

**48**  
years of  
community service  
‘City  
of  
Roses’



**Fitness with JJ**

*Tips for getting  
your routine  
back on track*

See column, page 4

**Empowering  
Sisterhood**

*Group reconvening  
to affirm power  
and strength*

See Metro, page 9



**The Portland Observer**

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month  
Volume XLVI • Number 42



www.portlandobserver.com  
Wednesday • October 18, 2017



Established in 1970  
Committed to Cultural Diversity

**Healing and Making Good**

*Vicki Guinn, a public relations manager at Legacy Health, oversees the community outreach into plans to develop a vacant lot next to Legacy Emanuel Hospital for community use while acknowledging the black community that was displaced from the site decades ago. The exhibit behind her in the hospital's atrium tells the story of urban renewal in the 1960s and 1970s and its impact on a black community that continues to this day.*

PHOTO BY  
**DANNY PETERSON/  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER**



**Past and future  
Intertwined in Hill  
Block development**

BY **DANNY PETERSON**  
**THE PORTLAND OBSERVER**

Plans to finally develop an empty lot that has long represented a sore spot in the heart of Portland's historic African American community is taking some root, but the details are far from formalized as community conversations and public input is still being gathered.

The 1.7 acre block at North Russell Street and Williams Avenue was demolished in 1969 by the city's Portland Development Commission, now called Portland Prosper, as part of an urban renewal project that included the construction of Interstate 5, the Oregon Convention Center, and Legacy Emanuel Hospital.

Lost in its wake, was a predominately black community and many black businesses, including apartments, a drug store and dry cleaners. It was a familiar trend that was going on at the time around the nation in so called "blighted" neighbor-



PHOTO BY **DANNY PETERSON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER**

*Vacant for decades, the Hill Block was once the center of African American life in Portland at North Russell Street and Williams Avenue. Plans call for developing the site with benefits to the black community that was displaced.*

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 5**