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What's on your list today?

LOCAL NEWS



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON JR./THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
Tyrone (left), defends his camping space with others on the Springwater Corridor in southeast Portland. The City of Portland has given the hundreds of homeless campers along the trail a month to move out.

Holding Ground

Springwater Corridor residents fight eviction

BY CERVANTE POPE
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
Residents along the Springwater Corridor in southeast Portland have received a month long extension to move out as Mayor Hales has set a new date of a forced eviction of homeless camps to Sept. 1.

The extension comes after a threat of a lawsuit and a court injunction filed by the Oregon Law Center on behalf of 11 Springwater campers who have disabilities.

Hales acknowledged that his first notice to vacate the corridor over a few days was a bit unrea-

sonable because the city doesn't yet have good options to find other places to sleep for all the people living there.

"That continues to be true. Recognizing that, I want to ensure this cleanup is as humane and compassionate as possible. Adjusting to social service providers' requests is part of that," Hales said.

Social service providers will work with the corridor's residents and other advocates to find other places for the homeless to move.

"Services for the houseless have been insufficient for years,"

said Gabriel Erbs of Portland Tenants United, a group that has been closely tied with the Springwater inhabitants.

Erbs blames chronic state, city, and county underfunding for homeless services as a partial cause of the present crisis.

"Our elected officials' refusal to pass tenant protections like rent control and just-cause eviction reform are another cause," Erbs said. "If Mayor Hales decides to go through with his forced eviction of Springwater residents, we know the safety

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Workplace Charged with Racism

Precision Castparts, the foundry already publicized for leaking toxins into the air surrounding its southeast Portland location, has more issues coming its way due to a discrimination lawsuit.

Carvin Glover, an African-American employed by the company, has filed a lawsuit against the foundry claiming he endured racist comments from coworkers and supervisors

throughout his 19 years of working there.

He said other employees would ridicule him by calling him "darkness" for having the darkest skin of all the employees and not being visible during a power outage; was attacked with the n-word by a coworker who told him he was assigned certain jobs because of his race; and was fronted with stereotypical discussions of black

people not being able to swim because of false beliefs they had different bone structure.

Complaining about the incidents and other actions of discrimination impacting other workers at the plant eventually led to him being fired, Glover claims.

His lawsuit asks for \$600,000 for emotional distress and \$300,000 for loss of wages and benefits.