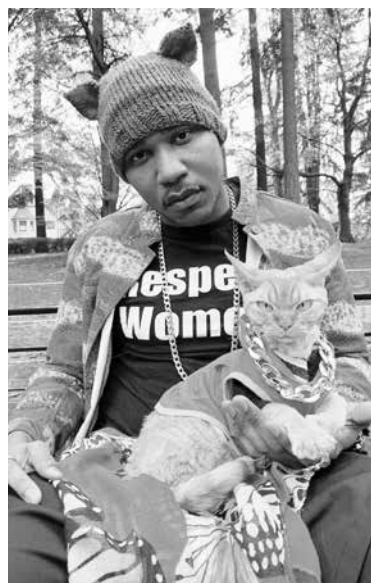


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LOCAL NEWS



PHOTO BY BEVERLY CORBELL/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A groundbreaking for Halsey 106, a new six-story housing complex coming to the Gateway neighborhood of northeast Portland, draws several public dignitaries on Friday, including Mayor Ted Wheeler and City Council Member Jo Ann Hardesty. Designed to help Portland's housing crises, the construction will create 52 new affordable housing units and provide a new public services headquarters for Human Solutions, a nonprofit.

A Dream Achieved

Major housing complex to provide affordability and public services

BY BEVERLY CORBELL
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

It's been five years in the making, with a lot of creative financing and multiple partners, but in about 18 months, northeast Portland will have a unique new addition to its much needed affordable housing stock, a 75-unit apartment complex in Gateway that also includes a new headquarters for low-income services.

Coming to 106th and Halsey, next door to the city's new Gateway Discovery Park, the building, named Halsey 106, will provide 52 apartments in the affordable range, available to incomes between 30 percent and 60 percent of the area median income, and also house Human Solutions, a nonprofit group that provides disadvantaged residents help to achieve self sufficiency.

Human Solutions currently has over 700 units

of permanent affordable rental housing across east Portland, Gresham and Fairview and provides basic help like assistance to pay utility bills and comprehensive employment programs and homeless services.

Andy Miller, executive director of Human Solutions, said Friday's groundbreaking felt like the end, not the beginning, because getting to this point has been a long and arduous journey.

"It's the happy end of a period of uncertainty in which we had to answer some very hard questions, and like many groundbreakings, we're happy to say we were able to answer those questions in the affirmative or we wouldn't be here today," he said.

Funding for the \$32.4 million project was the biggest hurdle, Miller said, which took some creative financing to pull together. Funding came from 13 different sources, including government, banks and nonprofits.

"So we combined a lot of complex funding sources that don't always play well together, in a

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Church Vandal Sentenced to Probation

A man who drove his SUV into a church serving Catholics from Portland's Southeast Asian community was sentenced to three years of probation Friday after jurors in two-day trial in Multnomah County Circuit Court found him guilty.

Hieu John Phung, 36, testified he was in distress because of family issues and financial burdens at home when he drove into the Our Lady of Lavang Church at



A photo shows some of the damage to Our Lady of Lavange Church at 5404 N.E. Alameda after a disgruntled man drove his SUV into the church on the day before Christmas last year. The driver was sentenced Friday to probation.

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