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School Use of Force

Family seeks answers after Madison student put in a choke hold

By Lisa Loving
Of The Skanner News

A Madison High School mother is taking a stand after her daughter was placed in a choke hold by a school vice principal during a minor scuffle off campus last winter.

Video has surfaced of the encounter, inflaming local parenting activists in part because of the recent death of New Yorker Eric Garner from a New York police choke hold which was also videotaped – but also because of the history of choke holds in Portland’s Black community, which includes one of the most reviled incidents of law enforcement uses of force on record.

The Portland Parents Union, led by organizer Sheila Warren, emailed the Madison High School choke hold image to the Portland Public Schools Superintendent’s office last Wednesday protesting the lack of resolution in the case, which occurred on Dec. 8, 2014.

On Friday evening, Portland Public Schools’ Ombudsman Judi Martin responded:

*Dear Ms. Warren,
Thank you for sharing your concerns on behalf of a parent and student at Madison High School.*

Your email was shared with me by the Office of the Superintendent to allow me to be a further resource. PPS takes allegations of employee misconduct very seriously. Because your concern regards alleged misconduct by specific employees, it will be addressed through the PPS Human Resources personnel process. Your concern has been referred to the Chief Human Resources Officer, Sean Murray, and these allegations will be investigated thoroughly. Lisa McCall, the Senior Director for Madison High School will be contacting you directly.

Please call me if you have any questions. Thank you again for bringing this matter to

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MINIMUM WAGE DAY



Washington State Sen. Pramila Jayapal, who represents the 37th district of Seattle, hands out some literature to a Starbucks employee about the April 1 wage increase. Jayapal joined about 100 people for a march and rally on Capital Hill March 28 to celebrate the increase in the minimum wage.

Long-Term Kidney Patient Thrives

Patience, perseverance help Seattle woman get organ transplant

By Cynthia Flash
Special To The Skanner News

From the time she was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes at age 13, Jackie Brown remembers hearing the unspoken message that she was going to die.

Though doctors didn’t say it in so many words, that’s what Brown understood after she lost 60 pounds during the summer between seventh and eighth grade.

“From the moment I was diagnosed, it was all doom and gloom,” said Brown, who lives in Renton. “It was the best secret never told. ‘You have Type 1 diabetes. You won’t grow to adulthood.’ I felt like I was going to sit and wait to die.”

That was 1987 in Chicago. Luckily, Brown moved in 2002 to Wisconsin, where she met a nurse educator from the University of Wisconsin who asked, “Who said you had to die?”

“I never thought of it in those

terms,” said Brown, who had been taking insulin injections all that time. The nurse educator also told Brown that her condition could lead to chronic kidney disease, which often happens in people with diabetes. Brown was encouraged to monitor her blood pressure, cut back on salt, watch her diet and exercise.

March is National Kidney Month, a time to note that Brown is among more than 10 percent of American adults who have chronic kidney disease.

Many don’t find out about the silent disease until the damage is severe and irreparable. In the African American community, the incidence of kidney disease increases four-fold because African Americans are also more likely than Caucasians to have diabetes, heart disease and high blood pressure, which are common causes of kidney disease.

Although African Americans make up 12 percent of the U.S.

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CAT Lauches Comic on Renters’ Rights

Facing eviction? Worried about discrimination? This book is for you

By Arashi Young
Of The Skanner News

Candace walks up to her apartment and finds an eviction notice taped to the door. She had been behind on her rent and making partial payments, but her landlord wants her out. Clutching the notice, she wonders what she is going to do. Candace’s tale is one of three stories rep-

resented in the new Community Alliance of Tenants’ comic book “Know Your Rights: Don’t Get Evicted.” The free comic was released on March 30 at the Oregon Public House.

The comic book is a reference to help people understand their legal rights as a renter. It covers the process of eviction and what to do if you are faced with eviction. It also addresses termination notices, evictions

court, being locked out by a landlord and more.

Educating people on eviction is a formidable challenge according to Justin Buri, executive director for the Community Alliance of Tenants.

“There are so many different ways that evictions take place and so many different

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