



Hospitalizations Stay High

Drop in Covid-19 cases not expected until February

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Faith Leaders Try Again

Gun control ballot title approved

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Committed to Cultural Diversity

A Black Doctor for Better Health

NxNE clinic introduces new medical director

By BEVERLY CORBELL
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

It's no secret that in Black communities African Americans have not received the same level of medical care as whites, and suffer accordingly.

Black women face a much higher risk of dying from pregnancy complications than white women, for example, with maternal mortality rates of 41.7 per 100,000 live births, compared with 13.4 per 100,000 for white women. And Black babies survive at a much lower rate as well, with death rates of 10.62 per 1,000 live births, compared with 4.68 per 1,000 live births for white babies, according to public health records.

Other disparities find Black Americans are more than twice as likely as whites to die of diabetes, and also have higher rates of the



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/PORTLAND OBSERVER PUBLISHER

Dr. Jill Ginsberg (right) introduces Dr. Gina Guillaume as the new medical director for the North by Northeast Community Health Center (NxNE) in northeast Portland, Oregon's only medical facility devoted to African American and Black health.

disease, at 13.4 percent of the population as opposed to 6.4 percent for whites. High blood pressure and asthma are also much higher among Black populations.

Dr. Gina Guillaume, who this week becomes the first Black medical director of the North by Northeast Community Health Center (NxNE) in northeast Port-

land, has made it her mission to empower patients of color to take control of their health.

A native of the Bahamas who received her medical degree from Howard University and who completed a fellowship at Harbor UCLA Medical Center to concentrate on community medicine, Guillaume wants her new role

to help create spaces for Portland's Black community "to grow healthier, not only physically, but mentally and spiritually," she said.

Research shows that when Black patients get to see a Black doctor, it can lead to better health outcomes. When patients get culturally competent care, not only are they more likely to follow the

care steps, but they're more engaged, health experts say.

NxNE has already made history as Oregon's only medical facility devoted to African American and Black health. The center was founded in 2006 by its current and outgoing medical director, Dr. Jill

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Police Bias Continues Pattern, Activists Say



A photo from AP shows a vigil for Kevin Peterson Jr. in Hazel Dell on Oct. 20, 2020, a day after he was shot and killed by Clark County sheriff's deputies in a drug sting case. The Vancouver NAACP and ACLU claim that while the vigil took place, police looked the other way when the Black Lives Matter supporters were attacked by members of the Proud Boys and other white supremacists.

Vancouver NAACP, others call for federal investigation

By MICHAEL LEIGHTON
PORTLAND OBSERVER EDITOR

The Vancouver NAACP backed by Black community supporters have requested a federal Justice Department investigation into the Vancouver Police Department and the Clark County Sheriff's Office, claiming years of racial profiling, discriminatory policing, excessive force, and disturbing favoritism to known white supremacist extrem-

ist groups.

The request was co-endorsed by the ACLU of Washington, ACLU of Oregon, as well as 19 other organizations during a video news conference last week.

"We've made this request due to a pattern of excessive and deadly force against communities of color and some of our most vulnerable residents, said Vancouver NAACP President Jasmine Tolbert. "This disparate policing causes lasting harm for residents and undermines public safety for the community at large."

Vancouver and Clark County law enforcement officers have

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