

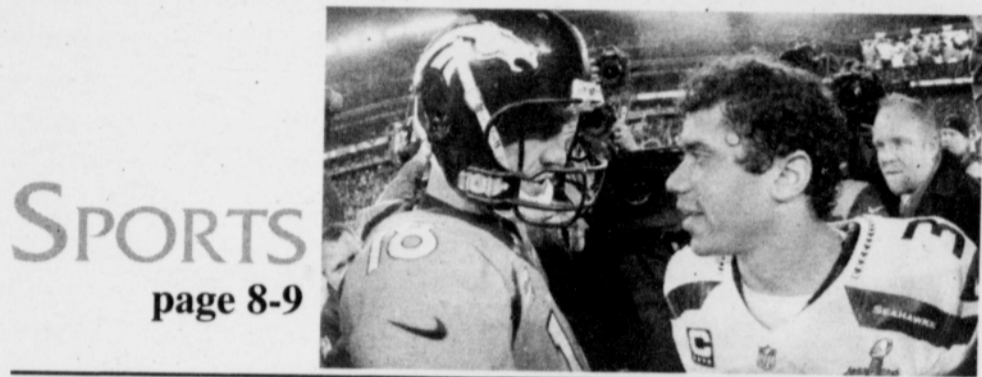
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# Fred Meyer

What's on your list today?

# LOCAL NEWS



PHOTO BY DONOVAN M. SMITH/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Tny Hopson and Former Sen. Avel Gordly address media and community members Monday at the site of a proposed Trader Joe's on the corner of Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Alberta Street. The gathering took place just a couple of hours after the national retailer announced it pulled out of a deal with the Portland Development Commission and Majestic Realty Co. of Los Angeles to bring the specialty grocer to the heart of Portland's African American community.

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### Trader Joes deal collapses after public outcry

By DONOVAN M. SMITH THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Specialty grocer Trade Joe's has pulled out of a controversial deal with the Portland Development Commission and Majestic Realty Co. of Los Angeles that would have seen the construction of the store outlet on a long-vacant two-acre stretch of land at the corner of Northeast Martin Luther King Boulevard and Alberta Street.

Monday's decision by the national retailer has left local community members, business owners and the city questioning what's next for this prime section of property, designated in long-range planning as the second half of Vanport Square, a commercial center serving the heart of Portland's historic African-American community.

Trader Joe's withdrawal was announced by a company spokesperson early Monday. It followed some loud protests from members of the community that the \$8 million development had the potential to further the gentrification of nearby neighborhoods and lacked community par-

ticipation in the PDC decision making.

"We think the Vanport Square area in northeast Portland is a great neighborhood and we had been interested in opening a store there. Given negative reactions from the community about our arrival, we will not be opening a store in the area," a statement for the company said.

Trader Joe's said it only opens a limited number of stores each year, in communities across the country. "We run neighborhood stores and our approach is simple: if a neighborhood does not want a Trader

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## Black History Health Screenings

### Church to host 'A Day of Wellness'

In celebration of Black History Month the community is invited to "A Day of Wellness" hosted by Teaching God's Word Faith Ministries at the Calvary Christian Church, 126 N.E. Alberta St. The program is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 8 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

There will be a free wellness check for body fat, blood pressure,

stroke prevention, and risk factor screenings and education by the Legacy Emanuel Cardiac Rehab team.

Information will also be presented on preventing falls for seniors with the Legacy Emanuel Trauma Nurses Talk Tough team. Legacy Good Samaritan dietician and diabetes educators will also be on site with health education materials. The Legacy Emanuel Black Employees Resource Group will be volunteering at the event.

Pastor Vanessa Turner will be sharing excerpts from her first book,

"Pain, Pain, Go Away" emphasizing how to endure the silent pain of infertility. The African American Health Coalition will be signing up people for health insurance with CoverOregon as well as to sharing information about their role in community-wide health.

"For too long the Faith community have focused on the spiritual side and have went lacking with the wellness side. God is concerned about the whole body which includes our health," said Oreatha Johnson, a church outreach member and long-time worker in the health field.