



QR code for
Portland Observer
Online

The PO



Victory for Trans Student

*But struggle for better polices
at George Fox continues*
See Local News, page 3

Real Life Drama

*Our 'Opinionated
Judge' on a new film
that captures the
soul of growing up*
See Metro, page 9



The Portland Observer 44

'City of Roses'



Volume XLIV
Number 30



www.portlandobserver.com
Wednesday • July 30, 2014

Established in 1970
Committed to Cultural Diversity

44
years of
community service



BY DONOVAN M. SMITH/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Commuters rely on public transit in growing numbers as the Portland metro area's population continues to climb. While the regional government Metro and other local jurisdictions now expect another 400,000 people to move here in the next 20 years, they don't have any forecasts on what that means specifically for communities of color already impacted by gentrification, low employment and other factors.

Grow, Portland, Grow! Impacts on race not studied in population forecast

BY DONOVAN M. SMITH
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Portland, you're growing. Metro's latest projections see the region swelling to about 3 million people in the next 20 years, an increase of around 400,000 people. For communities of color already impacted by gentrification, low employment and other factors, what does that mean for the future?

Metro's '2015 Growth Management Decision' report, released earlier this month, assesses the capacity of the

region's urban areas to accommodate housing and jobs for the added population. But one thing that the report does not account for and never has since the government agency began doing them in 1970, is the impact population growth has on race.

Urban League of Portland's Director of Advocacy and Public Policy for Midge Purcell says that fact in itself is problematic. The non-profit social services and civil rights organization is currently working on the second installment

of their State of Black Oregon report, started in 2009. The report combines data, narrative, and lived experience to illustrate the social and economic realities of black people in Oregon.

Finding good housing and gainful employment is especially acute in the African-American community. According to the city's planning bureau, blacks have the lowest annual median

continued ▼ on page 4