

Nonprofit helps homeless, youth

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of color, like institutional racism, unfair policing, and equity in economic empowerment, education and other topics.

“We will have speakers and have a petition to clean the city up so we can get back to normal,” Minnieweather said.

The event will also include vendors and live music, joining other participants including Care Oregon and the Native American Youth and Family Center. Vendors are welcome for a small fee, Minnieweather said, and can call 503-960-9431 or send an email to straightwayservices@live.com.

“We will also set up a vaccine site, and also do (Covid) testing,” he said.

Minnieweather has no lack of ideas for making the community better.

A few months back, for example, he was able to secure the purchase of a used Tri-Met bus for community use, converting the vehicle into a mobile kitchen to



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Pastor Dwight Minnieweather and his wife Cassandra, join other volunteers from their Straightway Services nonprofit, to distribute free food and supplies for people who are hungry or homeless.

feed the hungry and provide a new source for job training, some of the things he was able to accomplish when he managed the restaurant at the Miracles Club, a non-alcoholic and drug-free community center on Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard.

After taking out all the seats and putting in a hardwood floor, Minnieweather said the “kitchen” is taking shape.

“We made it like mama’s kitchen, like a big food cart,” he said. “The windows are really big, and you can see everything.”

Minnieweather is also trying to get programs suspended by prior COVID restrictions started up again. For example, the Summer Works program, where the Portland Water Bureau hired about 10 African American kids each summer, was put on

hiatus last year, but he hopes it will start back soon.

He would also like to see midnight basketball started up again, but said a major obstacle has been the loss of funding from the North Police Precinct, after several years of supporting the program.

On other community initiatives, Min-

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VERNONIA

MORE OREGON TO EXPLORE
THE BANKS-VERNONIA STATE TRAIL

As the weather starts to warm, Portlanders almost instinctively turn toward the coast. And why not? The allure of sand and surf is a perfect counterbalance to the hectic pace of life in the city. But as we make our way determinedly west, it's easy to miss the turnoff to Highway 47, the gateway to the North Coastal Mountains and some of the most stunning – and often overlooked – scenery that Oregon has to offer.

Mist and Vernonia. Banks and Buxton. Too many of us think of these small towns as nothing more than logging communities with little to offer city dwellers seeking relaxation and recreation, towns to be passed quickly on our way to other destinations.

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