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The Week in Review

Rent Control Passes House

A bill that addresses the housing affordability crisis by boosting protections for renters was passed by the Oregon House Tuesday and now heads to the Senate. The proposal would bar landlords from increasing rent during the first year of month-to-month tenancy. After a year, rent increases would require a 90-day written notice. The bill would also require 90-day notices on tenancy terminations, up from the current 30-days.



Guantanamo in Crosshairs

President Obama Tuesday proposed to “once and for all” close the detention center at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba “Keeping this facility open is contrary to our values,” he said. “It undermines our standing in the world. It is viewed as a stain on our broader record of upholding the highest standards of rule of law.”

Gun Control Clears Hurdle

A compromise that would limit but still allow gun sales when background checks take longer than 10 days cleared the Oregon House on Monday and moves to the Senate. The bill seeks to close the so-

called “Charleston loophole,” where the suspected gunman in the mass shooting at a black church in Charleston, S.C. was able to purchase his weapon after errors pushed his background check past a three day window.

Arson Damages Church

A 46-year-old man admitted to setting a southeast Portland church on fire, along with a vacant house across the street early Sunday morning. Crews responded to Eastside Free Methodist Church at 139th Avenue and Stark Street just before 2 a.m. Jamie Calderon is facing arson charges.

Parking Garages Considered for Homeless

Mayor Charlie Hales is considering using some of Portland’s downtown parking garages as campsites for the homeless at night. Josh Alpert, the mayor’s chief of staff, said the garages could also serve as daytime storage for homeless campers who need a place to store their tents.

Mother who Killed Son Sentenced

A mother who threw her 6-year-old autistic son from the Yaquina Bay Bridge in Newport in 2014 will spend 25 years in prison. Meredith McCabe of Seal Rock pleaded guilty Tuesday in connection to the death of her son, London McCabe. Before she threw her son off the bridge, she suffered a mental breakdown and spent time in a hospital.



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Inside Ferguson

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

on institutional racism, cultural competence, implicit bias, and other social justice issues. The memoir details James’ experiences working with Ferguson officials and the Missouri government immediately after Michael Brown was shot and killed.

James has firsthand experience with the criminal justice system. His autobiography tells about his roots growing up in poverty, suffering as an abused child, becoming a high school drop-out, and finally escaping life as a former gang member and transforming himself into an astute, educated communications professional.

He compares his rough and impoverished background to what many young men like Michael Brown face while growing up in poverty and other oppressive systems.

“Inside Ferguson” is his chilling account of the hypocrisies of Ferguson’s leadership and the consequences he suffered when he tried to do his job and dared to become a voice for the voiceless.

The mentalities displayed by leadership in Missouri demonstrated “how devalued black people are in America,” he describes in a profile of the book. “The leaders pretend to be concerned about the issues impacting the black community however, they refuse to listen to the needs of the community or make any significant changes. Rather than acknowledge systemic racism exists and try to understand why residents were offended by their actions, the leaders often defended their actions and denied any wrongdoing.”

Inside Ferguson explores the subsequent character assassination that occurred when James pushed for real change.

“Ultimately, it’s my hope that my book can help put the focus back on what really matters: Why racial inequality and discrimination is still a major crisis in America today. In the wake of Ferguson and similar tragedies occurring nationally, government officials across the country must examine the racist laws and policies that foster an environment in which the killing of black men and women is acceptable,” he said.

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