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companies with which they have a contractual relationship. The only companies this could exclude, says SEIU's Simer, are those who do not have a contractual relationship with the port, or lease space from the port – for example, a tour group who has no contract with the Port, but picks up customers at the airport.

This exception is validated by 2013 legislation, which states that “the Port of Portland may establish best value standards and criteria, taking into account factors that include: ... the qualifications, compensation and retention policies of bidding contractors and lessees with respect to the staff and subcontractors operating at the port.”

The Port maintains, however, that they are not allowed by law to set wage requirements.

“The Port cannot act legislatively so we would have to do this on a contract-by-contract basis, which would create inequalities in how this is implemented across the airport,” said the Port's director of corporate communications Kelley Bonsall.

The inequity that matters, said Simer, is the inequity between the workers and the people reaping the profits from the airlines.

“The airlines are making massive profits and the inequity that exists right now is the CEO of Alaska making \$5.7 million a year, and some of the

employees Alaska subcontracts making minimum wage,” Simer said. “That's inequity. The Port can do that right now, and that's the inequity that needs to be fixed.”

President of the AFL-CIO Tom Chamberlain agrees that the status quo for airport workers needs to change. Chamberlain is also vice president of the Port of Portland Commission, a nine-member group that sets policy for the Port.

“I think what needs to be done is, if the goal is really to improve working conditions and wages at the airport, stakeholders and the port need to have a conversation about it,” Chamberlain said. “We need to do something for groups like that.”

For Van Gorder and Pierson, working at the airport is something special, something they don't want to have to leave. But at minimum wage, it seems to Pierson like his dream of having his own place may never be a reality.

“The only reason I would leave is because I don't get paid enough, and that's it,” Pierson said. “I don't get paid enough, and I don't get enough benefits. I love the interaction I have with the passengers, when I'm sitting here checking wheelchairs and I see somebody coming home to their families, it's like, God, you know, that's just so cool to see. I don't want to leave this position, I love it here.”

Changes

by Eileen Vizenor

The last five years contain changes.
Some positive
Some negative.
Never thought I'd be homeless.
Never thought I was strong.
Never thought I was a survivor.
Never thought I could do this.
The last five years have proved myself wrong.
Changes are all about how you deal, and accept, them.
I have.

Untitled

by Daniel Cox

The crowd jeered and scoffed
at the contender, his focus was beating
himself, at all costs
A dark horse racing to the top.
The glamour and glitz
It seems like a dream, a dream
come true, a long lost notion
implied with truth. The idea is fragile
And disappears without a trace.

Need health insurance?

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MULTNOMAH COUNTY**CAREOREGON**

315 SW 5th Ave, Portland

► July 11..... 9-11 a.m.

► July 18..... 9-11 a.m.

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

50 SW 2nd Ave, Portland

July 3..... 9-11 a.m.

July 10..... 9-11 a.m.

July 17..... 9-11 a.m.

July 24..... 9-11 a.m.

July 31..... 9-11 a.m.

HOME FORWARD RESOURCE FAIR

16126 SE Stark St, Portland

July 19..... 3:30-7 p.m.

JOIN

1435 NE 81st Ave, Suite 100

Portland

July 12..... 12-2 p.m.

MOUNT HOOD FARMERS MARKET

38600 Proctor Blvd, Sandy

July 13..... 3-7 p.m.

July 20..... 3-7 p.m.

PORTLAND RESCUE MISSION

111 W Burnside, Portland

July 12..... 8-10 a.m.

July 26..... 8-10 a.m.

**ROSEWOOD FAMILY INITIATIVE
HEALTH CENTER FAIR**

8935 SE Powell Blvd, Portland

July 26..... 1-5 p.m.

UNION GOSPEL MISSION

3 NW 3rd, Portland

► July 24..... 2-4 p.m.

WASHINGTON COUNTY**BEAVERTON LIBRARY**

12375 SW 5th St, Beaverton

July 11..... 1-3 p.m.

PROJECT HOMELESS CONNECT

6701 NE Campus Way, Hillsboro

July 27..... 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

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goMobile team