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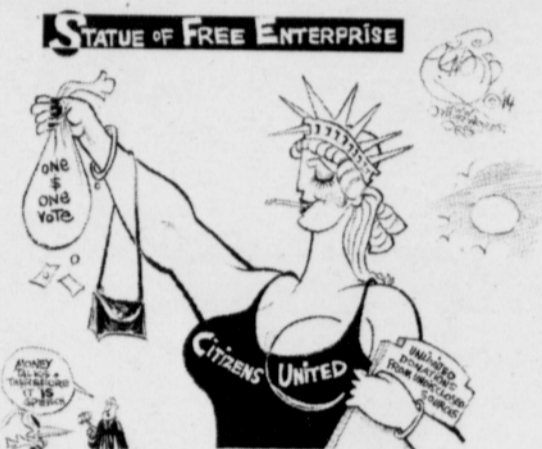
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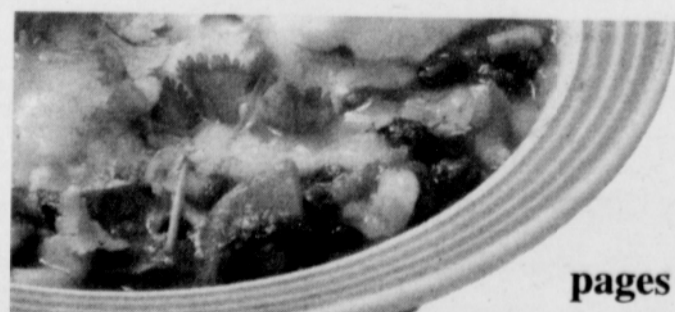


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What's on your list today?.

LOCAL NEWS



A cell phone picture shows Kevin Johnson, 29, recovering from a stab wound to the heart at Oregon Health and Sciences University.

Terror on a Portland Street

Veteran helps woman and nearly loses his life

BY OLIVIA OLIVIA
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A Portland veteran needs help with devastating medical bills but is thankful to be alive after being stabbed in the heart when he came to the aid of a female in distress on a southeast Portland street.

Kevin Johnson, 29, said he was walking home with a female friend from a night out on Halloween near 92nd and Clinton when they saw a terrorized woman in a parked car under assault by her male companion.

When Johnson and his friend stopped to ensure the safety of the woman in question, things took a turn for the worse.

Johnson said he moved to take a picture of the vehicle's license plate



Kevin Johnson on duty in 2009 as a gunner for the U.S. Armed Forces in Iraq.

with his phone as a way to inform authorities. That's when the man in the car first jumped out and struck Johnson's friend with a punch - a blow that he says knocked her out. When Johnson attempted to protect his friend, he says the agitated man attacked him instead - with a knife.

Johnson was stabbed in the heart, but managed to run away for three blocks before calling 911 and collapsing. He was taken to OHSU after experiencing significant blood loss and says "I prayed for my life, I begged God to let me live."

Johnson is left with mounting medical bills from his attack, for which he's started a crowdsource funding project on Go Fund Me. You can donate to his case by visiting gofundme.com/kevinsmiraclefund. Johnson is currently attempting to raise \$100,000, the costs of his medical bills.

Meanwhile, the accused attacker, Lamon Hayes Jr. was arrested and charged with attempted murder.

Johnson is giving thanks to Portland Police Detective Steve Forland and other members of the police bureau as well at the staff at OHSU, in particular the trauma team.

"Without them I would not be here," he said. "It's so great to be able to express my gratitude."

Elected Portland NAACP President

Members of the Portland branch of the NAACP have elected long time Portland activist and former state representative Jo Ann Hardesty as its president.

Hardesty has been a strong voice for police accountability through her leadership on the Albina Ministerial Alliance Coalition for Justice and Police Reform.

In other voting from the civil rights group's November election, announced by NAACP member Odessa Hendrix, James Posey was elected as first vice-president, followed by Debra Lindsay as second vice president and Cynthia Harris as third vice-president.

Other positions filled were Deborah Hall as secretary, Jeanine Clair as assistant secretary and Jereme Hampton as assistant treasurer.



Jo Ann Hardesty