

# The Portland Observer



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## Week in The Review

### NCAA Games to Return

The first and second round games in the men's NCAA basketball tournament will be held at the Rose Garden in 2012, the league announced Monday. The games had been absent from Oregon for more than a quarter-century until Portland hosted the sold-out games last year.

### Jobless Numbers Rise

The Portland metropolitan area's latest unemployment rate has gone up to 11.6 percent, up from 11.1 percent in July, which confirmed predictions that Oregon is in for a slow economic recovery.

### House Considers Extended Unemployment Benefits

The House is taking up emergency legislation to help the millions of Americans who are about to run out of unemployment benefits. A bill offered by Rep. Jim McDermott, D-Wash., and expected to pass easily, would provide 13 weeks of extended benefits in states where unemployment is above 8.5 percent.



### Massive Floods Hit Georgia

Torrents of rain have soaked parts of Georgia, causing massive flooding and claiming six lives. The governor has advised people to stay inside.

### High School Coaches Guilty

The head football coach at Lincoln High School and an assistant pleaded guilty to charges of interfering with the police and were sentenced to community service last week. The charges stem from an incident on the Rose Quarter Interstate Max Platform shortly after an Ultimate Fighting event. The coaches are on paid leave while the school district investigates.

### Vancouver Teacher Killed

Gordon Patterson, a career and technical teacher at Hudson Bay High School in Vancouver, died last week after being hit by a car while riding his bicycle. The suspect fled, but was later caught.

### Healthcare Mandate proposed

Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., the chair of pivotal committee in efforts to overhaul the nation's healthcare system, has unveiled a draft bill that would require all Americans to purchase health insurance or pay a steep fine, in addition to other sweeping changes.

### Fall Officially Here

Tuesday, Sept. 22 marked the first day of fall. The season was brought in with 90-degree heat.

### ACORN Investigation

President Barack Obama called for an investigation of the community organization, ACORN, after a video shot with a hidden camera revealed ACORN staff giving advice to a couple posing as a pimp and a prostitute on how to launder money. Congress has already stripped ACORN of its funding.

# Are You Breastfeeding?

## Maximize your child's health

BY AMANDA GREAR  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Six-month-old Hayven Ollison playfully squeals while sitting on her mother's lap in her southeast Portland living room. She's draped in a purple Onesie and white lounge pants. She has thick black, tightly curled hair and smooth chocolate skin.

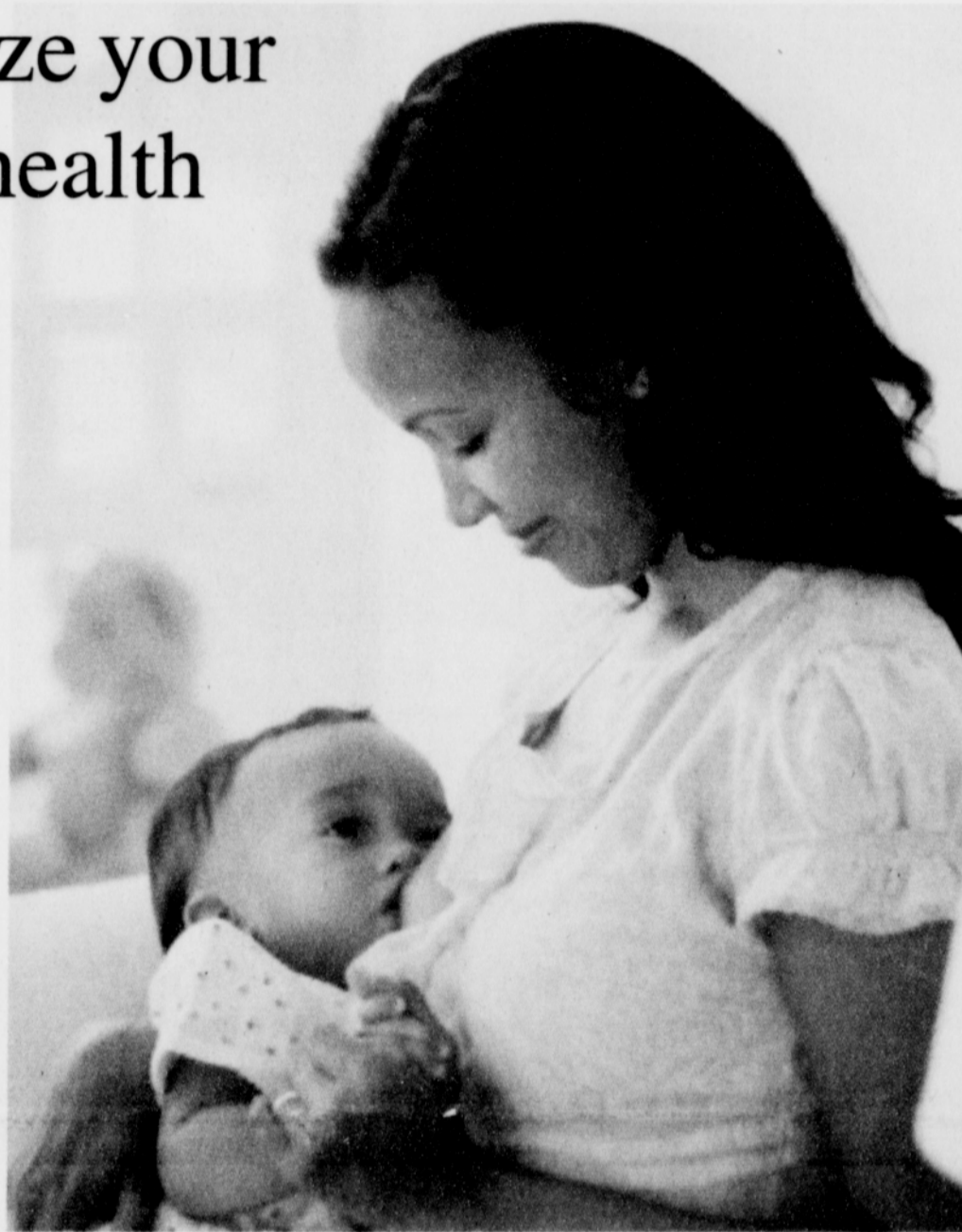
Hayven is a healthy baby girl in part because her mother, LaRoma Ollison, made a decision many of her African American peers chose not to.

Her mother chose to breastfeed her daughter.

With September designated as National Infant Mortality Awareness Month, health officials are encouraging mothers to take up breastfeeding to help maintain the health of their young.

The U.S. already has one of the highest infant mortality rates in the industrialized world, with African Americans experiencing a disproportionate gap in the outcome of successful births.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, blacks experience 13.6 deaths per 1,000 live



A mother adoringly breastfeeds her infant.

births, which is more than twice the rate for their white counterparts.

Breastfeeding promotes

health, helps to prevent disease and reduces health care and feeding costs. Yet only

59 percent of black mothers

breastfeed their babies compared to over 75 percent of white mothers, according to the CDC.

The decision by mothers not to breastfeed could have serious consequences.

Experts agree that human breast milk is the healthiest form of milk for human babies. There are a few exceptions, such as when the mother is taking certain drugs or is infected with tuberculosis or HIV.

Children who are not breastfed are at higher risk of suffering from diarrhea, respiratory illnesses, developing ear infections, childhood obesity, and diabetes.

Breast milk is critical for infants to survive, according to Kristin Sasseen, Nutrition Consultant with the Oregon Food Program.

"Parents do know breastfeeding is best. The message is out there," she said.

Breastfeeding also reduces the mother's chances of getting breast and ovarian cancer, and aids in post-pregnancy weight loss.

So why aren't more African Americans nursing their babies?

"A lot of it seems to be related to economics," explained Sasseen. "Any population that has higher percentages of low-income families has a lower percentage of breastfeeding."

"Many parents believe it

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# Under the Microscope

Portland Development Commission charts a new course

BY JAKE THOMAS  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A new effort by the Portland Development Commission to boost economic activity in north and northeast Portland has triggered guarded optimism and outright pessimism from community leaders looking to breathe new life into minority-owned businesses and bring jobs to the local population.

The PDC is also hoping that the North/Northeast Economic Development Initiative will improve the agency's image with residents of the area, which have long viewed the development agency with suspicion.

The initiative will give a hard look at how the PDC spends urban renewal funds and will examine expanding the borders of two urban renewal areas to include portions of Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Lombard Street, in addition to other residential and commercial areas.

James Posey, a local activist and African American resident who owns several small businesses, wants the



PHOTO BY JAKE THOMAS/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER  
John Jackley promotes the creation of minority-owned businesses along Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. Jackley is director of communications and business equity for the Portland Development Commission.

PDC to help African American businesses expand their horizons.

Instead of barbecue joints and hair salons he wants to

see the black community of north and northeast Portland own industrial businesses that pay family-wage jobs.

He also wants the PDC to

take steps to insulate small cafes from national chains, like Starbucks.

"People with these jobs are in a better position to feed

their families," said Posey. "We need to have a broader range of businesses and ser-

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