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LOCAL NEWS



PHOTO BY CERVANTE POPE/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Tamara Shadrin helps Bodhi, a 5-year-old kindergartner at Beech Elementary get his finger pricked for a blood test to evaluate if he has been exposed to lead. The free evaluation took place in conjunction with the Multnomah County Health Department at 5329 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

Alarm Grows Over Toxins

BY CERVANTE POPE
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Portland parents and citizens have found themselves on high alert as discoveries of toxins in the air and the water are increasing.

It began earlier this year when the public was informed of high concentrations of cadmium, chromium, arsenic and other carcinogenic metals in the atmo-

sphere around glass manufacturing plants in southeast and north Portland.

Next, parents were left in a panic at the discovery of lead in Portland Public Schools, prompting the district to apologize for delays in shutting off water sources impacted by lead in faucets. Over the past few days, the school district also reported that it had discovered Radon in some

classrooms, and Portland Parks and Recreation found that it too failed to shut off faucets contaminated by lead, possibly for years at the Multnomah Arts Center in southwest Portland. The arts center serves children and is a meal site for seniors.

Multnomah County Health Department officials are re-

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Police Panel Departure Explained

BY CERVANTE POPE
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Kathleen Saadat, a long time and esteemed Portland racial justice activist serving as the chair of the Portland Police reform monitoring Community Oversight Advisory Board has indicated that discord surrounding police reform issues did not influence her decision to retire.

Saadat recently announced that she would be resigning from her position after taking part in the panel for only a year, but told the Portland Observer that the departure was only because she's ready to slow down. She plans to continue her writing and painting while



Kathleen Saadat

staying connected to the community, but won't be obligated to a working position.

"I'm 75 years old. I came out of retirement to take the position, and I committed for a year and

now I'm going back into retirement," she said. "I don't know why it's hard for people to believe that I just want to retire and relax. It's wearing me down, and my health matters."

Saadat replaced former Oregon Chief Justice Paul DeMuniz after he stepped down in April of last year. She said the police oversight board has on-going issues that do need to be addressed, but not anything bad enough to cause her to leave.

Maintaining a good sense of humor on the situation, she said, "To quote Thurgood Marshall about his retirement-'Hell, I'm old!'"