



The Portland Observer

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Committed to Cultural Diversity

Fallen Football Hero Dies at 76



Former NFL football star O.J. Simpson appears via video for his parole hearing at the Lovelock Correctional Center in Lovelock, Nev., on July 20, 2017. (Jason Bean/The Reno Gazette-Journal via AP, Pool, File)

An Unforgettable “Trial of the Century”

(AP) — O.J. Simpson, the decorated football superstar and Hollywood actor who was acquitted of charges he killed his former wife and her friend but was found liable in a separate civil trial, has died. He was 76. The family announced on Simpson’s official X account that he died Wednesday of prostate cancer. Simpson’s attorney confirmed to TMZ on Thursday that he died in Las Vegas.

Simpson earned fame, fortune and adulation through football and show business, but his legacy was forever changed by the June 1994 knife slayings of his ex-wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and her friend Ronald Goldman in Los Angeles.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11



Central City Concern's Mobile Health Van

A New “Front Door” to Healthcare

Opening Services to Those Experiencing Homelessness

Central City Concern (CCC) formally launches a new Mobile Health program as part of our new 2023-2026 Strategic Plan. A launch party, including speakers and the unveiling of two new, custom built healthcare vans was held on Tuesday, April 16. Speakers honoring the new program included Dr. Andy Mendenhall, CCC President and CEO; Dan McMillan, President and CEO, The Standard; and Dr. Sejal Hathi, Director, Oregon Health Authority; among others. The event was sponsored by The Standard.

People experiencing homelessness are constantly on the move, which can make

traditional “brick and mortar” service delivery challenging. CCC has partnered with Medical Teams International (MTI) to move the front door of traditional healthcare, making it easier to offer services in a mobile setting. CCC will now offer a range of expanded primary care which includes behavioral health care, improving access to services and housing resources, while MTI is offering dental services. CCC’s two new, large, custom-made vans allow our teams to directly provide wound care, physical exams, infectious disease screening, vaccinations, and medications.

CCC operates two teams, each staffed with a combination of roles including a Primary Care Provider (Physician Assistant, Nurse Practitioner, or Naturopathic Doctor), behavioral health specialist, and a community health outreach worker. The teams are visiting the Temporary Assistance Shelter Sites (TASS), sanctioned encampments and

congregate shelter sites, unsanctioned encampments and locations where unsheltered community members are located, and service hubs like day centers, food/meal resource sites, and community events.

We are so proud to celebrate this milestone event,” says Dr. Andy Mendenhall, President and CEO. “Folks need access to the right treatment at the right time. Sometimes that means bringing services to their front door, wherever that may be. We know a lot of folks in our community have felt unseen or marginalized by traditional healthcare services. Our hope is that by bringing healthcare to our neighbors' door, we can treat problems immediately and prevent future complications or hospitalizations. Timely treatment is a core to building trust and getting folks connected with other necessary services. If you see one of our vans going down your street, give a little wave and say hi!

Fostering Diversity in Animation!

LAIKA is Contributing \$60,000 to Support Student Scholarships and a New Animation and Graphics Degree

Portland Community College has announced a transformative partnership aimed at fostering diversity and inclusivity in the animation industry with LAIKA, the renowned film studio known for its groundbreaking and award-winning animated films “Coraline,” “ParaNorman,” “The Boxtrolls,” “Kubo and the Two Strings” and “Missing Link.” This collaboration reaffirms PCC and LAIKA’s commitment to supporting educational initiatives and promoting equity within the creative arts.

The cornerstone of this partnership is a \$60,000 pledge from LAIKA to the PCC Foundation. Over two years, LAIKA will contribute annual gifts of \$30,000 to support the newly established LAIKA Scholarship and program funds. This funding aims to create an associate degree in Animation & Motion Graphics, enhancing educational opportunities for aspiring animators in Oregon.

PCC President Dr. Adrien Bennings expressed enthusiasm for the partnership,



From left, Multimedia Instructor Eric Fauske, PCC President Dr. Adrien Bennings, Chief Marketing and Operations Officer David Burke and Production Supervisor Jesselee Kahaloo.

stating, “This collaboration aligns with PCC’s commitment to providing accessible, culturally responsive education. By working closely with LAIKA, we can ensure that our students receive the training and support they need to succeed in the animation industry.”

This partnership will result in three new “Animation” and “Stop Motion” courses,

as well as a proposed Animation & Motion Graphics Program (the degree is not state-approved yet). This would provide students a comprehensive curriculum offering that blends traditional and digital animation techniques.

“LAIKA is honored to partner with PCC,” said LAIKA’s Chief Marketing and Operations Officer David Burke.

“As a community of creators, artists, and scientists dedicated to advancing the animation medium, we are delighted to play a part in fostering the skills, aspirations, and talents of PCC’s student body. Our commitment extends to nurturing film narratives that encompass a wide range of experiences and to help grow the next generation of storytellers who will carry our art form forward. We can’t wait to offer mentorship and provide the necessary tools for these artists to thrive and shape the future of animation.”

The partnership would help tap PCC’s position as a regional hub for digital arts education. Also, the partnership includes a PCC Multimedia student focused internship opportunity and portfolio reviews with LAIKA, supported by the Oregon Film Office.

“We are so excited to be partnering with LAIKA and its innovative production studio,” said Erik Fauske, PCC multimedia instructor. “The scholarship donations and program funds will provide financial support to incoming students and equitable access to cutting edge industry tools. LAIKA’s curriculum feedback, portfolio support and guidance on workflow will impact students to be job ready with relevant skills. At Multimedia, we provide an eclectic array of classes in many areas of production and we are so excited to enhance our animation, visual effects, and motion graphic curriculum.”

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For more information, visit OPGR.org



The INSIDE

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

page 7-8

CLASSIFIED/BIDS

pages 9-10

The Portland Observer

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LOCAL NEWS

Local Engineer Receives National Award

Nominated by Supervisors, Peers, and Employees

The USDA Forest Service Pacific Northwest Region recently awarded Amy Thomas, a Portland, OR based Forest Service employee and U.S. Army veteran, as the Region's Managerial Engineer of the Year for 2023.

In March 2024 Forest Service Pacific Northwest Region identified winners for annual Engineer of the Year Awards in four categories. Award recipients were nominated by their supervisors, peers, and employees.

"Amy has been a champion of 'doing our work differently' and integrating across and among agency offices, other federal agencies, and external stakeholders," said Christy Darden, Director of Engineering & Fleet for the Forest Service Pacific Northwest Region. "Her dedication and contributions have resulted in successful implementation of key initiatives including the Great American Outdoor Act and collective hiring events. While this award is for her managing skills, Amy is also a great supervisor, coach, and mentor."

Thomas was recognized for her support to critical regional and director area initiatives in providing engineering, fleet, and sustainable operations policy, guidance, and program across national forest lands across Oregon and Washington. During the agency's inaugural national and regional hiring events for engineers, Thomas provided key



Amy Thomas, Managerial Engineer of the Year for 2023

leadership and helped streamline the hiring process, which resulted in the appointment of many internal and external candidates. This crucial employment effort resulted in an increase of overall agency engineers throughout the Pacific Northwest Region.

According to her colleagues Thomas's success is a direct result of her dedication to agency mission, commitment to the agency values, and her professional communication skills that incorporate her experiences as supervisor, manager, coach, and mentor. She is known to focus, invest, and lead in team building, improved program management, and innovative outreach and recruitment approaches.

"My favorite part of this agency is the diversity of people and professions I get to work alongside of and with to solve complex problems," Thomas remarked. "The opportunities are endless

and, after 14 years working in engineering roles for the Forest Service, I recently moved to the Congressional Justification Branch in Strategic Planning, Budget & Accountability. I am looking forward to bringing my regional engineering experiences to this position to contribute to budget formulation."

Thomas currently works in the Congressional Justification Branch of Strategic Planning, Budget, and Accountability for the agency's national office. In her previous role she served as the Deputy Director of Engineering & Fleet for the Forest Service Pacific Northwest Region.

Prior to joining the USDA Forest Service, Thomas worked for various agencies within the Department of Defense, beginning her professional career as an active-duty US Army engineer officer. Thomas is a 1998 graduate of West Point, US Military Academy, with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering and earned her Master of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of Hawaii, Manoa in 2005.

Thomas is no stranger to change. When she was growing up her father was active-duty Army so her family moved all over the country and spent a few years overseas in South Korea. She is now working remotely for the national Forest Service office in Washington D.C., and continues to make her home in Portland, OR which she calls her "forever home."



New Sullivan West Campground Picnic Shelter. USDA Forest Service photo.

The Week in Review

Women Charged with Theft and Money Laundering

Multnomah County District Attorney Mike Schmidt today announced that Chantail Williams, 39, was arraigned on a secret grand jury indictment for seven charges related to stealing and laundering public funds from the City of Portland in May 2022. A charging document is only an accusation of a crime. Williams is innocent unless and until proven guilty.



Farmers Market Returns

Rocky Butte Farmers Market, Portland's dog & kid friendly neighborhood market with a block party vibe, will re-open June 1, 2024 at its new more visible and convenient location on the border of the Roseway and Madison South neighborhoods at NE Siskiyou, between 80th & 82nd Avenues.

Winning Ticket Sold in Portland

A Powerball player in Oregon has won a jackpot worth more than \$1.3 billion, ending a winless streak that had stretched more than three months. The lottery ticket was purchased at a Plaid Pantry convenience store in the northeast part of Portland, Oregon Lottery said in a statement.



Application for Preschool Opens

Multnomah County's Preschool for All (PFA) application for the 2024-25 year opened on Tuesday, April 2. Preschool for All seats are free and new seats start in September 2024. Children who will be 3 or 4 years old on or before September 1, 2024 and who have at least one parent or legal guardian living in Multnomah County are eligible to apply through Tuesday, April 30.

Daytime Show Ending

(AP) "The Talk" is ending its long-running daytime conversation. The CBS talk show will end in December after 15 seasons, the network announced. The 11-time Daytime Emmy winner is airing its 14th season, which will end in June. Its final 15th season will premiere in the fall.



Readers of all ages

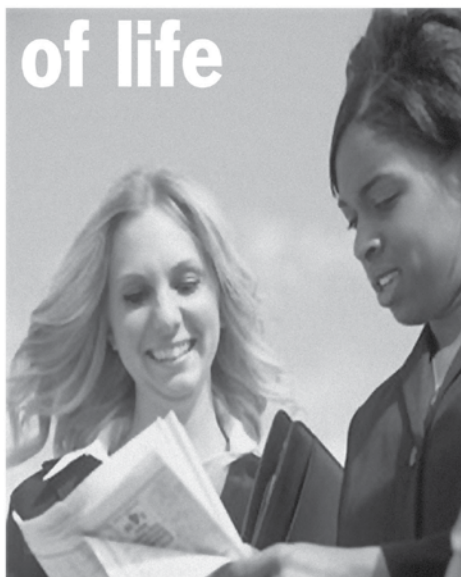
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Celebrate Mother's Day Weekend



The Marshall House

Spring Tea at the Marshall House

Celebrate Mother's Day weekend by joining us at the beautiful Marshall House for our Spring Tea, Saturday, May 11th! It's the perfect opportunity to share special time with the important family and friends in your life. You and your guests will enjoy a variety of delicious food bites and a delectable selection of

teas, all while relaxing in the elegant Marshall House located on Officers Row.

We are excited to offer teas provided by Dandelion Teahouse & Apothecary. Come meet the fantastic team behind one of downtown Vancouver's small business gems. Wonderful music provided by local singer/songwriter, Owen Kortz. Choose from one of two seatings, 11 am or 2 pm. Space is limited. Reservations Required.

The Marshall House is located at 1301 Officers Row, Vancouver, WA 98661.

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Portland
Housing Bureau

Street Takeover Mission Results in Arrests

PPB Cracks Down on Street Racing

On the nights of Friday, April 12, 2024, Saturday, April 13, 2024, and Sunday, April 14, 2024, North Precinct officers conducted a Street Takeover Mission with assistance from the North Precinct Neighborhood Response Team, East Precinct officers who were conducting a Stolen Vehicle Operation, officers from the Traffic Division, the Oregon State Police, the Multnomah County District Attorney's Office, and a host of others. Officers spent hours each night disrupting street takeover events in all corners of the city. The mission resulted in 12 arrests and numerous citations. Additionally, one firearm was recovered and 33 vehicles were towed. Six of those vehicles were forfeited as a result of the passing of Oregon Senate Bill 615.

The Portland Police Bureau will continue its efforts in educating community members about the dangers of speed racing and street takeovers. This education will be conducted on



Arrest (Photo Courtesy of Portland Police Bureau)

our social media platforms and through one-on-one conversations with participants. Enforcement action will also continue against individuals who are suspected of committing these types of crimes.

PPB wants to remind participants that street takeovers can

result in jail time, fines, and towed vehicles.

In addition to state statutes, Portland City Code addresses this dangerous activity. 1) Unlawful street takeover event means an activity that is unpermitted, pre-planned or contemporaneously coordinated by two or more persons,

and involves one or more persons demonstrating, exhibiting, or comparing the maneuverability or power of one or more motor vehicles in a curved direction, in a circular direction, or around corners, including but not limited to by breaking traction in a curved or circular direction

or around corners. 2) A person commits the offense of an Unlawful Street Takeover if, in a public place or upon a highway, the person knowingly operates a motor vehicle while engaged in an unlawful street takeover event. 3.1) Highway means the entire width of a public right-of-way when any portion thereof is intended for motor vehicle movement or motor vehicle access to abutting property. 3.2) Public place means an area, whether publicly or privately owned, generally open to the public and includes, without limitation, the grounds surrounding buildings or dwellings, streets, sidewalks, bridges, tunnels, alleys, plazas, parks, driveways, and parking lots.

The Portland Police Bureau has updated its vehicle towing policy and now authorizes towing for drivers operating vehicles without valid driving privileges and lack of insurance, and to address street takeovers.

The Bureau recently substantially revised Directive 0630.60, Vehicle Dispositions. Most significantly, the revised directive has the following changes: 1) The directive authorizes towing

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

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FOR THE FOODIES

FoodTrients Says Unlock Timeless Beauty



Recipe and photo reprinted with permission from *The Age Beautifully Cookbook* by Grace O, photo by Matthew Fried / www.FoodTrients.com.

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oregontradeswomen.org/fair

Elevate Your Wellness Journey with Nutrient-Rich Recipes

Enter the realm of wellness through the lens of nutrition. It's a journey where every meal is an opportunity to nourish not just the body, but the very essence of your being. Ginger Hultin, FoodTrients' nutritionist and dietitian, illuminates the profound impact of a wholesome diet on our long-term beauty. She suggests embarking on a culinary adventure that promises to enhance your inner glow and outward allure. By eating a healthy diet can play a role in long-term beauty in the following ways: Skin elasticity, vibrancy, color, hair and skin quality, fostering growth and resilience. Energizing the body for an active lifestyle and maintaining optimal muscle mass. Fueling vitality and zest for life, ensuring each day is brimming with potential.

Which Foods Are Best for Aging Beautifully? Grace O, founder of FoodTrients, has identified the following 'superfoods' as the path to staying beautiful and vibrant as you age. Choose these food categories to get access to the complex carbohydrates, protein, and healthy fat as well as vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants that can support your beauty. Vitamin A foods consist of carrots, tomatoes, red peppers, melon, fish, and eggs. Vitamin C foods are sweet potatoes, red peppers, citrus fruits, strawberries and tomatoes. Almonds, peanut butter, pumpkin, wheat germ oil, sunflower seeds are Vitamin E food. Biotin foods are nuts, egg yolks and oats. Selenium foods consist of Brazil nuts, seafood, broccoli, soybeans.

With each bite, you rewrite the narrative of aging, embracing a future where beauty and wellness dance in harmonious tandem. It's time to savor the flavors of nourishment, paving the way for a more vibrant, age-defying you. These 'superfoods' are the ingredients for aging well, as well as creating delicious, irresistible dishes. Recipes can be found at www.FoodTrients.com.



Geri Leung, Amanda Mailey, Bea Lugtu

Women Launch Portland First Filipino Food Tour

16 Tour Stops from Beaverton to Troutdale with Distinct Filipino Ingredients

In honor of National Filipino Food Month in April, Amanda Mailey, owner of ALIST LLC, a local, Filipina-owned marketing and business consultancy, is partnering with Filipina artist Beatriz Lugtu and Baon Kainan food cart co-owner Geri Leung to launch the first ever Filipino Food Tour in the greater Portland region entitled "SOBRANG SARAP," which translates to "Very Delicious" in Tagalog. Mailey, Lugtu and Leung invited 26 small business owners to join together to create the first-ever Filipino food crawl in Oregon.

The three women coordinated 16 Filipino-owned food businesses and community organizations from Beaverton to Troutdale, and each will highlight four distinct Filipino ingredients through their own dish, drink or dessert each week in April. To further educate and provide greater context to the specials, each ingredient will be complemented by historical background and personal storytelling provided online.

SOBRANG SARAP is sponsored by Travel Portland and the Philippine American Chamber of Commerce of Oregon (PACCO). SOBRANG SARAP represents a memoir of Filipino dishes, which were created by 26 small business owners who united together to honor their ancestors. With 16 locations throughout the month of April, covering 25 miles and featuring 60-plus dishes, locals and visitors alike will dine on

distinct Filipino dishes, drinks and desserts each week. Additionally, diners will learn about, or further enhance their knowledge of, the diverse Filipino food businesses and locations included in the food tour. Each participating chef has a shared goal of dedicating their respective and unique dishes to the family that raised them.

The month-long Filipino food tour will introduce diners to Filipinx-owned restaurants, food carts, pop-ups, cafes, residencies, and non-profits. The food tour will culminate on Sunday, April 28th at Kolektivo at 959 SE Division St. in Portland from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. for a ticketed, family-friendly celebration that is open to the public.

Beginning on April 1st, participating locations will feature at least one dish on their menu, based on one key Filipino ingredient. Each special dish will be noted as the Chef Challenge on the menu and it comes with significant room for interpretation and creativity. For the Filipino ingredients, Week One will be Ube. Week Two is Adobo. Week Three will be Calamansi and Week Four will be Pancit. "We invite both Oregon residents and visitors to our beautiful Rose City to join us, dine on our diverse Filipino cuisine, and come learn about these talented Filipino chefs in April, and throughout the year. Come explore the deeper meaning behind the dishes and learn more about the chefs' inspiration via their stories posted online and in social media to get the full cultural experience," said Mailey.

"Organizing this event, alongside so many other Filipinx-owned businesses, is my way to honor and celebrate my ancestors and their relationship with the earth," added Mailey.

Mailey, Lugtu and Leung are driving the branding, marketing, and storytelling supporting this cultural Filipino food tour.



Oregon Ballet Theatre Announces New Season

Showcasing Artistic Director, Dani Rowe's Inaugural Programming

The season begins with a fresh take on the famous fairy tale, Hansel and Gretel, a hit ballet from Australian choreographer Loughlan Prior premiering for the first time in the United States with OBT's performance. It's a bit Tim Burton-esque and a whole lot of fun - perfect for all ages.

Hansel and Gretel is followed by the family-favorite and traditional George Balanchine's The Nutcracker® featuring 17 performances, including 15 with the OBT Orchestra. Additionally, this year OBT continues the special offering of Nutcracker in a Nutshell, which provides a supportive environment for people with sensory processing challenges and for those with young children. This



Carly Wheaton with OBT dancers in Wooden Dimes Photo by Blaine Truitt Covert

shortened performance is conducted in a more relaxed environment with lighting and sound modifications, entry/exit privileges and an understanding that patrons may

move, vocalize, and bring comfort items to feel at ease in the theater. What better way to celebrate Valentine's Day than with a tragic love story at the ballet? Opening

on February 14, 2025, Giselle is one of the most beloved classical ballets of all time. This will be the world premiere of a new adaptation choreographed by Tiit

Helimets and OBT's Dani Rowe – another first. In April 2025, OBT offers a new ballet about a true icon: Movie star. Ingenué. Lover. Survivor. Marilyn. Dani Rowe's first full length ballet, Marilyn features an original score by Shannon Rugani, iconic costumes by Emma Kingsbury and an arresting set design by Emma Kingsbury and David Finn. This internationally recognized and female-led creative team brings audiences powerful storytelling as 36-year-old Marilyn Monroe looks back at her life and memories through the only lens that matters: her own. Closing out the season, we have four strikingly beautiful one-act ballets presented as The OBT Collection. Featuring a haunting pas de deux from Dani Rowe, an intensely physical contemporary work from Bobbi Jene Smith and Or Schraiber, a world premiere with fresh edge from Nicolas Blanc and a surprise from OBT

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Mt. Hood Jazz Festival Returns

The Mt. Hood Jazz Festival is returning to Mt. Hood Community College (MHCC) from May 3-5, 2024, with a star-studded lineup of jazz musicians. Performing at the festival are acclaimed artists Joshua Redman, Hailey Niswanger, Etienne Charles and Creole Soul, Camille Thurman, Steve Spiegl Big Band, the Portland Jazz Composers Ensemble, the Mt. Hood Jazz Collective, the MHCC Jazz Combo, Sherry Alves Brazilian Quartet, and the Randy Porter Trio. Though many skilled performers will take the stage at this event, the jazz festival's overall mission is rooted in education. With 79 high school and middle school



Etienne Charles

jazz ensembles participating in this year's festival, festival organizers hope to educate and inspire the jazz artists and audience of tomorrow.

Career highlights among some of the performers in-

clude trumpet player Etienne Charles being written into the US Congressional Record for his musical contributions to Trinidad and Tobago as well as the rest of the world, and Hailey Niswanger playing flute on Beyonce's Grammy-winning song "Black Parade."

"This weekend of music not only showcases world-class talent but also mirrors the vibrant spirit of jazz, honoring its rich past and promising future. We hope the community will join us for these exciting performances," Director of Jazz Studies Dan Davey said.

The festival will take place at Mt. Hood Community College at 26000 SE. Stark St. in Gresham as well as other local venues, May 3-4. Ticket and schedule information can be found at mhcc.edu/jazzfestival. Prices for tickets vary depending on the day and the type of ticket.

Sparks Select Oregon Native Cameron Brink



Stanford's Cameron Brink, left, poses for a photo with WNBA commissioner Cathy Engelbert after being selected second overall by the Sparks on Monday night in New York. (Adam Hunger / Associated Press)

Street Takeover Mission Results in Arrests

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

for certain offenses, such as unlicensed drivers, suspended drivers, and lack of insurance. 2) The directive authorizes towing for violating new Portland City Code, 14A.30.080, Unlawful Street Takeover and Unlawful Staging of a Street Takeover Event. 3) The directive provides new guidance on responding to stolen vehicles reported at tow lots, temporary holds for VIN inspections, and abandoned vehicle towing.

The most noteworthy change to revised Directive 0630.60 is the newly authorized towing for certain offenses such as driving uninsured, suspended, without a license, or in a street takeover pursuant to a new Portland City Code provision, 14A.30.080. This change brings the Bureau in line with both neighboring law enforcement agency common practice and state law authorization for towing. Additionally, the change was supported in public comments and among internal subject matter experts and stakeholders within the Bureau, and will serve as an additional tool for the Bureau to increase traffic safety.

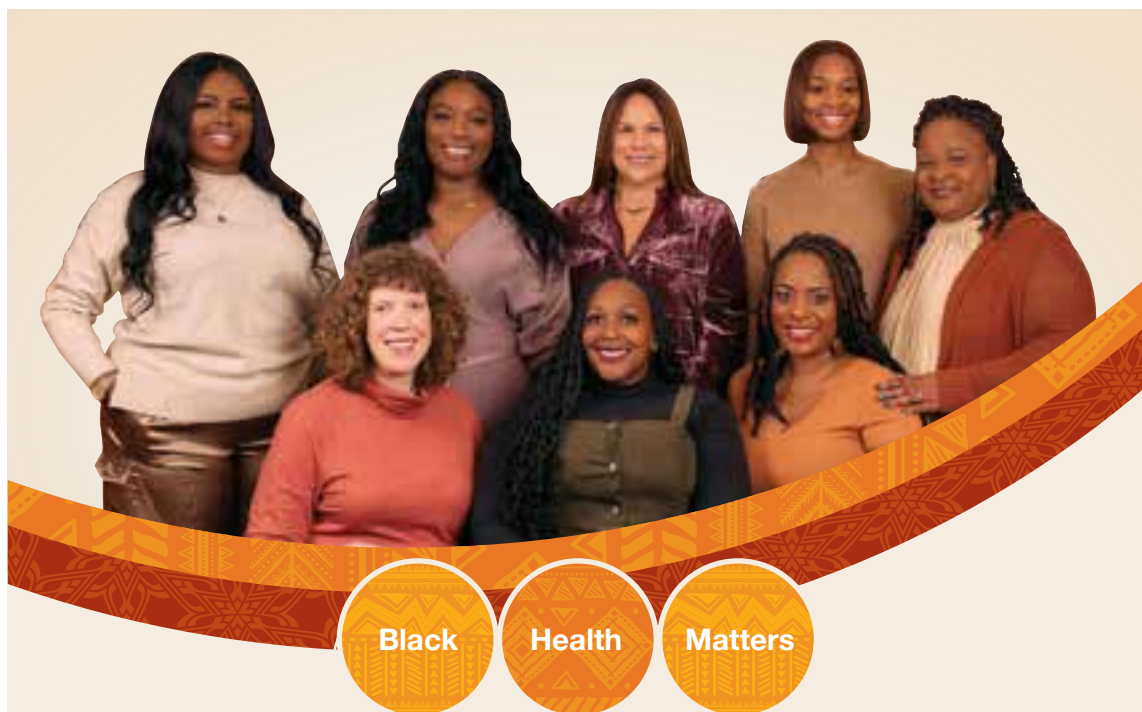
While the policy allows for tows in circumstances where they were not permitted before,

the policy does not require them in most cases. The policy specifically encourages Police Bureau members to exercise discretion in impounding vehicles under circumstances that may create undue hardship or risk to the occupants. Such circumstances may include, but are not limited to: the presence of young children, elderly, or disabled persons; vehicles equipped for use by such persons; and vehicles used as homes.

Members of the public are encouraged, before driving on public roads, to verify that their driver's license is current and valid and that they have current proof of insurance.

Every year, Portland Police officers respond to preventable collisions. These collisions can deeply impact those involved, their families and loved ones.

Future missions are being planned as resources allow. These missions typically will not be preannounced, so participants are warned that they are risking arrest, towed vehicles, and traffic tickets if they take part in illegal street racing or takeovers. The goal of these missions is to deter people from engaging in these illegal and dangerous activities that are often related to crashes, shootings and other criminal activity.



Black

Health

Matters

North by Northeast Community Health Center is the only clinic in Oregon devoted to African American health. We provide welcoming, high quality health care to adults who have Oregon Health Plan. Since 2006, our priority has been to serve the local African American community and to reduce the deadly effects of high blood pressure and diabetes. We are accepting new patients, and if you're uninsured, we can help you get covered!

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Big Valley Sutherlin Apts	1350 E First Ave, Sutherlin OR	suth@viridianmgt.com	(541) 459-1686	1-2	Eld/Dis
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Brookside Rose/Village Apts	933 N Rose St, Phoenix OR	bv@viridianmgt.com	(541) 535-5916	1	Eld/Dis
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Eric Park Apts	292 Oak St, Junction City OR	eric@viridianmgt.com	(541) 234-2035	1-2	Eld/Dis
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Holiday Gardens Talent Apts	220 Holiday Ln, Talent OR	tal@viridianmgt.com	(541) 535-5866	1	Eld/Dis
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Sunset Senior Housing II	154 S 5th St, Athena OR	ss2@viridianmgt.com	(541) 263-0835	1	Eld/Dis
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AFFORDABLE HOUSING

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Eagle Cap Highland View	801 N 15th, Elgin OR	hv@viridianmgt.com	(541) 437-0452	1-3	Family
Eagle Cap Pineview Apts	304 W Alder St, Joseph OR	ecpv@viridianmgt.com	(541) 432-3205	2-3	Family
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Fallen Football Hero Dies at 76

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Live TV coverage of his arrest after a famous slow-speed chase marked a stunning fall from grace. He had seemed to transcend racial barriers as the star Trojans tailback for college football's powerful University of Southern California in the late 1960s, as a rental car ad pitchman rushing through airports in the late 1970s, and as the husband of a blond and blue-eyed high school homecoming queen in the 1980s. "I'm not Black, I'm O.J.," he liked to tell friends.

The public was mesmerized by his "trial of the century" on live TV. His case sparked debates on race, gender, domestic abuse, celebrity justice and police misconduct. A criminal court jury found him not guilty of murder in 1995, but a separate civil trial jury found him liable in 1997 for the deaths and ordered him to pay \$33.5 million to family members of Brown and Goldman.

A decade later, still shadowed by the California wrongful death judgment, Simpson led five men he barely knew into a confrontation with two sports memora-

bilia dealers in a cramped Las Vegas hotel room. Two men with Simpson had guns. A jury convicted Simpson of armed robbery and other felonies.

Imprisoned at age 61, he served nine years in a remote northern Nevada prison, including a stint as a gym janitor. He was not contrite when he was released on parole in October 2017. The parole board heard him insist yet again that he was only trying to retrieve sports memorabilia and family heirlooms stolen from him after his criminal trial in Los Angeles. "I've basically spent a conflict-free life, you know," said Simpson, whose parole ended in late 2021.

"I don't think most of America believes I did it," Simpson told The New York Times in 1995, a week after a jury determined he did not kill Brown and Goldman. "I've gotten thousands of letters and telegrams from people supporting me." Twelve years later, following an outpouring of public outrage, Rupert Murdoch canceled a planned book by the News Corp.-owned HarperCollins in which Simpson offered his hypothetical account of the

killings. It was to be titled "If I Did It."

Goldman's family, still doggedly pursuing the multimillion-dollar wrongful death judgment, won control of the manuscript. They retitled the book "If I Did It: Confessions of the Killer." "It's all blood money, and unfortunately I had to join the jackals," Simpson told The Associated Press at the time. He collected \$880,000 in advance money for the book, paid through a third party.

"It helped me get out of debt and secure my home-

stead," he said. Simpson played 11 NFL seasons, nine of them with the Buffalo Bills, where he became known as "The Juice" on an offensive line known as "The Electric Company." He won four NFL rushing titles, rushed for 11,236 yards in his career, scored 76 touchdowns and played in five Pro Bowls. His best season was 1973, when he ran for 2,003 yards — the first running back to break the 2,000-yard rushing mark. "I was part of the history of the game," he said years later. "If I did nothing else in my life, I'd made my mark."

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