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LOCAL NEWS



PHOTO BY SHERRI KAVEN

Regional finalists from the August Wilson Monologue Competition pose for a photo before taking to the stage.

August in September

Local students explore black experience

With a trip to New York, cash prizes, and scholarship opportunities on the line, the August Wilson Monologue Competition could be the launching pad for Portland's next great thespian. This year, in addition to presentations at schools and nonprofit organi-

zations, the August Wilson Red Door Project has teamed up with Multnomah County Library for a series of September events.

Called "August in September," this series of interactive workshops will give students the opportunity to meet local actors, learn about August Wilson, and get more information on the life-changing competition that honors the great African-American playwright.

Competition participants study

and perform monologues from Wilson's plays with the hopes of competing in the finals at the August Wilson Theatre in New York City. Throughout the process, these students receive guidance from professional actors and mentor directors.

Beyond cash prizes and the chance to perform on Broadway, the competition gives all participating students invaluable experi-

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Renter Emergency Declared

Group protests evictions and rising rents

BY OLIVIA OLIVIA
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Citing the twin impacts of no-cause evictions this summer that impacted entire apartment complexes and big rent increases at other rentals that are forcing more residents into the streets or causing them to move out of the area to find something affordable, the Community Alliance of Tenants has declared a Renter State of Emergency.

The Alliance says it has responded to more no-cause evictions than ever before, including north Portland's Brentwood-Pinecrest Apartments where all the residents were issued no-cause evictions earlier this summer and cleared out in droves.

Oregon and Washington have statewide bans on rent control and allow for no-cause evictions, meaning that tenants can be handed eviction notices without a reason.

The result is that low-income residents, especially people of color, can be pushed out without reason — and with rental prices soaring, it is harder than ever to find

housing that will fit in a budget.

One tenant, Jose Bailey, shared his story of being forced out.

"We are a household of five on a fixed income. Any money we spend on application fees, which are about \$50 per person, is money taken away from our food, gas, bills, etc. We're Native American and Celt, disabled, veterans. My father was black ops in Vietnam and was also a teacher for over 25 years," Bailey said. "We should never have to face homelessness again."

According to a study released this year by the National Low In-

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