

# Drug Clinic Investigated

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other drugs were present in their system.

Danley, who is himself a recovering addict, said that in his more than 28 years of working in addiction treatment, he has never put his hands on a client. He admits he can be harsh while counseling his patients, but maintains that his intentions always lie in his client's best interest.

"My job is to keep people alive," he explains. "When you get assigned to me... I try to help

you save your life. Your life is more important than your feelings."

Danley also believes he is squarely in the sights of Dr. John McIlveen, who oversees the state's opioid treatment programs. "He read these two reports, and became convinced that I am guilty of these two things," he said.

Danley fears that bias against African Americans in the health system plays a role in how the allegations were investigated. He said the accrediting body responsible for his licensing, the Addiction

Counselor Certification Board of Oregon, launched an investigation into the complaints against him, and returned with no findings.

"Everything that they have, we have a response to," he said.

Danley hopes that the RAM Clinic will be able to continue serving Oregon's most vulnerable addicts as the nation's opioid crisis continues to escalate. If a January hearing scheduled by the DEA ends in the revocation of the clinic's license, the number of methadone providers in the state could drop to 13.

# Staying Put

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regon's pioneering days, he brings up how campers have hewn their dwellings from whatever materials they can locate, developed a communal garden, and utilized their pets to conquer pest infestations. The housing structures, or 'sleeping pods,' are produced in partnership with The Village Coalition, which is a collection of area nonprofits that are collectively aiming to tackle Portland's crisis of homelessness.

Answering concerns regarding the camp's safety, Bennie explains that fire marshals have inspected the camp, which includes two rows of neat tiny houses in addition to a spattering of tents and other, more makeshift structures. In addition, he states that there is frequent dialogue between the campers present at Hazelnut Grove and City Hall, and that the community is "self-policing."

Despite claims that the community's structures are "semi-permanent," Bennie asserts that, "the construction is done so that you can stick a forklift right under them... If we ever have to go some-

where, we can." He said the group is open to the possibility of relocation, "we'll move as a community," but adds that, "the city, to my knowledge, has no clue where they want to move anybody."

The camp leader says he can sympathize with people who are upset over the community's continued presence, but adds, "this piece of land was not being used for anything but a drainage ditch... We have improved this space in the year that we've been here."

Bennie says the Hazelnut Grove governs itself under a village model that has helped transition dozens of vulnerable people into safer living conditions, and even permanent housing, and is confident in the model they are using will grow more broadly in the Portland area.

"Our vision is going to remain the same, and it's not a bad vision. It's a good vision for a lot of people... It's even a good vision for the Overlook Neighborhood Association," he says.

Speaking in regards to the community's future relationship with City Hall, Bennie is hopeful that the incoming administration of Mayor-Elect Ted Wheeler will allow for the opportunity to further develop their ties. "He's camped right here previously, so he knows us, and he wants better for us."

# Health Screenings Offered Saturday

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serve basis.

Information about the risks from lead in old house paint, and the impact of smoking on breathing and high blood pressure will also be available. Immunizations, flu shots and massage services will be offered.

Portland Parks and Recreation will be entertaining the kids. And for everyone, Salsa dancing, Tai Chi and Firelight yoga classes will be offered as a fun and easy way to incorporate exercise into your daily routine.

For the last 16 years, the African American Health Coalition and Portland Parks and Recreation have

worked together to give reduced gym memberships at the city's community centers. At Wellness Village, you will be able to pick up a three month pass for \$25, which works out to just 27 cents a day.

Members from the Black Men's Coalition and OHSU will also be giving healthy cooking lessons with Jambalaya on the menu.

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## The Law Offices of Patrick John Sweeney, P.C.

Patrick John Sweeney  
 Attorney at Law

1549 SE Ladd, Portland, Oregon

Portland: (503) 244-2080  
 Hillsboro: (503) 244-2081  
 Facsimile: (503) 244-2084  
 Email: Sweeney@PDXLawyer.com

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