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1,000 MARCH



Lead test results released this week showed Jefferson High School had the most pervasive high levels of lead in drinking water in Portland Public Schools.

High Lead Levels at Jefferson

County expands the age limit on lead testing at free clinics

By Christen McCurdy
Of The Skanner News

Lead testing results released this week from 24 Portland Public Schools showed high lead levels in all — and a pervasive problem at North Portland’s Jefferson High School.

Oregon Public Broadcasting reported that nearly 200 fixtures at Jefferson had lead levels above the federal limit (15 parts per billion), or close to two-thirds of the 335 water sources. Most of the fixtures tested were shower heads or spigots, but 26 were drinking fountains. Full test results are posted on the school district’s website at <http://www.pps.net/Page/5378>.

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The Buffalo Soldier Museum will hold a 150th anniversary celebration this month to remember the creation of the first Black peacetime army.

Buffalo Soldiers Celebrate 150th Anniversary

Historian calls this a milestone page 10

Kam Interviews President Obama’s Half-Brother page 7



PHOTO BY ARASHI YOUNG

Last Thursday’s protest by Don’t Shoot Portland — a reaction to the shootings of Alton Sterling and Philando Castile — drew more than 1,000 demonstrators. A conservative blogger named Michael Strickland drew a gun on the crowd and was arrested shortly after at the otherwise-peaceful event.

1,000 Rally in Portland After Police Shootings

Mostly-peaceful event interrupted as conservative blogger draws gun

By Arashi Young
Of The Skanner News

Demonstrators met at Pioneer Courthouse Square last Thursday and surrounded a group of speakers who rallied the crowd into action following two police shootings in Minnesota and Louisiana.

Don’t Shoot Portland’s rally, “This Can’t Be Justice,” drew more than 1,000 people by the end of the night.

One advocate was Joe “Bean” Keller, the father of Deontae J. Keller, who was

fatally shot on February 28, 1996 by PPB Officer Terry Kruger.

Keller expressed frustration towards officers who are fearful and quick to use deadly force.

“I think if you are in fear for your life and you have to pull your gun, you need to quit your [expletive] job,” Keller said.

The demonstration was prompted by two back-to-back shootings — both caught on camera — that shocked the nation. On July 5, Alton Sterling was killed by two White Baton Rouge Police Department officers.

Sterling had been wrestled to the ground by Officers Howie Lake and Blane Salamoni and shot multiple times at point-black range. Bystander video of the encounter quickly went viral, sparking protests and candlelight vigils.

The very next day, on July 6, Philando Castile was fatally shot by Officer Jeronimo Yanez after being pulled over in Falcon Heights, a suburb of St. Paul, Minnesota. Castile’s girlfriend, Diamond Reynolds, was in car as was her 4-year old daughter.

Reynolds live-streamed

video of the police encounter after Castile had been shot, recording both his last moments and her arrest. By the following morning, graphic video had been watched more than one million times.

These two public deaths were called 21st century lynchings by NAACP President Cornell William Brooks. Protests erupted in cities around the nation, including St. Paul, Chicago, Sacramento, Atlanta, Memphis, New York City, Washington D.C., Denver,

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SEI to Close Middle School

CEO Tony Hopson says school’s closure will enable organization to focus on its mission

By Christen McCurdy
Of The Skanner News

Self Enhancement, Inc. announced earlier this summer it is closing SEI Academy — the only charter middle school in the city — and will begin phasing out services this year.

The nonprofit provides culturally specific support for African American students in schools throughout the city, and opened the middle

school 10 years ago following the closure of other middle schools in the Portland Public Schools system. Tony Hopson said SEI made the decision in response to the school district’s recent announcement that it would reopen some middle schools, including Harriet Tubman and Ockley Green in North and Northeast Portland in 2017.

“The charter school, which has

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PHOTO COURTESY OF SEI

Tony Hopson said the impending closure of SEI Academy will enable the organization to get back to its core mission of supporting Black students throughout the school system.