



Welcoming New Director

*Shannon Singleton
Joins Espousal
Strategies*

See page 8



Zoolights Returns

*Northwest Holiday
Tradition is Back!*

See Arts &
Entertainment, page 7



PO QR code

The Portland Observer

Volume LII • Number 22



'City
of
Roses'

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Wednesday • November 16, 2022

Committed to Cultural Diversity

Helping Black Families and Individuals

SEI and CDP breaks ground for displaced residents of N/NE Portland

Co-developed by Self-Enhancement, Inc. (SEI) and Community Development Partners (CDP), a 63-unit apartment community taking shape in Portland's Overlook neighborhood, will be much more than new apartments when it opens in late 2023. The new community is part of SEI's recent expansion into affordable housing. It offers an innovative model combining high-quality rental housing with on-site services and is part of a larger effort by partners SEI and CDP to renew a visible, thriving Black presence in North and Northeast Portland.

A groundbreaking ceremony emceed by longtime SEI supporter and Emmy Award-winning multimedia personality Tra'Renee Chambers was held at the site of the new community. Co-developers Tony Hopson, Sr., president and CEO of SEI and Eric Paine, CEO of CDP were joined by Commissioner Dan Ryan, City



Commissioner Dan Ryan, City of Portland, Tra'Renee Chambers (event emcee), Councilor Mary Nolan, District 5, Metro, Dr. Steven Holt, Oversight Committee chair, Portland Housing Bureau, Molly Rogers, interim director, Portland Housing Bureau, Tony Hopson, Sr., president and CEO, SEI, Eric Paine, CEO, CDP

of Portland; Councilor Mary Nolan, District 5, Metro; Molly Rogers, interim director, Portland Housing Bureau; Dr. Steven Holt, Oversight Committee chair, Portland Housing Bureau; and Andrea Bell, executive director, Oregon Housing

& Community Services (OHCS).

As one of Portland's leading multi-service organizations long focused on helping Black youth and families realize their full potential, SEI is expanding into a new role as an affordable housing developer.

The organization is joining forces with CDP, a mission-driven affordable housing developer, to co-develop and co-own 5020 N. Interstate.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Tina Kotek is Now Oregon's New Governor

New Governor ready to get to work for Oregon

(AP) — Tina Kotek has been elected Oregon's next governor, extending long-time Democratic control of the state and dashing Republican hopes for a rare win in a top race on the West Coast of the United States.

Kotek joins Maura Healey of Massachusetts as the first openly lesbian elected governors in the United States. "It is an absolute honor," Kotek said. "I can tell you that being who I am is important to Oregonians across the state. Lots of young people have come up to me and said thank you for running and thank you for being who you are."

The former longtime speaker of the

Oregon House of Representatives had faced a stiff challenge from Republican Christine Drazan, who is also an ex-legislator. Kotek stood in front of a fountain in Portland Thursday morning a few steps from the Willamette River and told an invitation-only crowd of reporters and supporters displaying her campaign signs that she was ready to get to work.

She said she plans to travel around Oregon starting in January to talk to community leaders about issues facing the state, particularly the shortage of affordable housing and addiction. She said her priorities are addressing homelessness, expanding access to mental health and addiction treatment and working to bridge the divisions in the state.

Kotek told reporters she has spoken with Drazan and Johnson, a former state

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



Tina Kotek, Oregon's Democratic gubernatorial candidate, greets supporters at the Democratic Party of Oregon's election party, Tuesday night, Nov. 8, 2022, in Portland, Ore. (Beth Nakamura/The Oregonian via AP)



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Change is Coming for Portland

Gonzalez prevails over Hardesty in Portland City Council Race



Rene Gonzalez, Portland City Commissioner

Rene Gonzalez wins against Jo Ann Hardesty in the race for Portland City Commissioner. Hardesty was popular among voters in North and Southeast Portland. Election data shows that she beat Gonzalez handily along most of the east riverbank — especially in the Buckman, Kerns, Hosford-Abernethy, King and Eliot neighborhoods. Gonzalez was able to get a majority of the voters in East Portland. Gonzalez's election was an indication that Portland voters are looking for change, as they also approved a measure that will completely overhaul the city's form of government.

From day one, the council race was dominated by voter concerns over homelessness and crime; these are two major issues that polls show are priority for Portland voters. Gonzalez's pledge to

come down harder on homelessness and crime was well-received by many Portlanders. Gonzalez promised voters he would push to hire hundreds more police officers, dramatically ramp up the number of arrests by police for low-level crimes, and try to get the city's entire homeless population in shelter.

Rene for Portland tweeted "Comm. Hardesty just called to congratulate & wish me luck in my new role." "I want to thank her for her service to the city. Will have more news on celebration & transition soon, but do want to thank staff, donors, vols & my family for all the help."

"Time to restore Portland!" Gonzalez's campaign added.

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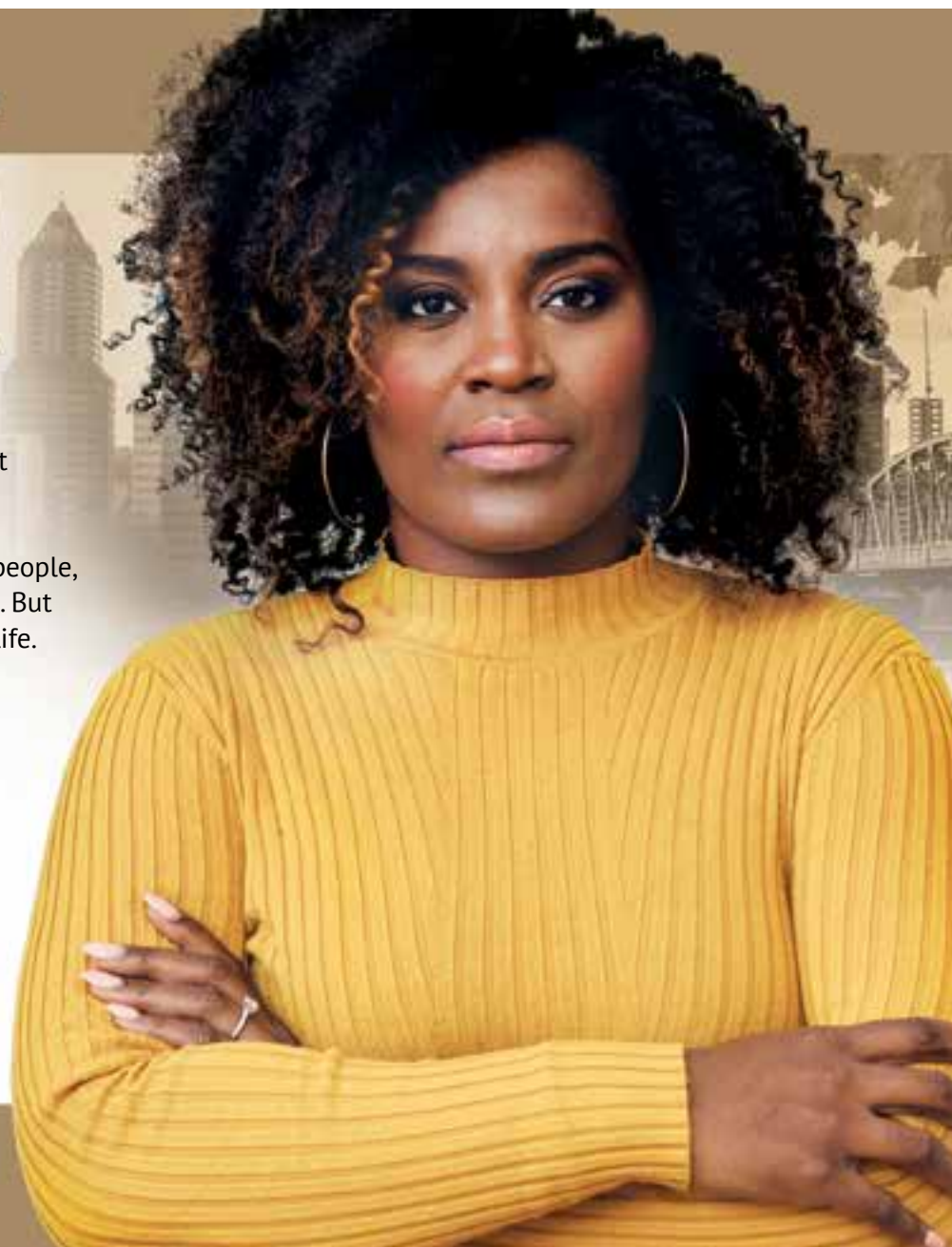
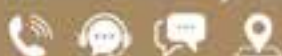
AS THE YEAR WINDS DOWN...

The weather cools. The kids return to school. Some of us even start planning for the upcoming holiday season. Overall, the pace of life can seem slow in autumn, and that might mean more time staying indoors and turning more to devices for entertainment. For some people, that could mean that gambling online becomes more of a pastime. But there's good news; you don't have to let gambling dominate your life.

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For more information, visit OPGR.org



The INSIDE



SPORTS



page 5



Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

page 7-8

OPINION

page 9

CLASSIFIED/BIDS

pages 10

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LOCAL NEWS

Pioneer Courthouse Square Tree Lighting is Back!



PHOTO COURTESY PIONEER COURTHOUSE SQUARE - The giant tree lite in the Pioneer Courthouse Square downtown

75-foot tall holiday tree has arrived

A full schedule of holiday events and traditions at Pioneer Courthouse Square will return this holiday season. After being held virtually for two years, the 38th Tree Lighting Ceremony, a Portland tradition will return in person this year. Before COVID, 11 million people

passed through The Square each year, and it's one of the most-visited places in the State of Oregon.

The 75-foot tall holiday tree arrived at Pioneer Courthouse Square last week on Wednesday morning. The tree was donated by Stimson Lumber Company and weighs approximately 8,500 pounds. Portland's Tree Lighting will be at Pioneer Courthouse Square the day after Thanksgiving, Friday, November 25th featuring a joyful sing-along with Portland's own Thomas Lauderdale from

Pink Martini, local musicians and chorale singers, this event is the highlight of the holiday season downtown.

The community is encouraged to join in the celebration as Santa Claus flips the switch to illuminate more than 14,000 colorful LED lights on our City's 75ft Douglas-fir generously donated by Stimson Lumber Company for all to enjoy throughout the holiday season. Many Portlanders are looking forward to the opportunity to be back together in The Square also known as Portland's Living Room.

Help for Community Skill Building

PPB Launches New Podcast on Active Shooter Preparedness

The Portland Police Bureau is releasing a new podcast designed to help community members build skills to react to an active shooter situation. Warning, this podcast contains sensitive information and frank discussions of potential violence.

Active shooter incidents are often unpredictable and evolve rapidly. The Portland Police Bureau's Community Active Shooter Preparedness Presentation was developed by members of PPB's Training Division and taught by Portland Police Officers who have responded to the scene of local active shooting incidents and may



A police officer presenting information to a class


be among the first responders to any in the future. The class has been given to community groups, businesses and houses of worship. The presentation is also available through a video.

"We hope people who view or listen to this information never have to use it," said Chief Chuck Lovell. "At the same time, we recognize that with knowledge

comes empowerment. Fear can sometimes get in the way of obtaining this kind of education, but we hope by engaging with people on this challenging topic we build skills to balance those concerns."

Please note that there may be capacity issues and that PPB may not be able to meet all demand. PPB also only serves groups and organizations in the Portland area.

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Helping Black Families and Individuals

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

In his comments at the event, Tony Hopson, Sr., president and CEO of SEI shared, "I grew up in this area. I went to Beach Elementary and my mother still owns the house at Humboldt and Mississippi. I remember when I-5 went in and I could no longer walk down Humboldt to get to school. So when I think about what used to be here and the people who used to be here — who are no longer here — to have the opportunity to be a part of partnerships like the one we have with CDP, that are helping to provide low income housing for some of those folks, so they can have a pathway back — it is just really, really important and meaningful."

With new and affordable rental housing for households earning 60% or less of the area median income, 5020 N. Interstate will help fill Portland's critical need for housing — most acute among low-income residents. But SEI and CDP have bigger aspirations: Through an innovative blend of design and on-site services, 5020 N. Interstate aims to support Black families, strengthen community connections and expand economic opportunity.

"We greatly admire the work that SEI does here in the community, and we're grateful to them for taking a leap of faith to partner with us as co-owner and co-developer, enabling the vision of what we hoped to bring to this community to come to life," said Eric Paine, CEO of CDP. "SEI's connection to this community is distinct and it's deep. Our work that we're doing together is only extending their reach."

5020 N. Interstate is a key part of a larger collaboration between SEI and CDP that will be taking shape over the next couple of years. Called "Alberta Alive," the initiative encompasses 5020 N. Interstate and two additional SEI-CDP projects on Alberta — 506 NE Alberta and 4957 NE 8th Avenue, both set to open by mid-2023 — as well as Alberta

Abbey, an existing nonprofit arts center that will serve as an extension of the three housing communities and a space for residents to gather for events. The mission of Alberta Alive is to celebrate and strengthen Portland's historic Black North/Northeast neighborhoods with affordable housing, supportive services and a shared community for underserved individuals and families.

5020 N. Interstate aligns with the City of Portland's North/Northeast Preference Policy, which seeks to counter the harm caused by decades of public and private disinvestment in the area and urban renewal practices that displaced many Black residents. Under the policy, current and former residents of this historic heart of Portland's African-American community, as well as people with generational ties to the area, are considered for new affordable housing opportunities before applicants without a history of living there. 5020 N. Interstate is funded by sources that include \$9.2 million from the Metro Regional Affordable Housing Bond approved by voters in 2018, \$14.7 million in Oregon Affordable Housing Tax Credits, and Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Grant funds from Metro.

"Metro is proud to support this project with affordable housing bond and transit-oriented development funds," said Councilor Mary Nolan, District 5, Metro. "SEI leads from the heart, and from the community. This development partnership with CDP continues their reputation for innovation and vision."

"5020 N. Interstate represents a manifestation of the collective care and commitment to ensuring our community's basic needs, such as housing, are met. The pursuit of improving quality of lives through affordable housing requires us to all acknowledge the unjust actions that created some of the very housing issues we face today," said OHCS Director Andrea Bell.

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Home Forward is excited to announce that 33 communities with subsidized housing assistance will be opening the waiting lists for studio, one, two, three, and four-bedroom units from November 30 – December 14, 2022. Applicants must meet income and eligibility guidelines. Please visit www.homeforward.org for more information.

Applications will be accepted online from any internet capable device at www.homeforward.org beginning November 30 at 9:00 am. If you do not have internet service, please call us at 503-419-8050 for assistance. Phone assistance will be available Monday through Friday 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM.

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Trail Blazers' New Themed Uniform

Portland Airport Carpet Themed Uniforms to debut for November 15th Game

The Portland Trail Blazers have unveiled the 2022-23 Nike NBA City Edition uniform, paying homage to the original Portland International Airport carpet pattern that has developed a passionate following. The uniform has a familiar look to it with a black base and the signature Blazers sash featured across the chest – this time filled with the teal and geometric-shape pattern locals will recognize from their travels.

The City Edition uniform showcases the confidence and quirkiness that defines Portland, as no other team or city would embrace an airport carpet pattern to the degree that Portlanders have. The pattern, with its bright teal base and unique geometric shapes, represents the view of the North and South runways as seen overhead from the sky. The carpet's cult-following grew after reaching local icon status, as it became tradition for travelers arriving or departing out of PDX Airport to take photos of their feet safely planted on the colorful carpet to



A preview of the new uniforms for The Portland Trailblazers

post on social media.

While travelers used the carpet to make a statement regarding their travels, the uniform is sure to make a statement on the hardwood. It features "PDX" across the front of the uniform, the official code for Portland International Airport and a common nickname for the city, in bold white font and the classic carpet pattern across the chest and down one side of

the shorts. The other side of the shorts features the team's primary "pinwheel" logo while showcasing the team mantra "ripacity" on the belt buckle.

Fans can purchase the City Edition uniform today at ripcityclothing.com, in-person at Rip City Clothing in Moda Center or at the brand-new Rip City Clothing pop-up store in Concourse C of the Portland International Airport.



photo courtesy of University of Portland

Pilots Have Great Season Portland Women's Soccer Earns At-Large bid for NCAA Tournament

For the first time since 2013, the Portland Pilots women's soccer team is back in the postseason, qualifying for the NCAA Tournament with an at-large bid. They played the Arizona State Sun Devils on Saturday.

"As a program, we're so proud to have the opportunity to represent alumni, staff, the Athletic Department, along with the entire University who have committed so much time and energy towards the success of the program this season," Portland head coach Michelle French said. "The stu-

dent-athletes have showed an unwavering dedication to who they wanted to be this season on and off the field. It's incredible to see them be rewarded for that commitment."

The Pilots have put together a stellar season, going 11-4-3 for their best record by win percentage since 2013. They made their way back into the top 25 this year after sitting outside the top 25 every year since 2014. They went a perfect 9-0-3 at home this season, their first undefeated year at home since 2010 and are ranked 41st in the latest RPI rankings.

Portland has a rich playoff history, with the Pilots making the tournament 21 times in its program's history with a 49-17-5 record overall. They've won two national championships, once in 2002 and again in 2005, and are one of only seven schools to have multiple national championships.



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‘Wakanda Forever’ Scores Record Opening



This image released by Marvel Studios shows, from left, Dorothy Steel as Merchant Tribe Elder, Florence Kasumba as Ayo, Angela Bassett as Ramonda, and Danai Gurira as Okoye in a scene from "Black Panther: Wakanda Forever." (Marvel Studios via AP)

**Marvel film
directed by Ryan
Coogler hits
theaters, scoring
second biggest
opening release**

(AP) - The box office roared back to life with the long-awaited release of "Black Panther: Wakanda Forever."

The Marvel sequel earned \$180 million in ticket sales from more than 4,396 theaters in the U.S. and Canada, according to estimates from The Walt Disney Co. on Sunday, making it the second biggest opening of the year behind "Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness." Overseas, it brought in an additional \$150 million from 50 territories, bringing its worldwide total to \$330 million.

"Wakanda Forever" was eagerly anticipated by both audiences and exhibitors, who have

weathered a slow spell at the box office since the summer movie season ended and there were fewer bigger budget blockbusters in the pipeline. The film got off to a mighty start a bit stronger than even the first film with an \$84 million opening day, including \$28 million from Thursday previews.

"Some may have hoped for \$200 million like the first film, but this is solid," said Paul Dergarabedian, Comscore's senior media analyst. "This is the type of movie that theaters

really need to drive audiences."

The first film opened to \$202 million in February 2018 and went on to gross over \$1.4 billion worldwide, making it one of the highest grossing films of all time and a cultural phenomenon. A sequel was inevitable, and development began soon after with director Ryan Coogler returning, but everything changed after Chadwick Boseman's unexpected death in August 2020. "Wakanda Forever" became, instead, about the death of Boseman's

King T'Challa/Black Panther, and the grieving kingdom he left behind. Returning actors include Angela Bassett, Lupita Nyong'o, Letitia Wright, Winston Duke and Danai Gurira, who face off against a new foe in Tenoch Huerta's Namor. The film would face more complications too, including Wright getting injured and some COVID-19 related setbacks. All told, it cost a reported \$250 million to make, not accounting for marketing and promotion.

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Zoolights and Brewlights



photo courtesy of the Portland Zoolights

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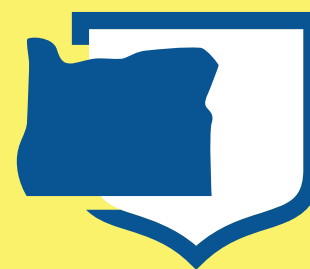
A Northwest holiday tradition is back! ZooLights at the Oregon Zoo opens on Nov. 23, showcasing a winter wonderland of more than 1.5 million brightly colored lights. All the traditional favorites are returning such as forests of lighted trees, dazzling life-size animal silhouettes and the light-bedecked zoo train. There are also some new aspects to the ZooLights this year such as a spectacular display on the central lawn celebrating the Oregon Coast and its unique wildlife, including otters, seals, sea lions, urchins, sea stars, crabs and more. There are two options to enjoy the beautiful lights, the traditional walk-through ZooLights and also midweek evenings set aside for a drive-through experience.

The zoo is bringing back its popular BrewLights festival. This is a ZooLights experience just for the 21-and-over crowd. Guests can

sample more than 100 selections of local beers, seltzers and ciders while enjoying live music and strolling among the lights. This will be held Nov. 18 and 19.

ZooLights and BrewLights are special events and are not included with regular daytime admission. Members receive discounted admission (20% off) throughout ZooLights, including two preview nights before the official opening. All guests, including members, must reserve tickets in advance via the zoo website. For tickets and additional info, visit oregon-zoo.org/zoolights.

To prepare grounds for the drive-through experience, the zoo will remain closed during regular daytime hours on Tuesdays through Thursdays beginning Nov. 22 (except during Portland Public Schools' winter break, Dec. 19–30). This temporary daytime schedule will continue through Feb. 16, allowing the zoo to conduct maintenance work during some of its lightest attended days of the year.



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Espousal Strategies Welcomes New Director

Shannon Singleton, Interim Director of the Joint Office of Housing Services today announced she is joining Espousal Strategies, a Black-Owned government, community and public affairs firm with a focus on equity, inclusion, issue lobbying and coalition building. She will be the firm's Director of Community Engagement and Advocacy. Singleton chose not to pursue the Joint Office director position full-time; her last day is Nov. 25.

Espousal Strategies Founder/President Johnell Bell said, "I am thrilled that Shannon will be joining us to lead our community engagement practice and building upon our successful work of authentically engaging the community on complex projects."

Singleton has led the Joint Office for the past six months, resulting in rehousing and ending homelessness for 4,560 people, adding villages and motels to a shelter system that served more than 6,000 people, and extending the reach of outreach and navigation teams.

Singleton has a Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Social Work,



Shannon Singleton Director of Community Engagement and Advocacy

and more than 20 years of public service dedicated to racial justice and equity. Before serving as Interim Director, she was Gov. Kate Brown's Director of Equity and Racial Justice. She has also served as the chief executive of several human service nonprofits, worked for a government agency ensuring the effective use of millions of federal and local dollars for housing and homelessness.

Oregon's New Governor



Kotek was backed by President Joe Biden

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

senator who ran as an unaffiliated candidate and who conceded Tuesday night. The Drazan campaign had said it hoped as more ballots were counted the results would cut into Kotek's lead. Tuesday was the last day for election officials to receive valid postmarked ballots by mail. There could be tens of thousands of uncounted ballots still in the mail in a state with 3 million registered voters.

Oregon was the first state to institute vote-by-mail but the 2022 election is different because a 2021 law passed by the Legislature allows ballots to be counted if they were postmarked by 8 p.m. on election day. Previously, votes needed to be received by Election Day. Like other GOP

lawmakers, Drazan was opposed to the 2021 postmark bill when it went through the Legislature. "Deadlines are deadlines," she said in a House committee back then. "I think that it is going to create some challenges, and I think it's going to create some legal complexity when it comes to some of these elections with close turnout."

Kotek was the longest serving Oregon House speaker. Drazan is a former leader of the Republican minority in the House. Democrats were so worried that they could lose the governorship that President Joe Biden came to Portland to boost Kotek's chances. Democrats warned that a Drazan victory could threaten abortion rights, environmental protections and democratically run elections in the state.

Black & Gold New Year's Eve 2022 Celebration

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OPINION

Tell the Supreme Court: We Still Need Affirmative Action

One of the great joys of my life is teaching. I'm fortunate to teach classes on social justice at the University of Pennsylvania, one of the most respected schools in the country. Penn has a longstanding commitment to affirmative action, and I have seen first-hand how diversity in the classroom benefits all my students. There's just no question that diversity is a core piece of a vibrant academic community and a critical part of the learning experience – for all of us. Bringing together students with different lived experiences forces students to think critically about their assumptions, which is an essential goal of a university education.

That's why I, like so many of us, am deeply concerned about two affirmative action cases argued at the Supreme Court just a few days ago. Opponents of affirmative action have been trying to destroy it for years. And now it looks like they just might get their chance.

Two universities, Harvard and the University of North Carolina (UNC), are defending their admissions programs against opponents who want them declared unconstitutional. (The university where I teach, Penn, and the organization I lead, People For the American Way, have both joined briefs supporting the universities' positions.) Considering race as one of many factors in admissions has been upheld by the Supreme Court for decades. The Court has said repeatedly that diversity in higher education is a "compelling interest."



Ben Jealous

But today's Supreme Court is different. It's dominated by far-right justices who have made it clear they don't share this view. Chief Justice John Roberts's famous quote, "The way to stop discrimination on the basis of race is to stop discriminating on the basis of race," sums it up: conservatives believe affirmative action is at best unnecessary and at worst just another type of discrimination. Some conservatives would like to retire affirmative action because they claim it's

accomplished everything it set out to do. But it hasn't. Not even close.

In Texas and Michigan, applications and enrollments of Black and Latino students plunged after state politicians banned the consideration of race in admission to their public universities. That's a huge red flag. Nationally, there's a big gap between the percentage of White and Black students who earn a bachelor's degree. And that perpetuates all kinds of harm and inequities in income, health, family wealth, and more. We still have a long way to go in building a fair society in which all our children can thrive.

And here's an important point that often gets lost. All students—no matter their race or color or creed—benefit from affirmative action. Having diverse classmates promotes a stimulating exchange of ideas and viewpoints. It prepares all students for living and working in our increasingly diverse society. The Supreme Court as a whole used to understand that. Today, I worry that only a minority of the justices do.

One of those justices is Ketanji Brown Jackson, the first Black woman on the Court and a person of profound insight and wisdom. Her questions in oral arguments got to the heart of the matter. Imagine two qualified students applying to UNC, Justice Jackson suggested: a White North Carolinian

student whose family members had attended the school for generations, and

a Black North Carolinian whose family had historically been shut out. The White applicant might make the case that attending UNC is deeply meaningful to her because it is a family tradition. The Black applicant might make the case that it is deeply meaningful because her family was so long denied.

Jackson's question made it clear what would happen if the Court adopts the Far Right's position: the White student's appeal to family history would be allowed to help their chance of acceptance, while the Black student's would not. It would further institutionalize discrimination and the harm it has caused generations of Black Americans.

I am so grateful for Justice Jackson's voice on the Court. I also know that the six right-wing justices expressed skepticism of affirmative action at oral arguments. Many reporters are already writing its obituary. I hope for the sake of our education system and our next generation, that they will be wrong. The "compelling interest" that led the Court to uphold affirmative action in the past still exists – in fact, it may be stronger than ever.

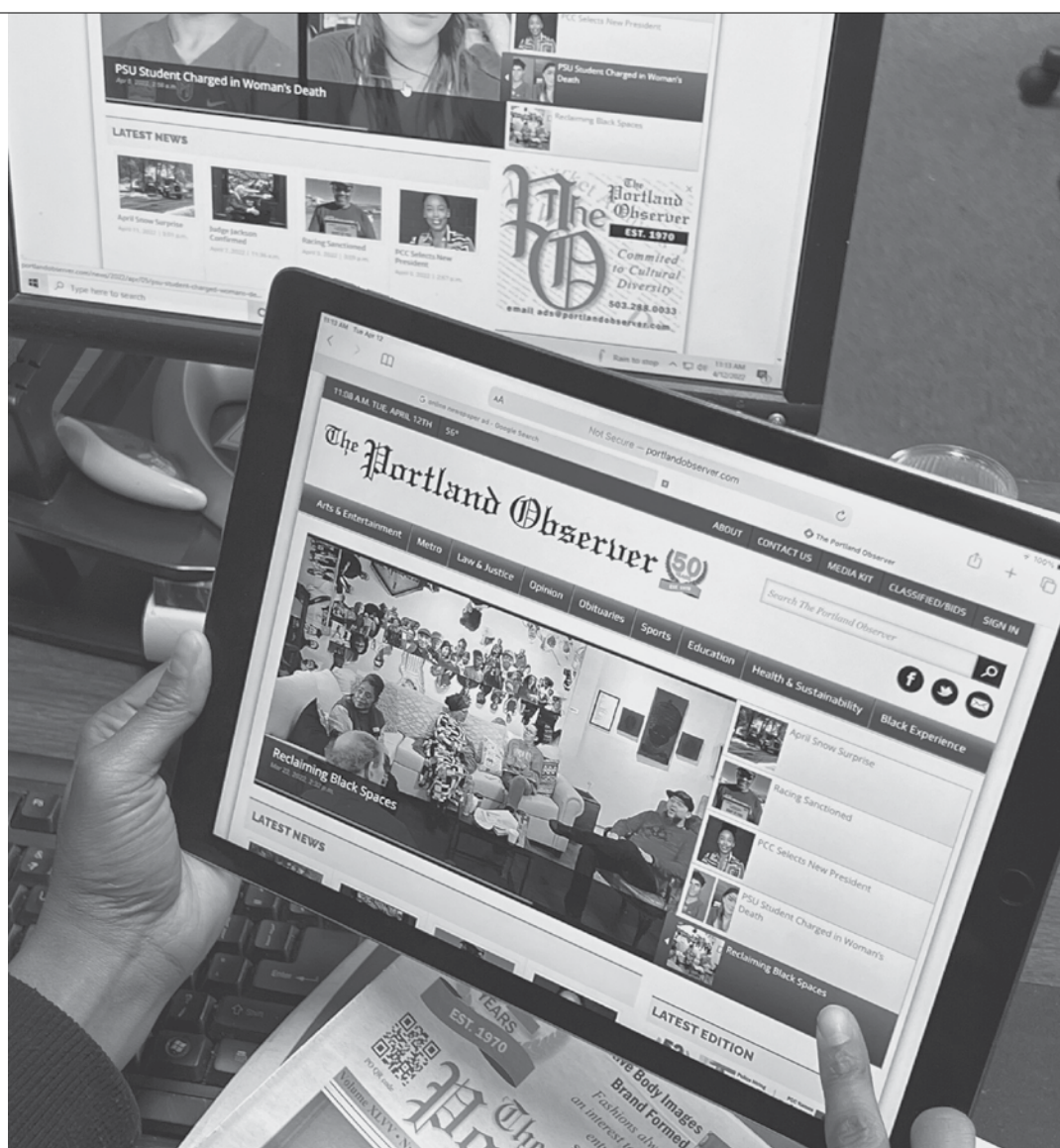
Ben Jealous serves as president of People For the American Way and Professor of the Practice at the University of Pennsylvania. A New York Times best-selling author, his next book "Never Forget Our People Were Always Free" will be published by Harper Collins in January 2023.

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Hillside Park Phase I

2889 SE Hillside Court
Milwaukie, OR 97222

Statement of Qualifications (SOQ)

Due: Dec. 2, 2022 @ 2:00 PM

Hillside Park is the redevelopment of 13 acres of land surrounding Hillside Manor in Milwaukie, OR. The project consisting of two phases will add 400 units total to the area and provide permanent housing for the 100 residents who currently reside in the single family and duplex homes. The redevelopment will span over 5 years across both phases:

Phase I

- Remove 54 of the existing duplexes and the single-story community building
- Construct (3) four story buildings comprised of 275 units total and over 200,000 sf

SOQ Scopes Only:

Design-Build Fire Sprinklers, Plumbing, HVAC, Electrical & Low Voltage Only

Documents are available at:

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Respiratory Viruses Continue Circulating

RSV, influenza, COVID-19 already putting strain on hospitals, OHA official says

Respiratory viruses are expected to circulate this season at higher levels than Oregon has experienced over the last two years as people gather indoors for the holidays, an Oregon Health Authority (OHA) public health physician said today.

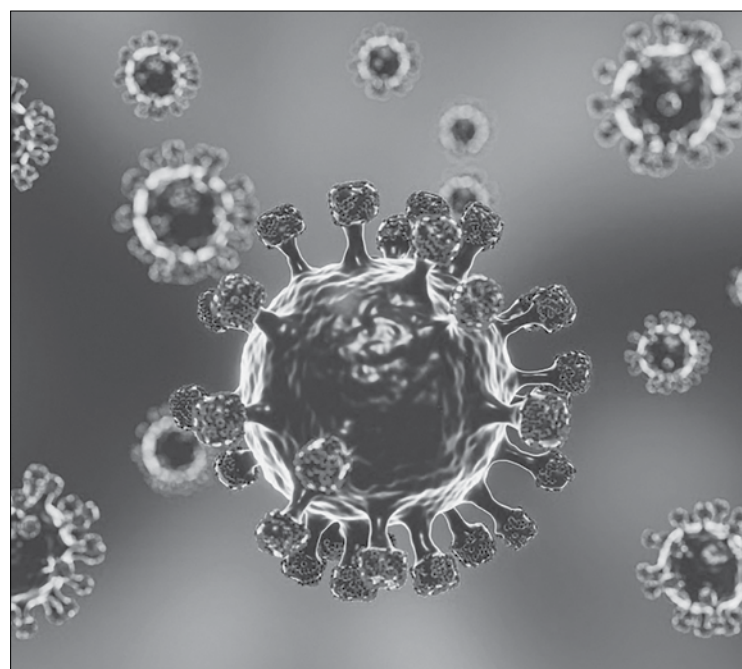
But it's unknown whether two of those viruses – RSV and influenza – will be more severe than pre-pandemic seasons, said Tom Jeanne, M.D., M.P.H., deputy health officer and deputy epidemiologist at OHA.

"Nationally, we are seeing some alarming trends of early – and, in some cases, very high – circulation of both viruses," Jeanne said during OHA's monthly COVID-19 update. "Given this concerning picture, we need to work together to protect hospital capacity so that all of us have access to critical care when we need it."

Jeanne explained that the COVID-19 pandemic has "placed incredible strain" on our health care system, with RSV further straining systems. Influenza will only add to this burden.

COVID-19 transmission is expected to increase as people gather indoors and immunity from vaccination and previous infections wanes. The seven-day moving average of new confirmed and presumptive cases has hovered between 350 and 400 cases, Jeanne noted. He said an Oregon Health & Science University forecast predicts that COVID-19 hospitalizations – now at 229 as of Wednesday, Nov. 9 – will increase slightly and peak at about 280 by early December.

Oregon also is seeing slow increases in the proportion of new Omicron subvariants with mutations of concerns, such as BQ.1 and BQ.1.1. These new



Cases of COVID-19 variants, and other respiratory viruses, are already on the rise,

subvariants account for less than 10% of variants circulating in Oregon; BA.5 still accounts for about 80%.

"We don't expect that this winter's COVID-19 wave will be as severe as last year's Omicron wave," Jeanne said. "We anticipate far fewer peak hospitalizations than we saw during the Omicron and Delta surges, thanks to high levels of population immunity. But there are other respiratory viruses we're concerned about."

One of them, RSV – the most common cause of severe lower respiratory infection among infants and young children – will see increasing activity over the coming weeks, as has been the case in other parts of the country. The virus has caused pediatric hospitalizations to more than triple between Oct. 29 and Nov. 5.

Health officials also are closely monitoring influenza activity throughout Oregon. Although influenza activity remains relatively low in Oregon, it is increasing slowly. State-wide test positivity was 2% last week; 5% positivity is considered a threshold for significant influenza circulation.

"We expect to surpass [5% positivity] within two weeks," Jeanne said. "Influenza will add to pressure that will be placed on hospitals and health sys-

tems already dealing with the increases in other respiratory viruses, including RSV."

But Oregon has reliable tools for combating COVID-19, RSV and flu.

"First, everyone should get a flu shot and make sure they are up to date with COVID-19 vaccinations," Jeanne said. "That means a bivalent COVID-19 booster for those who haven't received one yet, or if you are still unvaccinated, the two-shot primary COVID-19 vaccine doses – followed later by the booster." Plus, getting the booster and flu shot as soon as possible means they will have protection for Thanksgiving and winter gatherings.

And even though an RSV vaccine is not yet available, people can protect themselves through respiratory hygiene, such as covering coughs and sneezes, cleaning high-touch surfaces, practicing good hand hygiene and masking indoors.

"Masking, particularly in indoor settings, is a powerful tool for reducing the spread of all respiratory viruses," Jeanne said. "When respiratory virus activity is high, everyone should consider masking indoors when they are with people from outside their household. And those at increased risk of severe illness should consider masking indoors even when virus activity is lower."

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Obituaries

Duane Washington

On Thursday, November 10th, 2022, Duane Washington, a beloved member of the community, passed away. He was 91 years old. He was born an only child to Virginia Washington and Forest Brooks on July 31st, 1931 in Chanute, Kansas. Duane graduated from Chanute High school, Class of 1949. Soon after graduation, Duane joined the army and served until he was honorably discharged in 1952. He bravely fought during the Korean War and faced 5 battles during his service. After many weekend visits to Portland Oregon while on leave from Fort Lewis Duane decided to make this large and exciting city his home. He soon after met his first wife Joyce, and there they stayed to raise their children together.

Duane was a very active member of the community. He coached and played in many sports team, was a cub scout leader, restored cars to their former glory, and took part in the American Legion. He was a proud member of The Brothers Free Motorcycle club, where he earned his very respected title of Godfather. He helped to charter the Scappoose Lions Club. A service organization that touched many lives, and is still remembered for its impact today. In 1971 he began a long career in the Employment Division with the state of Oregon and retired in 1994, the same year he married his wife Debra. During his retirement, Duane and Debra



Duane Washington, who served in a segregated regiment during the Korean War, later became involved with The Buffalo Soldiers to raise awareness.

ra found a beautiful countryside home where he was able to have his horse Geronimo that carried him in the Rose Festival Parade

to honor his time as a buffalo soldier. They enjoyed many lasting memories with yearly birthday parties for Duane that everyone looked forward to every year.

A favorite activity that stuck with him was mushball, he played and coached for many years. Duane is preceded in death by his father, Forest Brooks, mother, Virginia Brown, and step father, Ralph Brown. Sons, Charles H. Washington, Gary Washington, and Cory Washington. Grandsons, Christopher Washington and LaRon Washington. And former wife Joyce. Duane is survived by his wife Debra Washington. Children Ronald Washington, Tony Washington, Mark Washington, Audrey Washington, Charles Jackson, Leif Washington, Carry Ann Washington and Roxanne Washington, Nicholas Washington and Step Daughters, Jennifer Allen, and Anne Plunkett. His former wife Jana Gregory. And a host of grand children, great grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins, and lifelong friends. Duane will always be remembered as someone who enjoyed helping others and had a passion to make as many lives as he could, better.

Grace Nell Brightmon

Grace Nell Brightmon was born May 29th 1943, to Grady Millage and Birdie Lee Ford in El Darado, Arkansas. She completed her education at Washington High school and moved to Dallas, Texas, where she met and married Leonard Brightmon Jr.

Grace and her family later moved to Portland, Oregon. Throughout the years Grace traveled with her sisters, Pauline Manning, and Fannie White and Brother-In-Laws, Willie D. Manning, and Slim White.

Grace was a loving Mother, Friend, Aunt, Grandmother, Great Grandmother and Sister. Her family meant the world to her.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Grady Millage and Birdie Lee Ford, sisters, Ruby Millage Brown, Pauline Millage Manning, Thelma Millage Bailey and 1 grandson Adrian Brightmon.

She leaves to cherish her memories, three sons Kelvin T. Millage, Anthony R. Brightmon (Rhea), Leonard R. Brightmon, 1 daughter Tammi M. Brightmon; 2 sisters, Fannie White of Pasco, Washington, and Ann Hardeman



of Midlothian, Texas, one brother, Joseph L. Williams (Tina) of Portland, Oregon; Nine Grandchildren, Yalonda Millage, Christopher Kaha (Madeline), Leonard R. Brightmon Jr., Adam Pierce, Tasia Gramkow, Terraesha Norris, Terreece Norris, Ahmaylh Brightmon, Ta'Mya Nelson, Three Great Grandchildren Leonard L. Brightmon, Elijah Kaha, Solomon Kaha, Unborn for Terraesha Norris, and a host of other relatives, along with so many more that loved her. See: terryfamilyfuneralhome.com for service information.

Suno "Frank" Minniweather



Suno "Frank" Minniweather was born July 31, 1924 and passed on November 9, 2022. Funeral services will be held on Friday, November 18, 2022 at Rose City Funeral Home at 11:00am. Our family would like to sincerely thank the Washington Family and the Portland Observer.



TAKING OWNERSHIP PDX



SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY!

HELP

MAINTAIN AFRICAN-AMERICAN HOME AND BUSINESS OWNERSHIP

DONATE

RESOURCES AND OTHER ITEMS OF NEED

VOLUNTEER

JOIN OUR TEAM AND WORK ON REWARDING PROJECTS

EVERY DOLLAR HELPS US REACH OUT TO MORE HOMEOWNERS IN NEED.

ABOUT US

We are a small but mighty collective working together to renovate and revive homes and small businesses for Black families in Portland. Our mission is to help Black homeowners and small business owners stay in their communities and build generational wealth.

HOW WE WORK

We take on projects big and small. From roof repairs to yard cleanups, we provide financial support, skilled workers and volunteer labor to get the job done. We listen to each homeowner's requests and do our best to give them exactly what they need.

Taking Ownership PDX exists as a community led organization fueled by donations from local allies and our ever-growing list of volunteers.

WHAT WE'VE DONE SO FAR

In our first two and a half years, Taking Ownership PDX has already helped over 100 Black home-owners and small businesses, and we have many more people waiting to receive our assistance. We have signed up approximately 300 volunteers and raised more than \$1.6 million to support our cause. And we're just getting started.



300

VOLUNTEERS



\$1.6M

RAISED

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