

The INSIDE



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PUBLISHER: *Mark Washington, Sr.*
EDITOR: *Shawntell Washington*
OFFICE MNGR/CLASFD: *Lucinda Baldwin*
ADMIN COORD: *Quaywana Washington*
CREATIVE DIRECTOR: *Kenya Anderson*
WEB EDITOR: *Zoe Holman-Kragero*

CALL 503-288-0033 • FAX 503-288-0015 • news@portlandobserver.com
ads@portlandobserver.com • subscription@portlandobserver.com
Postmaster: Send address changes to Portland Observer, PO Box 3137, Portland, OR 97208

LOCAL NEWS

NO to Recriminalization!

Expanding access to treatment

The new law will utilize and expand existing community-based providers as Behavioral Health Resource Networks to provide services throughout the state to immediately assess the needs of people who use drugs and link them to treatment, care and services. Drug possession has been decriminalized, reducing criminal possession offenses from misdemeanors to civil infractions. Instead of arrests and criminal records, people found to be possessing small amounts of drugs will be cited and fined \$100. They will be given the phone number for a 24/7 support line to connect them with a local peer support specialist. The peer will conduct a social services needs assessment. Upon completion, their fine will be waived and they will be linked to vital services. Call (503) 575-3769 to reach the support line.

The new law will increase access to vital services, including Behavioral Health Treatment that is evidence-based, trauma-



Larry Turner in support of the Health Justice Recovery Alliance

informed, culturally specific, linguistically accessible, and patient-centered; Peer support and recovery services designed to help people remain clean and sober; Housing for persons with Substance Use Disorder; Harm reduction interventions including overdose prevention, access to naloxone hydrochloride and other drug education and outreach Services will be paid for with grants from excess cannabis tax revenue above \$45 million a year and law enforcement savings.

The Act establishes an Oversight and Accountability Council composed of people with lived experience and addiction and service delivery experts. Supported by the Oregon Health Authority, the Council will determine how funds will be distributed to grant

applicants for increasing community access to care. The Secretary of State will conduct financial and performance audits every two years. The Act does not legalize any drugs.

It removes criminal penalties for low-level possession of all drugs, currently classified as misdemeanors, replacing them with a fine. These fines can be waived by being evaluated at Behavioral Health Resource Networks, which will be made available in all parts of the state, 24 hours a day. No change is made in the criminal code for delivery, manufacture, and other commercial drug offenses. These offenses will remain a crime. No change is made for other crimes that may be associated with drug use, such as driving under the influence and theft.

SPOTLIGHT



A Magical Brunch With Santa

Fun for the whole family at the Brix Tavern Brunch with Santa. Saturday, December 9th from 10:00 am to 2:30pm. Reservations can be made through OpenTable.

Introducing Phlebotomy Certificate

A fast track to a rewarding Health Career

Clackamas Community College (CCC) launched a new phlebotomy certificate. This program is designed to provide students with a fast track to a rewarding career in health care. With just 6 months of classes, individuals can become certified phlebotomists and join the vital health care workforce. Phlebotomists are highly trained professionals responsible for collecting blood samples from individuals. They play a crucial role in clinics, hospitals and laboratories, ensuring safe and accurate blood collection for medical purposes.

Phlebotomy technicians, as they are often referred to, not only collect blood but also prepare the samples for testing. Their responsibilities may extend to explaining the blood-drawing procedure to patients, helping to alleviate any



Fast track to a rewarding career in health care by earning a phlebotomy certificate from CCC in just 6 months

concerns and ensuring a comfortable experience for those they serve.

Phlebotomy technicians find employment opportunities in various health care settings, like hospitals, clinics, doctors' offices, nursing homes, medical labs, blood donation centers, research institutes and insurance companies. They may work different shifts, including evenings, nights, weekends and holidays, and are often on their feet, interacting with patients or preparing samples for laboratory analysis. For those

interested in pursuing this exciting career path, the application deadlines for the spring/summer cohort are Applications due February 26th. The program combines online learning with in-person skills labs, followed by a clinical practicum, ensuring students receive comprehensive training.

For more information about the Phlebotomy Certificate program at Clackamas Community College, please visit www.clackamas.edu/phlebotomy-cc. For questions, email healthsciences@clackamas.edu or call 503-594-0650.