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PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Nurse Practitioner Mariah Taylor (right) locked out and terminated from the community health clinic she founded 26 years ago.

## Clinic Founder Sets Record Straight

BY SARAH BLOUNT  
 THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A messy and ongoing dispute between the North Portland Community Health Clinic and its founder Mariah Taylor spilled onto the street last week.

Taylor and some of her former patients rallied in protest to her termination in front of the clinic's new offices on North Killingsworth Street.

The veteran nurse, who has been revered for serving poor and

underinsured children, founded the clinic 26 years ago but was locked out by her board of directors after a dispute late last year. Taylor said the board wanted to limit what patients she helps and what low-cost or free medicines she offered.

After months of arbitration, the clinic's new management offered Taylor severance pay. But her employment was terminated after she rejected the offer.

In a press release issued last week, Taylor described the dispute

as a personal nightmare. "This is the ending of a vision for the community to have access to health care for the poor and uninsured," she wrote.

Taylor was a pioneer in the Portland community when in 1980 she founded the state's first African American woman-owned and operated clinic of its kind. It was often referred to as the "clinic of last resort" and Taylor received national recognition on the Oprah Winfrey show.

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PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

## Streets Flood in Heavy Rain

Heavy rain and falling leaves creates many new rivers on Portland streets. The forecast calls for more of the same for most of the remaining week. City crews are working to clear roads of standing water, and say residents can help keep roads open by clearing leaves and debris from curbs. Drivers are asked to be especially cautious of pedestrians due to the rain and darkness. Call 503-823-1700 to report a hazard or help in clearing a catch basin.

## Family Adds to Reward Fund

The family of Loretha Williams is offering up to \$10,000, in addition to the \$10,000 offered by Crime Stoppers, for information leading to an arrest in Williams' murder 18 years ago.

30-year-old Williams was found murdered in her home at 1305 N.E. Junior St. on Sept. 27, 1988, having died from multiple stab wounds.

Anyone with knowledge about this death can call Crime Stoppers at 503-823-HELP(4357) or contact Luke Williams at 503-946-5019 or Stanley Williams at 503-252-6674.

## Sheriff Guisto Apologizes for Remarks

Multnomah County Sheriff Bernie Guisto apologized after comparing the county's jails to Arkansas and using language some considered racist by his declaration.

"We be jailers." Guisto made the remark along with a reference to running a "jailin' system -j-a-i-l-i-n, no 'g'..." in a news conference last week following a report by the district attorney that found fault in county jail management and spending.

called for him to resign. An apology statement from the sheriff said his use of bad grammar was an attempt to articulate that "we have an inappropriate jail system for an enlightened county."

Skipper Osborne, former president of the Portland NAACP, called Guisto's statements racist and

including neighborhood activist Willie Brown and Bruce Broussard, a Republican running for Congress, did not find the comments racist.

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