

# The INSIDE

The Week in Review

page 2



page 7

METRO



page 6-8

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



OPINION



page 9

CLASSIFIED/BIDS

pages 10

# LOCAL NEWS



Dominique DeWeese (from left), Rose Wakefield, Marquita Corley and Benita Presley were all victims of recent cases of discrimination, according to four lawsuits showing how they were denied service based on the color of their skin.

## Discrimination Cases Explode

### 'Shopping while Black' lawsuits sound alarm

BY MICHAEL LEIGHTON  
PORTLAND OBSERVER EDITOR

A Portland lawyer specializing in discrimination cases is sounding the alarm over a rash of recent racial discrimination claims.

Greg Kafoury reported that in more than 40 years of practicing law, he has not seen cases with the "straightforward racism" he is seeing now.

His office, Kafoury & McDougal, has filed four "Shopping While Black" lawsuits in the last week. In each of them, the victims were denied service based on the color of their skin by Caucasian employees, Kafoury said.

In one case, Dominique DeWeese was trying

to buy gas in a container to put into his lawnmower when he was refused service because the employee said he was a "black lives protester" who would use it to light dumpsters on fire across the city, Kafoury said. A video shows the employee repeatedly mocking DeWeese and threatening to call the police.

In another case, Rose Wakefield needed gas on her way to work and was allegedly denied service at a Jackson Food Stores Gas Station in Tanasbourne.

Kafoury said after the employee refused her service but served several white drivers who arrived after her, Wakefield went inside to complain and the manager dismissed her. When she confronted the gas attendant, he allegedly laughed

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

## NAACP Leader Steps Down

### Denies sex abuse allegations; won't run again

The president of the Portland NAACP announced his resignation Tuesday amid allegations of sexual misconduct.

In a statement, the NAACP said Rev. E.D. Mondainé announced his immediate resignation as president of the Portland chapter.

"The NAACP is firmly opposed to all forms of abuse, assault, harassment, or discrimination. Such behavior has no place in the Association, regardless of whether these instances occurred in previous or current administrations," the NAACP said.

The Portland chapter said it will continue to investigate the allegations, saying they will take further action if necessary.

A report in the Portland Mercury last week detailed claims of sexual and physical assault



E.D. Mondainé

by Mondainé from former parishioners at Celebration Tabernacle, the church he leads in the Kenton neighborhood of north Portland.

The newspaper said it spoke to three men who say they were repeatedly sexually and physically assaulted by Mondainé during a period of time spanning the mid-1990s to the mid-2000s.

In a press conference last week, Mondainé strongly denied any wrongdoing, but said he

was choosing to remove himself from running for another term as chapter president in a vote next month, and charged that he was a victim of cancel culture. He attributed the Mercury story to a relationship from two decades ago that he said "ended poorly and rocked the congregation."

Mondainé's candidacy was already under attack from some NAACP members who were running under the banner Rise Up PDX, accusing him of mis-spending NAACP money and mistreating members with physical assaults. The group also criticized him for his involvement in supporting Mayor Ted Wheeler's re-election in which the NAACP seal was used in campaign materials. NAACP rules do not allow the organization to endorse candidates.

On the allegations of sexual misconduct, Mondainé was quoted as saying "It's not true. There's no truth to it. People can say whatever they need to say. I've never abused anyone."

The Portland Observer

Established 1970 USPS 959 680  
4747 NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.,  
Portland, OR 97211

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PUBLISHER: Mark Washington, Sr.

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Office Mngtr/Clasfids: Lucinda Baldwin

CREATIVE DIRECTOR: Paul Neufeldt

OFFICE/ASST/SALES: Shawntell Washington



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