

# 2020 YEAR IN REVIEW

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## Housing and a Backup Plan

**Jan. 8** – Kymerly Horner, the new executive director of Portland Community Reinvestment Initiatives (PCRI), a nonprofit rooted in the African American community, picks up the mantle to a mission to see 1,000 new living units built in the next 10 years to alleviate the housing crisis.



## Putting Kids and Families First

**Jan. 22** -- Bahia Overton, the new leader for Portland's Black Parent Initiative, puts her focus on improving culturally specific solutions to the needs in the Black community and growing support for BPI programs to help Black kids and Black families become successful.



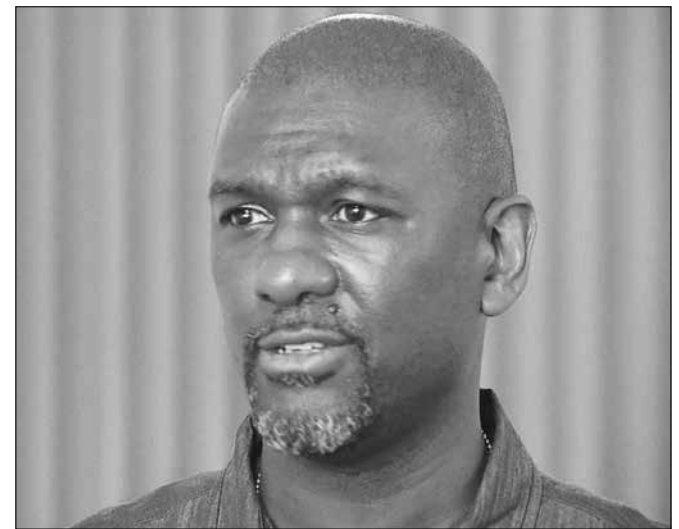
## Kobe's Death Stuns World

**Jan. 29** – Thousands of fans gathered outside the Staples Center in Los Angeles in an outpouring of grief and shock over the sudden loss of Kobe Bryant, the all-time basketball great who spent his entire 20-year career with the Los Angeles Lakers. Bryant died in a helicopter crash that also claimed his 13-year-old daughter Gianna and seven other people.



## Concordia Shuts Down

**Feb. 12** -- Goodness Adfope told the Portland Observer he was still in shock upon learning his school, Concordia University, a northeast Portland landmark of 115 years was going to close. The Lutheran-Church-Missouri Synod backed college, cited enrolment declines and poor finances for the decision to close without any prior warnings or notice.



## Wrongful Arrest

**Feb. 19** -- Michael Fesser, 48, of Portland, wins a \$600,000 civil suit against the city of West Linn for a wrongful arrest in a racially-motivated harassment case from 2017 involving West Linn Police, the Portland Police Bureau's gang enforcement team and his former employer A&B Towing.



## Guilty on All Counts

**Feb. 26** – A Multnomah County jury unanimously finds Jeremy Christian, 37, guilty of killing two passengers and critically wounding a third when he went on a racist tirade spewing hate against two young Black women and others on a Max train in 2017. The trial took four weeks and included chilling graphic video of the attack and gripping testimony from survivors.



## Trying to Slow an Epidemic

**March 18** – As Portland and Vancouver recorded their first deaths attributed to the worldwide coronavirus epidemic, Gov. Kate Brown issued an order to close all schools, limit crowds to 25 people or less and shut down restaurants and bars to take-out service only.



## Coronavirus Threat Emerges

**March 4** -- Portland area grocery stores saw toilet paper and cleaning supplies sell out as people became more aware of the threat of the coronavirus. Shopping at the Walgreens on Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., resident Levlie Okamnor told the Portland Observer she was worried that some people weren't taking the outbreak seriously enough.