

Economy cont'd from pg 1

jobs. David Cooke, state economist, cautioned against concern over the recent job losses.

“If you look at the longer-term picture, jobs have been growing pretty rapidly for Oregon,” Cooke said. The adjusted growth rate of 2.9 percent in Oregon is faster than the national aver-

graphic data have a high margin of error because of the small Black population in Oregon — just 2 percent.

“It is a fairly small number of households being surveyed, and then you are talking about a population that is the size that it is, compared to that thousand for the whole

“More Oregonians are living in poverty now than during the Great Recession of 2007-2009

age. Who is benefiting from this economic recovery?

In 2014, Oregon’s unemployment rate was 13.6 percent among African Americans, compared to 6.8 percent among Whites, both higher than the national average.

The Oregon Center for Public Policy released a report charting poverty levels in Oregon during the economic recovery. The report states that more Oregonians are living in poverty now than during the Great Recession of 2007-2009. According to federal poverty guidelines, a family of four with an income of less than \$24,230 per year is living in poverty.

The report also states an estimated 38.3 percent of Oregon’s African Americans experience poverty, compared to the White rate of 13.9 percent.

The calculations of the Oregon unemployment rate and the poverty levels come from household surveys from the U.S. Census Bureau. The bureau surveys households asking questions about population, housing, age, education and income.

Cooke said the numbers for statewide demo-

state, there is going to be a high margin of error for that figure,” he said.

In the 2015 State of Black Oregon report, the Urban League of Portland developed a jobs plan for Black Oregon. The plan outlined five major strategies to increase Black employment:

- Meet Oregon’s 40-40-20 education goals with 40 percent of Black adults attaining a bachelor’s degree or higher, 40 percent attaining an associate’s degree and 20 percent achieving a high school diploma or equivalent.

- Creating a certified work ready community to connect employers with certified employees ready to work.

- Expanding workforce development through education, mentorship, networking and culturally specific workforce services.

- Support entrepreneurship with small business development, peer networking opportunities, access to capital and technical assistance.

- Bolster employer commitment to support Black communities with a focus on high growth, high demand and high wage jobs.

Bar cont'd from pg 1

Association’s seventh year celebrating Pro Bono Week. It’s an opportunity, Brown said, to encourage attorneys to provide pro bono service but also to educate the public about the uncompensated work lawyers already do.

“Lawyers provide more pro bono service than any other profession. Being a lawyer is a noble profession and we make a difference in people’s lives,” Brown said.

Pro Bono Week events nationwide will continue through the end of the week. Portland-area events include a Pro Bono Fair from 2 to 7 p.m. at the World Trade Center in downtown Portland — which includes opportunities to connect with local organizations needing pro bono attorneys, a pro bono awards ceremony and three continuing legal education classes.

The American Bar Association’s events page, <http://www.probono.net/>, lists a second senior law clinic — which took place Wednesday — as well as two recurring legal clinics. These are Legal Aid Services of Oregon’s twice-week-

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ly family law clinic, which takes place Tuesday and Thursday, along with Clackamas County’s weekly expungement clinic, which takes place Friday mornings at the Clackamas Community Center).

From 9 a.m. to noon Friday morning, there will be a Senior Law Project Clinic at the Hollywood Senior Center,

1820 NE 40th Ave., sponsored by Legal Aid Services of Oregon. There will be a separate clinic, also focusing on legal advice for seniors, from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization, 740 SE 106th.

Those interested in these events can contact Maya Crawford at Legal Aid Services, maya.crawford@lasoregon.org.

In addition to assisting with and promoting pro bono events, Brown said she’s interested in learning more about issues that affect marginalized people and criminal justice in Oregon.

“In Oregon in particular, one of the things that we’re looking at is the school to prison pipeline. Students of color are two to three times more likely to be disciplined,” Brown told The Skanner News. She’s also interested in the lack of prosecutors of color nationwide and noted there are no African American prosecutors in the entire state of Oregon.

The American Bar Association’s presidents serve one-year terms, so Brown — who started in August — is already a quarter of the way through her tenure in the position. Her major areas of focus include the aforementioned school discipline and pipeline issues, as well as diversity and inclusion efforts in the legal profession.

“It’s been somewhat of a whirlwind,” she said.



PHOTO BY PATRICK WEISHAMPFEL/BLANKETTV COURTESY OF PORTLAND CENTER STAGE

Ain’t Misbehavin’

Portland Center Stage’s production of “Ain’t Misbehavin’,” written by Murray Horwitz and Richard Maltby, Jr. opens Friday on the U.S. Bank Main Stage and runs through Nov. 29. Winner of the Tony Award for Best Musical, “Ain’t Misbehavin’” celebrates the life and talents of a legendary jazz great, Fats Waller. With permission from the authors, PCS is creating an expanded-cast version of

the original production. Pictured here, from left to right, are cast members Charity Angél Dawson, Jerrod Neal, Hailey Kilgore, Maiesha McQueen, Olivia Phillip and DeMone. The play is directed by Chris Coleman, with musical direction by Rick Lewis and choreography by Kent Zimmerman. For more information or to buy tickets, visit <http://pcs.org>.

Graduation cont'd from pg 1

ing conferences, speakers, contracts, trainings and seminars, *The Skanner’s* Arashi Young reported.

Oregon has just three remaining public schools with a majority

Portland, which for more than six decades housed the state’s largest concentration of African Americans.

As these neighborhoods have gentrified, scattering many Black

“Oregon has just three remaining public schools with a majority Black population

Black population: Jefferson High, Woodlawn, and Boise-Eliot/Humboldt elementary schools.

All of these schools are located in the traditionally Black neighborhoods of North and Northeast

families to the city’s outskirts, nearby school districts have been seeing increases in the number of Black students.

Nationally, in the last few years Black students have been show-

ing small gains in graduation rates: 67 percent of Black students graduated from high school in 2011, where slightly more than 68 percent successfully graduated in 2013, according to the US Department of Education.

Those gains follow national increases in overall graduation rates: 2011-2012 school year, with a record-high 81 percent of Americans reportedly graduating that year.

Studies have shown people without a degree go on to earn four times less than their counterparts who’ve earned a Bachelor’s degree.