

# LAW & JUSTICE

## New Project Clean Slate Events Planned

A Project Clean Slate II to help area residents get a fresh start from their legal pasts is being planned for this fall and at additional sites in northeast, southeast and downtown areas of Portland as a result of the successful event sponsored by the African American Chamber of Commerce earlier this month.

More than 4,000 people were in attendance at Portland Community College Cascade Campus in north Portland on July 9 for Project Clean Slate to receive free legal help in clearing up suspended driver's licenses or outstanding warrants that were preventing them from finding a job or qualifying for public assistance. It was also a chance for those in need to sign up for the Oregon Health Plan, food stamps or drug treatment.

More than 20 social service organizations provided help, along with private attorneys, parole and probation officers, the Portland Police and Multnomah County Sheriff's departments, juvenile justice and public defender's offices, faith-based groups and mental health and community service organizations.



African American Chamber of Commerce President Roy Jay (center) joins chamber member Joe Nunn (from left), Portland Mayor Tom Potter, District Attorney Michael Schruck and Cascade Campus President Algje Gatewood during the recent Project Clean Slate event at the PCC Cascade Campus.

## Bus Mall Sweep Brings 130 Arrests

Portland Police have been sweeping the Downtown Bus Mall since June 30, making more than 130 arrests during eight livability missions.

Arrests have included possession and distribution of a controlled substance and various warrants. Officers have also excluded 47 people from either the Drug Free Zone or the TriMet system during the missions.

Since beginning the mission, several individuals and businesses have told officers that they have seen a marked improvement in the area and an overall reduction in the fear of crime.

Multnomah County Parole and Probation has been assisting the Police Bureau with this mission, which will continue through the summer.

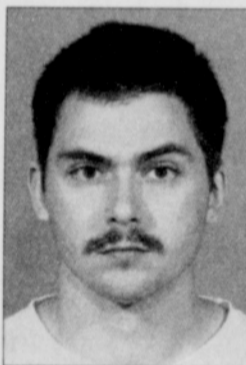
## Man Admits 1997 Murder

A suspect in an 8-year-old investigation has been charged with murder after going to police over the weekend and admitting his role in the north Portland shooting death of 23-year-old Oscar Keymolen.

Eric Hamilton, 28, decided to come forward with information

about a double homicide that occurred Nov. 1, 1997 at 2:56 a.m. in front of a residence at 416 North Emerson St., police said. Both Keymolen and 30-year-old Tony Merritt died during the exchange of gunfire.

During the original investigation,

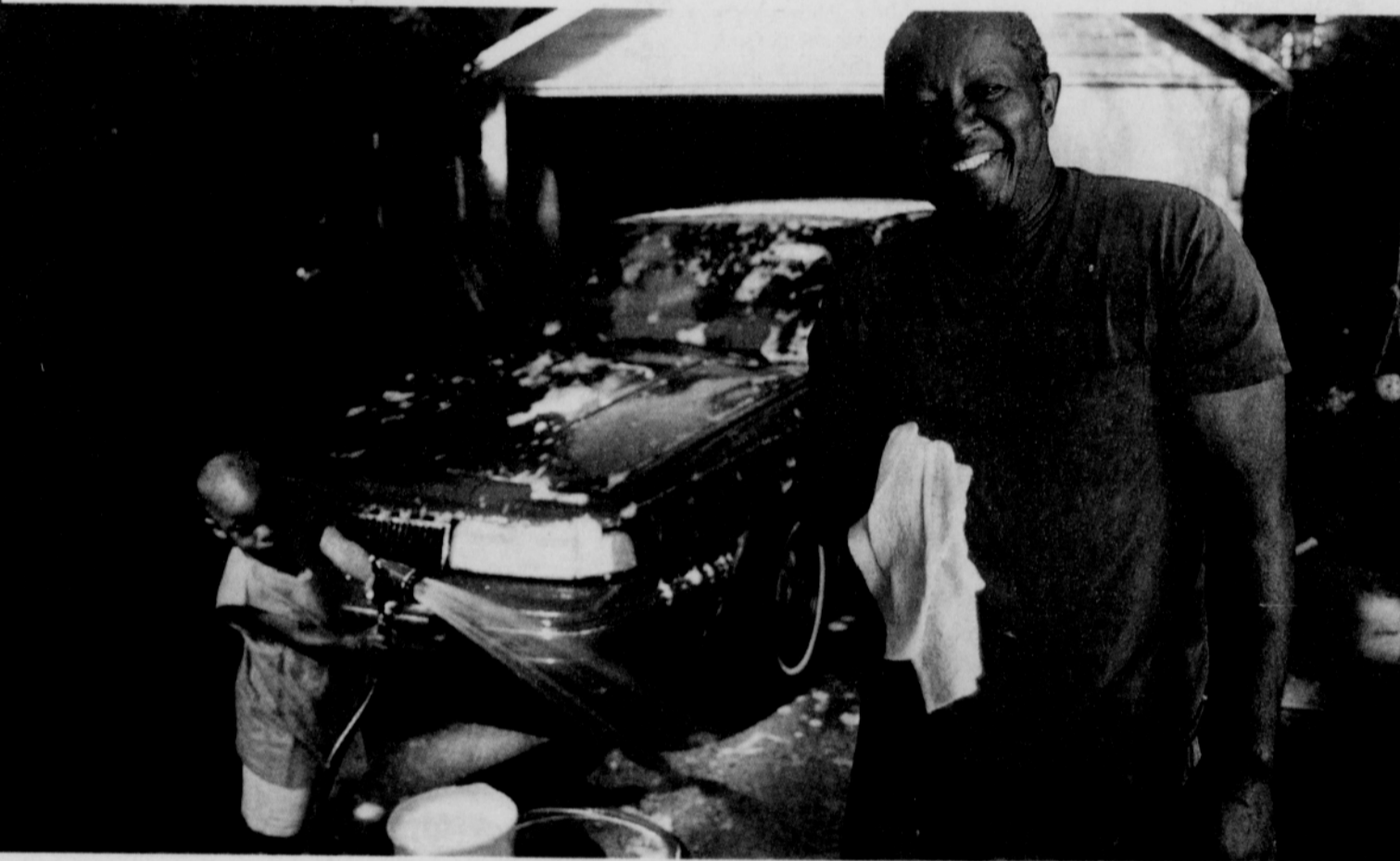


Eric Hamilton

evidence indicated that Keymolen was a possible suspect in the death of Merritt, and Hamilton was thought to have been a possible suspect in the death of Keymolen, but because witnesses refused to cooperate, no one was ever charged in connection with this investigation. At the time, the shooting was believed to be gang-related.

Anyone with information in this investigation is asked to call Detective Brian Grose at 503-823-0757 or Detective Steve Ober at 503-823-4033.

## Don't sit still for arthritis pain.



Arthritis hurts. Physical activity can help. Studies show that 30 minutes of moderate physical activity three or more days a week can help you move more easily. You can break it up, too. Start with a walk. Later, rake leaves or wash the car. Keep it up, and in four to six weeks you could be hurting less and enjoying life more.

### Physical Activity. The Arthritis Pain Reliever.

Call 1-800-283-7800 to learn more.

Physical activity helps manage your arthritis pain. Take it slow. Take it easy. Come and try one of the classes below. Classes are free for qualified participants. Please contact the African American Health Coalition for more information at: 503-413-1850 or visit [www.aahc-portland.org](http://www.aahc-portland.org).

**Low Impact Aerobics**  
Wild Oats Market - 3535 NE 15th  
Tue, 7:30-8:30pm

**Water Aerobics** (Contact the AAHC)  
Columbia Pool - 7701 N Chautauqua  
Matt Dishman - 77 NE Knott

**Walking Group**  
Peninsula Park - 700 N Portland  
(Saturday group will resume in the summer)  
Lloyd Ctr, 1st Fl. in front of Sears  
Tue, Thu, 6:30pm

**Tai Chi** (Contact the AAHC)  
St. John's Community Center - 8427 N. Central  
Tue, 6:30-7:30pm

**Seniors Physical Activity**  
Allen Fremont Plaza - 221 NE Fremont  
Mon, 10:30-11:30am, Tue, Thu, 10:30-11:30am  
Multicultural Senior Center - 5325 NE MLK  
Mon, Wed, 10:30-11:30am  
Irvington Village - 420 NE Mason St.  
503-546-9292 x 121

**3rd Annual Wellness Within REACH Walk.** Saturday, September 10th at Dawson Park, located at N. Vancouver and Stanton in Portland, OR. To register or volunteer, please contact the African American Health Coalition, Inc. at 503-413-1850 or [ninan@aaahc-portland.org](mailto:ninan@aaahc-portland.org).

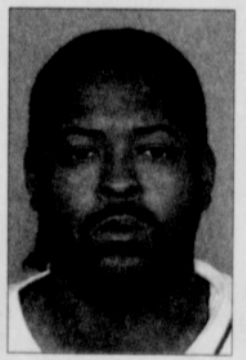
A MESSAGE FROM THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION • THE ARTHRITIS FOUNDATION  
THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES • AFRICAN AMERICAN HEALTH COALITION, INC



## Victim Gunned Down in Southeast

Chauntee Lamont Johnson, 28, was fatally shot on Friday, July 22 at 7:54 p.m. in the parking lot of Sun's Market on Southeast Division Street.

Witnesses said the shooting occurred while Johnson was talking with two African American males sitting in an early 1990s, medium blue or green col-



Chauntee Lamont Johnson

ored Ford Escort with a spoiler on the trunk, low profile tires and custom wheels. The car fled the area immediately after the shooting.

Anyone with information in this investigation is asked to call Detective Barry Renna at 503-823-0255 or Detective Mike Geiger at 503-823-0768.

## Help is Just a Call Away

continued ▲ from Front

individuals, emergency response teams and mental health programs.

"We really encourage everyone and everyone to call us if there's any question whatsoever. There's never a wrong or stupid question. As long as it has something to do with mental health, we welcome the call," Kang said.

With a constantly updated database of information, the center acts works with a bilingual counseling and referral service, a mobile outreach team, and emergency transportation by communicating with other local public agencies.

Getting the word out about utilizing the hotline is important to the department, because while everyone knows an emergency number like 9-1-1, the fact there's also a centralized emergency mental health hotline to call isn't as prevalent.

"It's a little more obscure," Kang said. "There's often a stigma that can be attached to having mental health issues, so that can also be a deterrent. Sometimes people don't realize they need mental health assistance. It's just

not as obvious as a bone sticking out of your leg."

David Hidalgo, program manager for the program, said that reasons for calling run the gamut from being upset with an employer, being out of food, being beaten by a spouse, or being worried about one's own ability to keep themselves safe.

Hidalgo said being able to talk to a trained counselor anonymously about one's issues helps when the caller is in the midst of a problem, because an objective viewpoint allows the issue to be worked on without biased opinion.

"If someone is depressed and uncertain, there's certainly always help available. It's sometimes hard to see that if you don't feel great. The treatments have been researched, but the only way to get that is to speak to someone and seek support. People taking that first step is the major thing," Hidalgo said.

The Mental Health Call Center can be reached at 503-988-4888 or toll free at 1-800-716-9769. For more information on the program, visit [www.co.multnomah.or.us/dchs/mhas](http://www.co.multnomah.or.us/dchs/mhas).