

The INSIDE

The Week in Review

page 2



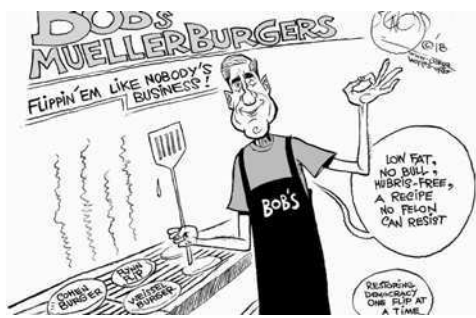
pages 7-11

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



page 9

METRO



pages 12-13

OPINION

CLASSIFIEDS

pages 14



page 16

FOOD

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What's on your list today?



PHOTO BY DANNY PETERSON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

10 year-old Dominique Stewart (left) and Tryston Birdges, 12, help build flower and vegetable planters along the North Williams and Russell Street corridors as part of an Urban League of Portland project to celebrate the historic community contributions of African Americans in Portland. The project was made possible by a grant and partnership from the Portland Bureau of Transportation.

Black is Beautiful

Public art project draws on positive messages

BY DANNY PETERSON THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The historic heart of Portland's black community is receiving the finishing touches of a new urban beautification project that celebrates the contributions of African Americans to the city.

Black kids from the community, graduate art students and local seniors worked to create art-

ful benches, decorative tiles and planters for flowers and vegetation as part of a project spearheaded by the Urban League of Portland and aimed in part to combat the displacement of public art by African Americans in the wake of gentrification. A grant from Portland's Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) helped fund the effort.

Many community partnerships

coalesced to make the project a success, including the black-led nonprofit housing provider Portland Community Reinvestment Initiatives (PCRI) and two Portland art schools, the Pacific Northwest College of Art and the Oregon College of Arts and Crafts.

Graduate art students held

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14



PHOTO BY DANNY PETERSON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Decorative tiles that reflect positive messages on the black community were hand painted by Portland kids of color and residents of a local senior center for an Urban League of Portland's beautification Project. Graduate art students helped facilitate the completion of the project.