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## Call Her LeToya

Former member of Destiny's Child hits her stride as a solo R&B star  
See story, page A10

## Busted is No Bust

A new tabloid blasts photos of arrestees in the Portland area but not everyone is a fan  
See story, page A3



# The Portland Observer

'City of Roses'

Established in 1970

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## Week in The Review

### Sheriff Throws in Towel

Multnomah County Sheriff Bob Skipper announced Tuesday that he will retire in November. Lawmakers passed a law earlier this year allowing Skipper to get out of a mandatory 16-week basic training course if he could pass a written test, but Skipper twice failed the open-book exam.



### Portland Police to Hand out Business Cards

Portland police will now begin handing out business cards whenever they interact with the public. City Council made the decision last week while discussing the issue of racial profiling.

### Green Line Debuts Saturday

TriMet's MAX Green Line opens to the public on Saturday, Sept. 12, and reaches a major milestone of connecting all three counties by light rail. TriMet's fifth MAX route, the new service extends from downtown Portland to Clackamas County.

### Sotomayor Takes Seat

Justice Sonia Sotomayor took her seat at the Supreme Court Tuesday in front of a packed courtroom that included President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden. Sotomayor, 55, last month became the first Hispanic and third woman to be a justice. See story, page A2.

### Obama Challenges Kids

In a pep talk that kept clear of politics, President Barack Obama on Tuesday challenged the nation's students to take pride in their education — and stick with it even if they don't like every class or must overcome tough circumstances at home. See story, page A6.

### Congress Back to Work

The nation's elected representatives are back at work after an August recess where they spoke with constituents about the proposals to overhaul the nation's health care system. It's not clear what shape the debate might take in coming months, especially over plans for a government-run insurance option.

### Gas Prices Steady

The AAA reported that Oregonians are paying an average of \$2.82 for a gallon of regular gas, while the rest of the country shells out \$2.58 on average. A year ago, a gallon of gas cost about \$3.70 in Oregon.

### H1N1 Epidemic at WSU

Officials at Washington State University in Pullman are hoping they're out of the woods after an outbreak of the H1N1 virus appears to have subsided. When the school reopened its doors last month for fall classes, 2,500 people contacted the health center reporting flue-like symptoms.

39  
years of  
community service

# State of Hate

## As racists age, disparate groups sprout anew

BY JAKE THOMAS  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

"Stumptown," and "the City of Roses," are monikers associated with the progressive, livable city of Portland.

But Portland is also known by a less sanguine nickname: "Skinhead City."

Hate groups once had a widely-felt presence in Portland. But those who track white supremacists in Oregon say that the membership of established hate groups has aged, giving rise to more disparate groups that are more difficult for law enforcement to monitor.

With Oregon's hate groups in a state of flux, it's increasingly difficult to assess how dangerous they might be, according to hate group monitors.

Since the collapse of the confederacy at the end of the Civil War white supremacists have viewed the Pacific Northwest as a potential all-white homeland. Oregon has had its share of violent outbursts motivated from racial hatred in the 1980s and 1990s, and two notorious hate groups were spawned in its prisons.

In 1994, Volksfront was founded by four inmates in an Oregon prison, according to information from the Anti-Defamation League. The founders included Randal Krager, who served time for an assault on an African-American

father of four who was left paralyzed, and for making threatening phone calls to Jewish people, among other offenses.

A hulking man with a Nazi "SS" tattoo on his forearm, Krager was pivotal in building Volksfront to one of the Pacific Northwest's most prolific hate



Nazi symbols inflame passions of hate in an undated photo.

groups.

Volksfront grew rapidly. It drew membership from prisons and people right off the street. It slid its tentacles into Portland's white working class, and

reached out to youths struggling with their identity.

It put out racist publications and sponsored rock concerts featuring bands with names like "Intimidation One" and "Jew Slaughter." Its members committed violent acts throughout the Northwest, including a cross burning

and the brutal murder of a man in Tacoma, Washington in 2004.

At its height, Volksfront was forging alliances with other hate groups. It claimed to have purchased property in

the Pacific Northwest for a whites-only homeland, and was setting up international chapters.

But around the late 1990s and early 2000s something changed with Volksfront. News reports noted the group's diminished presence, and to the surprise of many, Krager renounced violence. The organization's website now presents itself as "an international fraternal organization for persons of European Decent."

According to Ryan Burkeen, a deputy with the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office, Volksfront is less prominent because its core membership has aged. Some of them now have families, and are tired of cycling in and out of prison, he said.

"We don't deal on the street with Volksfront. We just don't," said Burkeen who has been working on gang issues for the last five years. He adds that the last large public display from the group was Aryansfest in 2005. The event was held in Cascade Locks and attracted about 200 people and concluded without incident.

Randy Blazak, an associate professor of sociology at Portland State University and researcher with the Coali-

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# Garlington Center Reborn

## Vital urban clinic back on its feet

BY JAKE THOMAS  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Barbara Angel has been going to northeast Portland's Garlington Center for nearly 14 years, where she receives quality mental health care from professionals who seem to genuinely care about her outcome. That's why she stuck it out with Garlington through its roughest year.

Last October, an arson fire rendered the building on Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard unusable. The devastation came on top of financial troubles for the clinic which has served as a vital resource for disadvantaged and minority populations.

Angel had to squeeze into a cramped single-wide trailer in clinic's back parking lot for nearly a year for counseling sessions. Other clients had to take long bus rides to a clinic in southeast Portland.

But last month, Angel and the clinic's roughly 500 other clients stepped into a refurbished Garlington Center.

After a year of flirting with financial and physical collapse, the Garlington Center was back on its feet and is getting settled into a revamped building. It also has two new health service providers as neighbors which will dovetail with the center's unique mission.

A "suspicious" fire later deemed to be arson. The people who relied on the clinic had to use trailers in the back parking lot, or take long bus rides to another clinic in southeast Portland until early last month when Garlington reopened its doors.

Cascadia was first thrust into financial uncertainty in April



PHOTO BY JAKE THOMAS/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Cascadia Behavioral Healthcare executive Derald Walker (left) and Amy Baker, senior director of outpatient services, usher in the opening of a completely refurbished Garlington Center mental health clinic at 3034 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. The old clinic was destroyed in an arson fire.

2008 when the non-profit's bank called in a loan that was keeping it afloat.

Derald Walker, Cascadia's chief executive officer, said he wasn't even sure if the clinic

could pay its staff or keep its doors open.

But after an outpouring of

community support for the clinic, Multnomah County government agreed to step in with financial support.

"We rallied, and we came together," said Essie Morphis, another patient at Garlington. "We wanted to keep the center."

Walker said that he never doubted Cascadia would prevail.

"But there were times where I think I was the only one who believed that," he added.

According to Walker, Cascadia now has its financial house in order, and a ceremonial ribbon will be cut to mark the occasion with Garlington clients and staff hosting a grand opening for the center on Friday, Sept. 11 at noon.

The center's floor is freshly carpeted. Its walls exude warmth from the carefully selected colors. Its waiting room is inviting and spacious. Artwork from patients adorns the walls. The smell of sawdust and drying paint still lingers.

"It doesn't feel like you're in a psych ward," said Morphis.

The center is named after Rev. John Garlington, an African American minister who worked tirelessly for the poor, and fills a unique niche in Portland.

According to Amy Baker, senior director of outpatient services, African Americans make up over a third of the patients at the Garlington Center.

The center utilizes a holistic, culturally-sensitive approach to behavioral healthcare that incorporates family and community members into the patient's treatment. People who rely on the clinic also get help finding housing and developing a medication regimen.

"We come from a recovery service model, which basically means we believe anybody can live in the community and have

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