

## Gangs

continued from page 1

ed murder with a firearm and unlawful use of a weapon. Under Oregon's Measure 11, children who are 15-years-of-age or older can be tried as adults if arrested on attempted murder charges.

### Of the number of violent crimes in the city, those pegged as gang-related account for less than 10 percent

The gang unit has recovered more than 100 illegal firearms while on patrol this year, 30 of which came in June, the same month O'Dea increased staffing for gang enforcement.

Of the number of violent crimes in the city, those pegged as gang-related account for less than 10 percent of the amount of violent crime occurring in town.

In fact, violent crime in general is at its lowest levels nationwide, according to the FBI. Simpson said Portland's statistics are in line with that trend.

However, statistics don't capture the pain of those who've been stricken with gang violence.

This past spring 26-year-old Quintrell Holiman, a self-proclaimed and documented member of the Hoover Criminals, took his own life after being cornered in the Foster-Powell neighborhood.

In the following days, Holiman's mother called a press conference alongside mothers, who like her, have lost their Black sons to gun violence. With her were Assistant Police Chief Kevin Modica and members of the Office of Youth Violence Prevention in a unified message of peace and love.

"If everybody loves my son like they say, put the guns down," Holiman said. "Instead of putting your arms up to shoot somebody, put your arms up to wrap around some-

## Tilikum Crossing Opens




PHOTO BY MOJAVE/C (CC BY-SA-4.0) VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS.

**TriMet estimates tens of thousands of people crossed Tilikum Crossing, the newest bridge spanning the Willamette River, for the first time Saturday after the bridge opened to the public. Tilikum Crossing is the only bridge in the nation that is open to public transportation vehicles, bicycles and pedestrians — but closed to automobile traffic. TriMet also estimates about 40,000 trips were taken on the MAX Orange Line on its premiere day Saturday. The line connects downtown Portland to downtown Milwaukie.**

body," Holiman said.

Last year, Portland native James Crittenden Sr., a former gang member, put out a similar call for peace in a video via Facebook that showed him embracing a former rival.

That video, released in August, 2014, was shared by thousands in a matter of days.

"It takes a real man or a real woman to do this," Crittenden

said. "If you can approach someone and let them know, 'I'm sorry about what I did.' Or if they did something, to say: 'I want to let go of what you did. Let's not let this happen again. Let's just live life and be happy.'"

Read the rest of this story online at [www.theskanner.com](http://www.theskanner.com)



## Rent

continued from page 1

8.5 percent from July 2014 to July 2015. The city of Vancouver, Wash., has the fastest-growing rent in the entire country, with a 9.8 percent change from last summer to this one.

On Tuesday, the renter's rights organization held a rally in North Portland at Peninsula Park to draw attention to the housing crisis. Across the street from the rally were the Brentwood and Pinecrest Apartments which were closed off with bright yellow caution tape.

It was a fitting backdrop for the gathering as these apartments issued building-wide eviction notices, leaving many families scrambling for affordable rents.

"There are very few affordable housing units in Portland, and they will often be competing with 20 other tenants at the same time," Buri told *The Skanner News*.

The rally included stories from Jeri

Jimenez and Juan Gonzalez and his family. Jimenez and Gonzalez were long-time residents of the Brentwood-Pinecrest Building in North Portland. Both ran into barriers securing new housing, as Jimenez has a felony conviction and Gonzalez said he faced racial discrimination.

### 'What we are seeing is rent increases of 30, 40, sometimes even 80 or 100 percent'

Gonzalez said he had lived in North Portland for 12 years and is now doubled up with his four children in his sister's apartment, still looking for a place to live. He told his story through choked tears.

Katrina Holland, the deputy director for CAT, announced three stopgap measures for the renter state of emergency. The first was a year-long ban on no-cause evictions. The

second demand was a one-year notice period for rent increases that are larger than five percent.

For an average Portland two-bedroom apartment renting at \$1,550, a 5 percent rent increase would be \$77.50. Buri said distressed renters are experiencing increases

far larger than 5 percent.

"We believe that 5 percent is a reasonable amount to raise the rent from year to year, but what we are seeing is rent increases of 30, 40, sometimes even 80 or 100 percent, with only 30 days to respond," Buri said.

Lastly, Holland asked for landlords to sign a pledge to voluntarily commit to those solutions. "We hear from landlords every

day. There are some who do not agree to the level of greed and pain that we are seeing," she told the crowd.

Earlier on Tuesday, the North/Northeast Neighborhood Housing Strategy Community Oversight Committee met to discuss affordability and displacement. The meeting gathered community members and Portland Housing Bureau employees to discuss the \$20 million urban renewal funds for North and Northeast Portland.

Bishop Steven Holt, of International Fellowship Family moderated the discussions, which included updates on the Grant Warehouse affordable housing project on MLK Boulevard, funds for home repair and renovations — and land acquisitions to build more affordable housing.

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## Winemaker

continued from page 1

Abbey Creek Vineyard. The vineyard is situated in North Plains, Ore., on the northwest outskirts of the Portland metro area.

"It's not so much the peers that [are a barrier], but marketing dollars, associations and things like that are painting the picture of what the wine industry is supposed to look like," Faustin said.

Faustin said nepotism can make it hard to break into the industry and even harder to thrive in it. Nonetheless, Black people are increasingly making their presence in the wine industry known.

According to online news source Atlanta Blackstar, African Americans own about about 5 percent of the 8,000 wineries in the U.S.

From individuals and families with an entrepreneurial spirits to well-established folks like Bay-Area based rapper E-40 who

recently released his own line of wines under the label Earl Stevens Selections, the growth is coming from an array of places.

In 2002, a group called the African American Association of Vintners was formed with the aim of elevating Black winemak-

### African Americans own about about 5 percent of the 8,000 wineries in the U.S. and are steadily growing in representation

ers. But that group's website hasn't been updated since 2011, and Faustin has been unable to contact the group.

Nonetheless, Faustin said he's doing his part to elevate the presence of Black winemakers by continuing to innovate, and of course through the upcoming Red, White

and Black film.

"My best is my next -- that's my motto," he said. "I'm always trying to do something a little different each year to change my style, and change the game, especially to stay relevant in the wine industry."

Eight years deep into his craft, he's still learning, and seeking out mentors with decades more experience than he into molding grapes into the finest consumable beverage.

He attributes his success to those who've helped see him through the process, a "go out and do it" attitude and desire to craft at

his highest level.

And as for minority groups, who may feel intimidated away from the old-money industry, he said though the institutional barriers can be real, he urges people to remember the root of the craft.

"At the end of the day it's just wine. It's some grapes we're making juice with," Faustin said. "Minorities get pushed out because we feel like we can't do that. Because we don't have [long line] of winemakers so we don't have that pedigree, or because we're not rich we can't be in this industry. And that's what I'm hoping to change."

An Indiegogo campaign is currently underway for Faustin's Red, White and Black documentary with a goal of raising \$25,000 by Sept. 22. To contribute, visit [indiegogo.com](http://indiegogo.com) and type the name of the film in the search box.