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Special Coverage Issue

Black History Month and 1

Support for St. Andrew

Local landmark is half way through a campaign to modernize facilities See story, page A11



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PHOTO BY JAKE THOMAS/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Five stories of housing dedicated to low and moderate incomes proves popular on North Interstate Avenue as the Patton Park Apartments open at full capacity this week and with a waiting list of 500 people.

## Housing Full at Opening Patton Park built for economic relief

BY JAKE THOMAS  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Melody Isom has lived in north and northeast Portland for years and has witnessed the ups and downs of economic growth. She's particularly fond of one change, though—the new apartment she lives in.

Isom is one of the newest residents at Patton Park Apartments, an afford-

able housing complex on North Interstate Avenue just down from the Killingsworth Max Light Rail Station.

"I love it," said Isom of her new pad, which overlooks the city and the Cascade Mountains. It's an easy commute to her work on Swan Island, and the rent is low enough to keep all her other bills paid, she said.

Families and individuals are seeing

housing take a bigger bite out of their paychecks as properties values have soared during the housing bubble. North Portland has been no exception.

Recently REACH Community Development, a non-profit geared toward providing affordable housing,

*continued* ▼ on page A8

## Economic Stimulus

Versions differ, but all pack a punch

BY JAKE THOMAS  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

As the economy sputters, teeters and hemorrhages jobs, the state and federal government are gearing up to pump billions of dollars into infrastructure projects and tax breaks in hopes of getting it humming again.

Gov. Ted Kulongoski signed \$175 million state-wide stimulus bill last week aimed at funding delayed maintenance projects across the state. It's aimed at pumping money into the local economy in hopes of getting people back to work in a state that has seen its unemployment numbers ebb on 10 percent.

The U.S. House of Representatives recently passed an \$819 billion economic stimulus bill to help the states, give people on public assistance a boost in benefits, and fund a long list of infrastructure projects that could put people back to work, among other provisions. The bill also gives \$500 tax credit to individuals and \$1,000 to couples to be passed along in small increments with peoples' paychecks.

An analysis by the left-leaning Center for American Progress says Oregon would get \$6.37 billion, with about 12 percent set aside to balance the budget. Under the same analysis of the Senate's version of the federal stimulus, the state will get \$7.07 billion, with nearly 11 percent dedicated to helping balance the state budget.

On Tuesday, the U.S. Senate passed its version of the bill. Although this makes the stimulus closer to final passage, not everyone is cheering.

The Senate version gives less money in direct aide to states, which could result in deeper cuts for Oregon's budgets. One area that could be particularly hard hit is schools.

"We don't really know what the affects will be," said Matt Shelby, spokesperson for Portland Public Schools, who said that there is a difference of \$400 million in direct aide for Oregon between the House and Senate of the bills.

More money means that PPS could keep schools open and not have to shuffle staff to cope with budget



Urban League of Portland President Marcus Mundy says community organizations of color might have funding slashed as final stimulus package is crafted.

cuts, said Shelby. It also meant more money for capital improvements of the aging schools, he added. Monday night, the school board passed a resolution supporting full funding.

The House and Senate bills need to be reconciled in conference. It's unclear how this will be accomplished since the Senate bill only passed with the support of three Republicans who wanted less money spent on schools and other provisions.

"It's not a perfect bill," Julie Edwards, spokesperson for Sen. Jeff Merkley, D-Ore.

Edwards concedes that that a recent Congressional Budget Office

*continued* ▼ on page A9

## Decades of Forced Sterilizations Cast Ripples

Play tells about violations of most personal rights

A secret with historical weight that continues to cast silent, powerful ripples in our community is told in the play "Perfection," currently on stage for Black History Month at the Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center in north Portland.

Oregon was part of a nationwide movement of forced sterilization of men and women beginning in the early 1900s through as late as 1971. If you were on any government assistance, welfare, foster care, if you were a minority with potential of becoming a ward of the state

your most personal rights could be violated.

"Perfection" explores the human fall out of social engineering through the eyes of Anna May Dobbs, both victim and collaborator of forced sterilizations during Oregon's little known Eugenics era.

In 2000, former Gov. John Kitzhaber issued a public apology to the thousands of forced sterilization victims in Oregon. It was the first time many Oregonians had ever heard of the state's eight decades of participation in the Eugenics.



Thought state sterilization laws have been removed from the books, institutionalized oppression against those who are not wealthy, healthy and white dove underground and still influences social and political policies today. "Perfection" seeks to put a face and a heart to the continuing legacy of the Eugenics movement.

*continued* ▼ on page A10

◀ A play about the forced sterilization of men and women during the Eugenics era, especially for minorities and the disadvantaged, takes the stage for Black History Month at the Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center in north Portland.

### Week in The Review



#### First Lady Gives Back

First lady Michelle Obama says it is important to think about where

you've come from and how you can give back. That's one of the messages she carried with her Tuesday on a visit to a Washington, D.C. social services center, where she got down on the carpeted floor to read with toddlers and, separately, chatted up a group of teenagers.

#### \$3 Trillion Attacks Crisis

The Obama administration, Federal Reserve and Senate attacked the deepening economic crisis Tuesday with actions that could throw as much as \$3 trillion more in government and private funds into the fight against frozen credit markets and rising joblessness.

#### Brown Booked for Assault

Police booked singer Chris Brown on Sunday for investigation of making a criminal threat after a woman accused him of assaulting her the night before the Grammy Awards. The Los Angeles Times has reported that the woman is pop superstar Rihanna, his longtime girlfriend.

#### Burgerville Eyes Beer, Wine

A Burgerville restaurant in the Salmon Creek neighborhood of

Vancouver wants a liquor license to serve beer and wine. The application drew a protest from Oregon Partnership. The non-profit is concerned about any trend that would combine alcohol sales in fast food outlets with its young customers and employees.

#### Gunfire Hurts Teenager

A suspected gang related shooting critically injured a 15-year-old boy on Sunday afternoon in the area of Northeast 42nd and Emerson Street. After he was shot in the chest, the victim went to an acquaintance's home for help and police eventually found him there.

#### Birds Shifting North

An Audubon Society report on Tuesday said climate change is pushing American birds northward, with some finches and chickadees moving hundreds of miles into Canada's Boreal Forest.

39 years of community service