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### Medical Marijuana Reversal

Feds won't go after patients who comply with state law  
See story, page A3

### Morning Star Revival

Burned out church begins to rebuild  
See story, page A2



# The Portland Observer



Established in 1970

Committed to Cultural Diversity

www.portlandobserver.com

Volume XXXIV, Number 41

Wednesday • October 21, 2009

## Week in The Review

### Walton Apologizes



A tearful Bill Walton apologized to Portland Trail Blazers fans Friday, 30 years after leaving the team he led to its only NBA championship. The 56-year-old said he regretted the circumstances in which he left the Blazers family and hoped to make things better in the future.

### Jobs May Not Return

Even with an economic revival, many U.S. jobs lost during the recession may be gone forever and a weak employment market could linger for years. See story, page A2.

### Portland Jobless Jumps

The unemployment rate in Portland rose to 11.7 percent in September, up from 11.4 percent in August. Officials said an estimated 127,000 area residents were looking for work, compared to 60,600 more than one year ago.

### Michelle to go on Leno

First Lady Michelle Obama will be a guest on "The Jay Leno Show" on Friday night. Obama will check in via satellite for the "Ten @ Ten" segment, where she'll answer a series of 10 questions from Leno.



### Beyonce Delays Show

R&B star Beyonce Knowles has postponed a planned concert in Malaysia, the event organizer said Monday, following accusations by Islamic conservatives that the show would be immoral. Female artists at Malaysian concerts are required by government rules to cover up from the shoulders to knees.



### Flu Vaccine Runs Short

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Friday that it anticipates a smaller allocation than expected of the H1N1 vaccine during October due to a slower manufacturing process. See story, page A3

### Hospitals Restrict Visitors

Hospitals around the country are turning away visiting children and tightening restrictions on adults in hopes of limiting the spread of the H1N1 flu. Others are posting signs that urge people of any age to postpone that visit if they have a sniffle or cough.

### College Tuition Climbs

Average tuition at four-year public colleges in the U.S. climbed 6.5 percent to \$7,020 this fall as schools passed on much of their own financial problems, according to an annual report from the College Board.

# Police, Fire or Ambulance...

## Aim to diversify has mixed results

BY JAKE THOMAS  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Of the over 100 academic programs at Portland Community College, maybe none have more direct bearing on peoples' lives than its emergency services curriculum, which train the next generations of fire fighters, 911 dispatchers, medical technicians, and others.

And that's why PCC has been working to increase diversity in these programs, so that minority communities can be best served in times of distress. However, the college still has work to do to make sure these programs reflect the people they serve.

Kal Robertson, the director of the emergency services programs for the PCC Cascade Campus in north Portland, explained that it's important to have minorities in these positions because they know best



Kal Robertson is the director of emergency services programs for the Portland Community College Cascade Campus.

how to communicate and get in touch with their communities in an emergency situation.

"It just helps to make the relationship a lot stronger and a lot better," she said.

PCC has taken steps to diversify the ranks of students studying in emergency service fields by doing outreach with high schools with high concentrations of minorities, non-profits, and minority communities.

The Fire Protection Program, which trains firefighters, used to be housed out in Gresham, but was moved in 2003 to PCC's Cascade Campus, which is located in one of the most diverse parts of Portland.

"It's not by accident at all," said Ed Lindsay, who chairs the program, of the program's location.

The college has also taken small steps to get white stu-

dents accustomed to working with minorities. The dummies used to train emergency medical technicians are designed to resemble both black and white people.

Robertson said that once PCC expands its facilities, thanks to a \$374 million bond passed by voters last November, it will build a realistic simulation lab featuring life-like dummies in the likeness of Asians,

Hispanics, and African Americans that moan, groan, and cry. "Our students, in Oregon, might not come in contact with a dark skin person until they are in the field," said Robertson.

Results from their efforts, so far, have been a mixed bag.

According to data provided by PCC, the number of minorities in the college's Emergency

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# Food Stamp Demand Unprecedented

## Each day sees 540 new recipients

New figures released from the Oregon Department of Human Services show that assistance to Oregon families through food stamps is unprecedented and officials expect to see continued growth in the need for assistance to individuals and families.

Since Oregon's economic downturn began more than a year ago, the number of food stamp recipients has increased by nearly 34 percent.

There were 482,407 individuals on food stamps, formally called the Supplemental

Nutrition Assistance Program in July 2008, and that number increased to a total of 645,234 individuals last month.

Food stamps are funded by federal dollars, and Oregonians are receiving an additional \$247 million through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

State officials said the increase helped in two ways — by providing more resources to help people who are feeling the impact of the economic downturn and by putting additional money back into the local economy.

"Without these federal dollars we would not be able to help all the people who need us and communities would be



Dr. Bruce Goldberg

struggling more," said Dr. Bruce Goldberg, director of the Oregon Department of Human Services.

Over the past 15 months, an average of 540 new recipients per day received SNAP/food

stamp benefits. In order to keep up with the increased pace, the Children, Adults and Families Division at DHS has transformed its intake process to reduce wait times and eliminate backlogs.

"The services we provide touch the lives of many Oregonians every day, and that is why it is so important that we continue to do our jobs well. Because of our streamlining efforts, Oregonians receive their benefits an average of nine days sooner than they did before. In most places across the state, it's same-day service," said Erinn Kelley-Siel, director of the DHS Children, Adults and Families Division. Kelley-Siel also praised

partner organizations, such as food banks and faith-based organizations, for their help in addressing hunger in the state.

"It takes all of us in our communities to ensure that Oregonians meet their most basic need — food for their families," she said.

Like food stamp benefits, demand for cash assistance through the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program has also increased since last year.

In September, a total of 24,632 families with children received temporary assistance in Oregon, an increase of 22 percent over last year. The program,

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# Local Students Give Back At Self Enhancement, kids learn values

BY JAKE THOMAS  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Who says teenagers are apathetic?

At Self Enhancement Inc., a non-profit academy in north Portland, five 8th graders have spearheaded an effort to gather food for Portland's neediest residents, and learned to appreciate what they have in their own lives.

The initiative dubbed "Got Food? Let's Share!" grew out of a class discussion on ways to give back to the community.

LaVerne Green, the students' teacher, asked what students would do for others once they were out of school. The students decided now was the time to give back, and began organizing a food drive.

Five students formed a committee to complete the effort, and divided up the work among themselves.

The school had made a similar effort last year that didn't go well, but this year was different.

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PHOTO BY JAKE THOMAS/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Students Tressina Eddinger (from left), Marlando Sparks, Daytreiona Jackson, Delmody Tillman and Naiqwan Penn are leading an effort at Self Enhancement Inc. to get food for the needy.

40 years of community service