

Equity

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that affect criminal sentences or child welfare, and when two legislators—a Republican and a Democrat— request one. Sponsored by, Sens. Chip Shields and Jackie Winters.

The sponsors say the new law is needed because of glaring racial disparities. African Americans make up about 2 percent of Oregon’s general population, for example, but about 10 percent of Oregon’s prison population. Sen. Chip Shields has been working to pass a racial impact law since 2009.

“This bill gives legislators an important tool to use in assessing whether policies we propose give a fair shake to every Oregonian,” Shields says. “After years of hard work I’m proud the bill garnered such broad bipartisan support this session and I’m thrilled to see it move forward.”

“Like in the State of Iowa, this bill will allow Oregon legislators to make informed decisions when crafting solutions to crime, child welfare, and delinquency,” said Senator Jackie Winters, R-Salem, the co-chief sponsor of the bill.

“This bill also helps to ensure that racial justice costs are included in the public dialogue regarding criminal justice choices.”

House Bill 2668 Closes a loophole in Ore-

gon’s Public Accommodations Law of 1953. The bill bans discrimination by any business on account of race, religion, color or national origin. But a loophole in the law meant that publicly owned facilities were not covered. The bill would close that loophole and “apply the same standard of non-discrimination to publicly owned enterprises that commercial establishments have been subject to for 60 years.” Sponsored by, Rep. Lew Frederick

HB 3409 A Natural Hair Care bill that exempts stylists who work with braiding and natural hair styles from studying for a full cosmetology license. Sponsored by, Reps. Lew Frederick and Alissa Keny-Guyer, and Sens. Jackie Dingfelder, Tim Kopp and Rod Monroe.

SB 833 The drivers license bill that allows the Department of Transportation to issue drivers licenses to applicants who don’t have proof of legal residence, so long as they have met other driving requirements and have lived in Oregon for at least a year. Sponsored by, Sens. Chip Shields, Arnie Roblan, Chuck Thomsen, Bill Hansell, and Reps. Jules Bailey, Chris Harker, Lew Frederick, Jessica Vega Pederson, Mark Johnson and Vic Gilliam.

— I think is an excellent idea and should prove to be very useful both for individuals and small businesses like mine,” Feathers says.

Local bureau also sets up email tipline for turning in suspected government fraud: PORTLANDTIPS@IC.FBI.GOV

For people with similar concerns about government employees going forward, FBI spokeswoman BethAnn Steele said Tuesday that the public corruption hotline is not anonymous.

“We do try to get people to leave their information,” she said. “When they contact us they can ask what the options are in

Pregnancy Fair for the Family



PHOTO COURTESY ICTCMIDWIVES.ORG

An Afro-Centric Pregnancy Fair is hosted by the International Center for Traditional Childbearing on Saturday, June 29, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Lents Park, Southeast 92nd and Holgate. Moms, moms-to-be, dads, kids, and the whole family is invited. Free of charge, with live drumming, games, children’s face painting, food, family activities, headscarf-wrapping lessons, childbirth classes in the park and more. The event is organized by midwife and ICTC founder Shafia Monroe, above. For more information call 503-460-9324 or go to www.ictcmidwives.org.

FBI

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recorded and caller ID is disabled.”

Feathers, meanwhile, watched the McCoy scam wreck his parking meter enterprise.

Today, Feathers says he is almost out of business.

“I’m still fighting the Portland Development Commission, which continues to pursue me to pay a loan that was provided for the very parking contract that a parking official was convicted for corruption over,” Feathers says.

He thinks the FBI’s tipline is an excellent idea.

“Given the consequences of the city’s corrupt official that has destroyed my business, and how difficult it was to gain any information or bring it to light to our local city government — the fact that people like me and others can go beyond the local government in the public arena and reach out to someone who’s independent of the process

as well as wire, mail, bank, and tax fraud.

“It is a violation of federal law for any federal or state government official to ask for or receive anything of value for or because of any official act,” the bureau’s statement on the tipline says.

“Under federal law, the person who offers or pays a bribe is also guilty.”

Interestingly, however, the Florida businessman who was accused of paying bribes to McCoy, George Levey, remains a free man.

Meanwhile, Cale Parking Systems USA has been sold to Cale Parking Systems America and continues to sell Smart Meters to other municipalities.

The State Attorney’s office confirmed Tuesday that McCoy himself has not yet been sentenced and remains out of custody.

If you call or write the FBI with your tips on suspected public corruption, expect to leave your name, telephone number, and a brief description of your “concerns and observations.”

“Agents will review voicemail and email daily, and they will contact individuals for follow-up as needed,” the bureau says.

For more information go to www.fbi.gov/portland.

Gowns

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through the College Inside program. In one of his final classes, communications instructor Michele Dishong McCormack asked students to complete a service learning project.

Stroschein proposed raising money for caps and gowns for inmate GED graduates and Londer students. Within a month, his group had raised close to \$1,300, most of it from inmates. The group donated 40 caps and gowns to Londer graduates and 21 to graduates from Oregon State Correctional Institution.

“It really touched my heart because the guys who gave weren’t in school, and they didn’t have much money. But they really wanted to help and support the graduates,” Stroschein says.

The ceremony brought families, friends, supporters and county staff to honor the graduates for their achievement in passing the seven-hour GED exam. All the gradu-

ates had to overcome steep barriers to achieve academic success. Many have children and families, who watched with pride as their parents received diplomas.

Graduate Myldred Sylvia urged her fellow students to continue their journeys toward success. Graduates are eligible for a free year of college.

“Go out there and live lives of impeccable rectitude and integrity,” Sylvia said.

Stroschein says that’s exactly what he is trying to do.

“When I got incarcerated, I told myself I really wanted to be a better man when I came out so I wouldn’t make the same mistakes,” he said. “So it means a lot to me to get my degree and get my life back on track to become a pro-social member of society instead of a menace,”

Released from prison on April 26, Stroschein spoke at his own graduation from Chemeketa, Tuesday evening. Now,

he’s working as an assistant to criminal defense attorney Jeffrey Dickey, his partner of 10 years. But he made sure to take time to attend the Londer Learning Center graduation, where he shared his story with the graduates.

Other speakers at the event included: Judge Henry Kantor; Truls Neal, assistant director of the Department of Community Justice, Multnomah County Chair Jeff Cogen; Multnomah County Commissioners Deborah Kafoury and Loretta Smith, Carl Goodman, retiring assistant director in the Department of Community Justice, and Londer Center manager Carole Scholl.

Judge Kantor spoke about the value of education and what he’d learned from his mentor, attorney John Ryan, who co-founded the Londer Learning Center with Judge Donald H. Londer. He said Ryan’s love of books and reading influences him to this day. Ryan’s widow, Virginia Ryan, also was

at the ceremony and helped present the awards.

Jaymes Young-Lieb Gott, Christopher Walker and Nikki Callahan received honors awards for scoring 650 or higher on average across the test. Jim James and Myldred Sylvia were honored for excellence in attendance and for putting in more than 300 hours to prepare for the test.

The GED exam will be changing at the end of 2013, so anyone working toward a GED should aim to finish it this year, to avoid losing any credit they already have earned. Contact staff at Londer for referral to one of many special programs across the city available this summer to help you pass the test this year.

For more information, contact Londer Learning Center at 503-319-1899.