

Renter Emergency

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come Housing Coalition, Portland is one of the most gentrified cities in the nation and has among the highest rates of rent increases at the moment at over 13 percent annually.

For many people, Portland wages remain well below what is needed to pay for housing. A worker making minimum wage in Multnomah County, for example, would need to work 66 hours per week to afford a one-bedroom apartment, or 79 hours a week to afford a two-bedroom apartment.

“Unsurprisingly, no-cause evictions are at record levels,” wrote Justin Buri, executive director of the Community Alliance of Tenants in a public statement. “Landlords and developers issuing such evictions and dramatically raising rents are forcing responsible and reliable tenants out of housing, into one of the worst rental markets in history, without considering of the impact



PHOTO BY JUSTIN NORTON-KERTSON

Residents march across the Hawthorne Bridge to demand affordable housing and living wages. Last month's protest brought traffic to a standstill.

on the individual tenants, or our community.”

The Alliance, which is a non-profit,

member based, tenants-rights organization, held a rally and press conference last Tuesday night at Peninsula Park in north

Portland, hoping to gather the community and address the housing crisis tenants are facing.

August in September

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ence. Students engage with peers across the Portland area. They experience great friendship as well as a rigorous competition. In Master classes with professional actors, they immerse themselves in the themes, characters and language of Wilson plays in a safe, supportive, atmosphere. The experience enhances self-expression, leadership and public performance ability, skills that will serve

them throughout their lives.

Wilson's work has become a valuable piece of black history. His plays explored the black experience in America and appealed to audiences across the board. He won two Pulitzer Prizes, as well as numerous other honors.

According to multiple news outlets, a film adaptation of his play "Fences" will be the latest of his works to get a national audience, with Denzel Washington directing and Viola Davis cast in the

lead role.

Portland's August in September events include a series of interactive workshops that double as opportunities for local high schoolers to be a part of this historic

nationalwide competition. Teens can catch the series on Saturday, Sept. 19 at 12:30 p.m. at the Midland Library, 805 S.E. 122nd Ave.; Tuesday, Sept. 22 at 6 p.m. at the Kenton Library, 8226 N. Denver

Ave.; and Tuesday, Sept. 29 at 6 p.m. at the Albina Library, 3605 N.E. 15th Ave.

For more information, visit multcolib.org/events or reddoor-project.org/awmc.

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President Ronald Regan established Minority Enterprise Development Week in a statement on December 17, 1982. It is celebrated a full week in the first part of October. Our challenge today is to enhance the ability of minority Americans to participate in the market economy and to achieve greater economic independence. We are indebted to minority entrepreneurs for their contributions to our economic well being. They bring innovative products and services to the marketplace, create jobs and provide training to thousands of workers.

The Nation is undergoing the most difficult economic times in decades. With the high price of gas and a national economic down-trend, we are facing are most challenging times in America. However it is up to our small business communities to be able to aid in the recovery.

Minority Americans share in the aspiration to have the opportunity of business ownership. Every year the number of minority business ownership has increased representing the hope for opportunity. It is important to look at how minority businesses have added to Oregon's economy and its growth in the global market. *The Portland Observer* recognizes the contributions every year of disadvantaged, women-owned, minority and small emerging businesses with its Minority Business Special Edition to provide information and profile local minority business.

Please join us in this year special on September 30th, 2015. The deadline for advertisements and will be, September 26th, 2014 and for editorial submissions it will be September 23rd, 2015.

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