

# The INSIDE

The Week in Review page 2

CALENDAR page 6



JEROME KERSEY page 7



METRO page 11



Arts & Entertainment  
pages 10-16



CLASSIFIEDS page 17

OPINION  
pages 18-19



This page  
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# Fred Meyer

What's on your list today?

## LOCAL NEWS



PHOTO BY OLIVIA OLIVIA/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The Ambridge Event Center, located next door to the Oregon Convention Center in northeast Portland, has apologized and offered to host Portland's Black PFLAG chapter for free after first turning away the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender support group's rental application.

### Making Amends

#### Gay organization welcomed back

BY OLIVIA OLIVIA  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The Ambridge Event Center, a popular event space in northeast Portland, has apologized to Portland's Black PFLAG chapter and offered to provide free meeting space for an upcoming anniversary party after first turning away the group in an action that may have violated Oregon's public accommodation laws.

Alan Peters, Ambridge manager, released a statement last week affirming that the Ambridge Center does not discriminate against po-

tential customers because of gender expression, sexual orientation, or race, among other things.

The statement was a dramatic turnaround from two weeks ago when an Ambridge Center employee wrote to PFLAG saying that because Holy Rosary Catholic Church down the street owned the event space, they would not be welcome because they are an LGBT organization. The employee, Elizabeth Gutierrez is now on leave, Peters said.

Church officials, while initially saying they needed to review their contract with Ambridge management to determine the grounds for renting space to various organizations, now say there is nothing to

prevent the rental.

"The Ambridge is an independent, private business that manages events in a building owned by our parish," said Father Vincent M. Kelber of the Holy Rosary Catholic Church. "I have reviewed our contract with Ambridge and see no reason why, under the terms of our contract, this event could not be held there. Had Ambridge asked, this is what we would have said."

Multnomah County property tax records show the Ambridge Center is a church facility and has received an exception from property taxes for the past decade.

Khalil Edwards, director of Portland's black PFLAG chapter, confirmed that the group would be holding their April anniversary party at the Ambridge, and would with-

*continued* ▼ on page 4

### Portland Rejoins Terrorism Task Force

A divided Portland City Council on Thursday voted 3-2 to assign two officers to the Joint Terrorism Task Force, despite objections from The Center for Intercultural Organizing, the Japanese American Citizens League, Jewish Voices for Peace, the American Civil Liberties Union, and notable African American leader Avel Gordly.

The decision reverses Portland's outlier status nationally as the only big city that doesn't assign officers to participate on a full-time basis.

Mayor Charlie Hales provided the decisive vote

for the city's involvement in the task force, joining commissioners Dan Saltzman and Nick Fish. Commissioners Amanda Fritz and Steve Novick voted against having Portland re-joining the anti-terrorism enforcement group, which the city left nearly 10 years ago.

Hales voted against involvement in the task force when he was a city commissioner in 2001. But "given events in the world, including the Boston Marathon bombing, Hales said he now supports having Portland re-join the force.