

Unemployment

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down from 62.9 percent in September to 62.8 percent in October.

The employment-population ratio slipped from September's 60.2 percent to 60.1 percent in October.

Among adults 20 years and older, Black men suffered the biggest setback in October.

ly edging down from 58 percent in September to 57.9 percent in October.

Last month, the unemployment rate for White women was the lowest of all adult working groups at 3.8 percent, but the participation rate for White women took a step down from 57.5 percent in September to 57.4 per-

“While we celebrate this progress, we also remain committed to making meaningful investments in our nation's families and in our economy to ensure that our growing prosperity is broadly shared

The unemployment rate for Black men jumped from 8.2 percent in September to 8.7 percent in October. The participation rate for Black men remained unchanged from September to October (67.5 percent) and the employment-population ratio also decreased from 62 percent in September to 61.7 percent in October.

The jobless rate for White men hasn't changed since July (4.1 percent) and the share of White male workers that were employed (69 percent) hasn't changed since August.

The labor force participation rate decreased from 72 percent in September to 71.9 percent in October.

The jobless rate for Black women over 20 years-old ticked up from 7 percent in September to 7.1 percent in October. The labor force participation rate for Black women remained at 62.3 percent the same mark set in September, but the employment-population ratio weakened slight-

cent in October.

The employment-population ratio for White women was 55.3 percent, the same mark set in September.

Elise Gould, a senior economist at the Economic Policy Institute, said that there was some good news in October's jobs report noting that the economy added 161,000 new jobs and that “nominal wage growth increased 2.8 percent over the year” which could indicate that workers are starting to gain some leverage in the labor market.

The national unemployment rate improved from 5 percent in September to 4.9 percent in October. The healthcare sector added 31,000 jobs in October and 415,000 jobs over the past 12 months, according to the Labor Department.

“The economy continues to move in the right direction, but considerable slack remains and the recovery has yet to be fully realized in all parts of the economy or for all workers,” said Gould.



PHOTO BY JERRY FOSTER

Wake of Vanport

The Skanner News screened the newest edition of the Wake of Vanport series at the historic Hollywood Theatre in Northeast Portland Nov. 20. The 2016 series features 10 new stories of Vanport survivors. The Wake of Vanport oral history project aims to capture the memories of those who lived in Vanport before the town was destroyed by a flood in 1948. Historian and author Zita Podany gave a brief talk about life in the hastily constructed workforce housing town. After the screening, Vanport survivor Lee Moore led a discussion about the importance of Vanport history. Moore advocated for a permanent memorial of Vanport to be placed where the town once was.

PPS

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Enforcement officials who come on to PPS property to remove students or collect information.

School board member Julie Esparza Brown, who introduced the resolution, said the action was in response to the fears from students, parents and the community. President-elect Trump campaigned heavily on the promise of the mass deportation of undocumented immigrants.

“There's been a lot of hateful, negative and scary rhetoric over the past couple of weeks and with that comes a lot of fear and uncertainty in our community,” Brown said. The resolution designates PPS schools as a safe space for all students regardless of immigration status. Any ICE officer must first notify the superintendent and district legal counsel before entering PPS property. The officer must provide legal validity for any request and written authority by Immigration and Natu-

ralization Services.

The resolution states that all ICE attempts need to give adequate notice to verify the le-

were getting a number of calls and emails from worried parents. Brown said that they could not help the national political envi-

“We can't control what happens at the national level, but in our own lives at work, at school, in our communities and across our institutions, we can stand up against any racism, sexism, xenophobia — any form of hatred”

gality and to allow PPS officials to take steps to provide for the safety of students and staff. Additionally, PPS staff cannot ask about a student or family member's immigration status and can not reveal information about that status without parental consent. The resolution gives the school system 90 days to train staff.

School board members Brown and Amy Kohnstamm said they

ronment, but they could affect change locally.

“We can't control what happens at the national level, but in our own lives at work, at school, in our communities and across our institutions, we can stand up against any racism, sexism, xenophobia — any form of hatred,” Brown said.

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Unbanked

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abilities, were also less likely to have bank accounts — and according to the National Disability Institute, African Americans with disabilities are particularly likely to do without banking services: two-thirds of African Americans with disabilities are unbanked or underbanked, as compared with 46 percent of all adults with disabilities.

The FDIC notes financially underserved people are more vulnerable to crime — and lose time and money seeking out financial services like check cashing.

The report also says households that don't have bank accounts are more likely to have unpredictable incomes, and recommends banks develop services to adapt to their needs.

“Bank products and services that enable households to better manage their account relationships and meet their financial needs when income is volatile may help these consumers open and sustain bank accounts and conduct a

greater share of their financial transactions within the banking system,” the report says.

And some banks and credit unions are starting to offer services specifically tailored for people who don't have traditional bank accounts.

“What we don't want is to have these households left behind”

Credit unions have also expanded their services to better meet the needs of populations who are often underserved by traditional banking institutions.

The Save to Win program, for instance, was created in Michigan in 2009 to encourage people to build savings habits by providing cash prize incentives, and is now available in 10 states, including Oregon, according to Lynn Heider, vice president of public relations and communications for

the Northwest Credit Union Association. Members open a savings account and for every \$25 deposit (up to 10 per month), they are entered into a monthly cash drawing.

Steve Pagenstecher, the vice president for member experience at Point West Credit Union in Portland, said Point West — which merged with the NAACP's credit

union in 1995 and Hacienda's in 2004 — during the Great Recession launched a lending program for non-U.S. citizens to ensure they'd be able to access credit, including car loans. Often, immigrants come to the United States with no credit history at all, and the program offers them the opportunity build credit, making it easier to access home and car loans or apply for rental properties.

“We don't talk about it as a separate program. We offer consumer lending at rates for all — everything excluding



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Families without bank accounts are more likely to use nontraditional financial services, including check cashing services that charge fees — but banks and credit unions are offering more tools to reach financially underserved customers.

real estate loans,” Pagenstecher told *The Skanner*. “Everything is open to noncitizens if they qualify.”

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