a 10.3 percent increase every year. So hopefully we can come back to discuss that number in the future," Holland told the Portland Observer.

She added that the cap her organization sought for was closer to 5 percent and even considered that any increase in rent should be tied to federal cost of living adjustments, like for folks living on a fixed income when they get adjustments to Social Security or to a disability.

Holland also decried the provision that tenants, within their first year of occupying a rental, can still be subject to no cause evictions under statewide law, adding that the first year of tenancy for many Oregonians is when often when people are at their most vulnerable.

"You've paid thousands of dollars to move into this new unit and then within the first 12 months you could potentially lose that unit for no reason...that was a really hard pill to swallow," she said.

The tenants' rights organization also supported the passage of House Bill 2001, which effectively got rid of exclusive single family zoning statewide.

June also saw the Portland City Council rolling back rules on the screening criteria for renters, lowering some of the barriers in terms of financial and criminal histories, personal backgrounds that have been used by landlords in the past to rule out some

tenants for housing.

"We're looking at look back periods of up to seven years where folks have criminal histories because recent data shows that folks are less likely to encounter recidivism after the seven year mark, especially if some of the socio economic indicators that are tied to housing and health are met," Holland said.

A landlord may also employ their own screening criteria for tenants, should they encounter a problem with the city's default low-barrier criteria.

However if a landlord denies a tenant, they have to give an individualized assessment with supporting documents to the tenant to explain the legitimate business reason for the denial.

"We can anticipate, that hopefully, we can reduce some of the instances of discrimination, xenophobia, income discrimination instances that happen all across the city," Holland said.

Security deposit reforms were also passed by the city that essentially limits security deposit amounts to be no more than one month's rent, in most instances, and restricts when a landlord has the right to take that money. For "riskier" tenant profiles, up to one and a half times rent can be charged, Holland said.

In addition, income requirements for renting a place have changed. Those making 80 percent of the area median income and above only need to make two times the monthly rent, and for those making below 80 percent of the area median income, they have to make two and a half times rent to qualify.

Renter relocation assistance was another major change in Portland. The new rules mandate that within the first year of tenancy, if a no cause eviction occurs, the landlord has to give a relocation payment if they increase their rent above a certain amount.

There's also been a rental registration program put in place to try to capture data about the market, of which city council re-



PHOTO BY DANNY PETERSON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Violeta Alvarez helps field questions from tenants in the wake of new tenant and landlord laws passed in the Portland area and statewide. The statewide organization, which was formed in 1996, is membership driven and focused on tenant rights advocacy.

cently passed a \$60 per rental unit assessment for landlords. City housing leaders say the fee is needed to help collect better data on the housing market and to fund the city's newly established renter services office.

Holland said there currently is not much useful, centralized information about the availability of housing in Portland, for example, such as understanding how many one or two bedroom units are available to rent, how many vacancies exist, and which units are wheelchair accessible. That will change as the office compiles new data to pinpoint specific characteristics of housing that's available.

"We really want to get a true picture of our housing market and make decisions for it. We should know," Holland said.

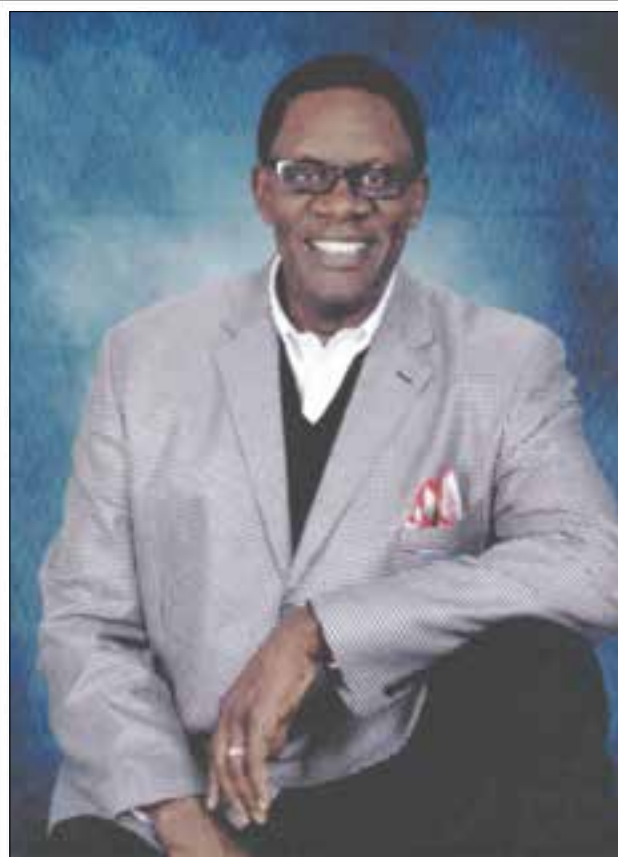
The new state and city housing mandates have not been without opponents. Multifamily NW, a trade association for rental property owners and managers, for

example, object to many of the statewide and citywide changes, which the organization calls "reckless and untested policy decisions."

Portland City Commissioner Amanda Fritz also voiced her concern of a lack of exceptions in a new low-barrier screening criteria which can prevent a landlord from rejecting an applicant with an old conviction for "violent crimes, even rape and murder," if landlords choose not to come up with their own screening criteria. Fritz on June 19 was the lone no vote of the ordinance when it came before the City Council.

In addition, several landlords testified in late July that the \$60 rental fee would cause them to raise rents or not hire maintenance employees.

The Portland Observer reached out to Multifamily NW for comment in this article, but did not receive a response in time for publication.



Dr. Billy R. Flowers

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