

A look back at some of our top stories



'Now is the Time to Act'

April 4 – Moved by gun violence, faith leaders representing Portland's diverse religious communities, come together to promote a proposed ballot measure to regulate semiautomatic weapons and large capacity ammunition magazines in Oregon.



NAACP Strong

April 11 – The Portland NAACP opens an office in Lloyd Center, its first office in 30 years, marking a milestone for increasing public outreach and building on the local civil rights group's 104-year-old history.



New School Model Lauded

April 18 – Dr. Jill Biden, the wife of former Vice President Joe Biden and keynote speaker for Concordia University's Leadership in Education Awards, praises partnership between Concordia and Faubion Elementary as a shining example of making changes in education that promote the health and welfare of all students and their families.



'Left Hook' to Displacement

May 17 – A new play that touches on the history of displacement in 1970s Portland, where hundreds of homes and businesses were razed in historical black neighborhoods, and featuring an all-black cast, debuts as part of the Vanport Mosaic Festival.



Green and Equitable

June 20 – The opening of Green Hop, an African-American owned and hip-hop themed marijuana dispensary in northeast Portland, shows promise for bringing economic growth to a disadvantaged community while also helping black residents obtain access to the legal cannabis industry.



Deadly Force Review

July 4 – The death of a local black resident and U.S. veteran killed while trying to break-up a fight outside a bar adjacent to Portland State University, draws fierce protests, outcries from the victim's friends and family and a reignited debate over on whether PSU should have armed officers in the first place.



Team Beats Back Jail Door

July 18 – Case managers from a pilot project work outside the court system to help low-level drug offenders, often people on the streets and the homeless, get the social services and treatment they need instead of continuing a cycle through the criminal justice system.



Court Pick Derailed

July 25 – Oregon Assistant U.S. Attorney Ryan Bounds had his nomination to the U.S. Court of Appeals withdrawn after Tim Scott, the only Republican black senator, made clear he couldn't vote for him because of concerns about his attacks on multiculturalism as a student at Stanford.

Tracking the Hate on Measure 105

Aug. 8 – Activists like Cristina Marquez point to the racism behind a ballot measure to kill Oregon's sanctuary law, legislation that was adopted 30 years ago to combat racial profiling by law enforcement.



Accepting the Challenge

Sept. 12 – Dr. Danny Jacobs, the fifth president of Oregon Health and Sciences University and the first African American to lead the medical institution, talks to the Portland Observer about his efforts to successfully steer OHSU at a time of challenging intersections between education, patient care and research.



Betting on Diversity

Aug. 15 – Ifanyi Bell, an Emmy-nominated filmmaker and multimedia artist, leads a new fellowship for black Portland filmmakers at Open Signal, a community broadcast organization, as a way to increase opportunities for African Americans.