

The Portland Observer

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# Glass Plant Will Make Fix or Close

## Company has emitted toxins for decades

A glass recycling plant in the Cully neighborhood of northeast Portland has consented to either shut down or install pollution control technology, according to an agreement announced between the plant's operators and the state of Oregon.

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality gave Owens-Brockway the two options after it reached an agreement with the company to resolve a fine of more than \$1 million for pollution violations it issued in June. The glass plant was cited for multiple, ongoing air quality violations of particulate matter emissions as well as permitted opacity.

A recent report by environmental advocates highlighted the ongoing health risks posed by air emissions from the plant, which does not follow the same set of air regulations as similar emitters because it was built before the Clear Air Act took effect in 1978, offi-



PHOTO BY MASON TRINCA/COURTESY EARTHJUSTICE

The Owens-Brockway's glass facility is located in the Cully Neighborhood, north of Columbia Boulevard and just west of I-205.

cial said.

"It has been clear for years that this facility is pumping many different kinds of harmful pollution into the Cully neighborhood," Mary Peveto, executive director of Neighbors for Clear Air, said in the report.

DEQ Northwest Regional

Administrator Nina DeConcini was hopeful that the company will continue to operate but with new safeguards. The company has not announced which direction it will eventually take.

"The best thing Owens-Brockway could do to come into compliance and pro-

tect the community is to install pollution controls," DeConcini said in a statement. "And if the facility decides to install pollution controls, this agreement requires they demonstrate that the controls achieve a 95% reduction in particulate matter emissions."

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## The Week in Review



Karina LeBlanc

### Thorns Name Black GM

Former Portland Thorns goalkeeper Karina LeBlanc, a Black executive of women's soccer on the national stage, was named the team's new general manager Monday. Officials say LeBlanc will serve as the central leader for the team while also having an integral voice on key business decisions related to the club.

### Church Massacre Settlement

The Department of Justice announced an \$88 million settlement on Thursday with victims of a white supremacist who shot dead nine Black churchgoers in Charleston, South Carolina in 2015. The settlement stems from allegations that the FBI was negligent when it failed to prohibit the sale of a gun to the attacker, Dylan Roof, who had a prior criminal record.

### 80% Vaccination Rate

The Oregon Health Authority reported last week that 80% of Oregonians 18 and older have had at least one dose in their vaccination series against COVID-19. When including children, Oregon has fully vaccinated 63 percent of all residents.

### Inmate Education Sought

Oregon U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden announced last week that he is cosponsoring legislation that would expand access to education for Americans in federal prisons. "Improving educational opportunities in prison helps to reduce recidivism rates, which benefits both the community and the people returning to it with the hope of finding jobs and becoming productive citizens," Wyden said.

### Resident Shot While Sleeping

A Portland man was fortunate to avoid serious injury when he was struck by a bullet that pierced his bedroom while he was sleeping. It happened Friday at 1:45 a.m. near Southeast 130th and Powell. Police don't believe he was an intended target. At least 5 bullets hit the residence and another damaged a parked vehicle out front.

### Unmasked Disrupt Meeting

The Portland School Board ended an in-person meeting last week over a proposed COVID-19 vaccine mandate for children 12 and older. It happened after unmasked protesters, many not from outside the district, showed up and disrupted the meeting with noisy outbursts and refusals to don face coverings.

## Teen Named National Miss Juneteenth

Winner a voice for equality, positivity



Aceia Spade won the crown as Miss Juneteenth in a national pageant held Oct. 16 in Tulsa, Okla. She is pursuing her platform on equality and being the voice for other Black girls promoting a positive environment.

Aceia Spade is helping put Oregon on the map after being crowned National Miss Juneteenth.

The 17-year old from Eugene won the national title during a pageant held Oct. 16 in Tulsa, Okla., coming the same year that the United States made Juneteenth a federal holiday and Oregon made it a state holiday.

Spade's platform for the scholarship pageant was equality. She spoke about being a voice for other black girls and being part of a positive movement in the Black community, bonding with others like her. She credited her ancestral roots for moving her spirit to compete in the contest.

Spade was supported by the Juneteenth Oregon organization, founded by the late Clara Mae Peoples, a retired Black educator and school counselor who introduced the tradition to her co-workers in Oregon back in 1945 when she moved from Muskogee, Okla. to Portland to work at the Kaiser Shipyards. In

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