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LADY A'S LUNCHEON



Relocation Assistance rally, organized by Portland Tenants United, outside Portland City Hall, Feb. 2, 2017.

Making Landlords Pay

A property managers' association has filed suit against the city over relocation assistance

By *Melanie Sevckenko*
Of *The Skanner News*

On behalf of Multifamily NW, an association of property owners and managers, attorney John DiLorenzo sued the city days after it passed an ordinance requiring landlords to provide relocation assistance to tenants evicted without cause.

DiLorenzo did not respond to *The Skanner's* request for comment, but the suit claims the new ordinance conflicts with the state prohibition on rent control.

The suit, filed Monday, follows direct-
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Holding a transcript of her speech in the Senate Chamber, Democratic Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts reacts to being rebuked by the Senate leadership and accused of impugning a fellow senator, Sen. Jeff Sessions, R-Ala.

World News Briefs

Travel ban, Warren barred and more page 10

Unequal Justice
page 8



Lyric Nasir Rochelle Simpson, 8, claps for the inspirational words of Mother Margaret Hardin 104 during Lady A's Ladies Luncheon Feb. 4 at the NW African American Museum. Lady A brought together 200 women for an afternoon of inspiration that included music, comedy and personal stories.

Program Helps Black Students Outpace Oregon's Average Graduation Rates

Graduation rates among Black students were up 3.6 percent in 2016

By *Melanie Sevckenko*
Of *The Skanner News*

Back in 2010, the four-year high school graduation rate for Portland Public Schools was under 55 percent. For African American students, it sat at 44 percent.

But in recent years, one program in particular has been making strides to improve the academic performance of the city's most vulnerable students.

As a nonprofit organization, Self Enhancement Inc. has been supporting

at-risk urban youth in the greater Portland area for more than 30 years. It offers both academic and nonacademic services, as well as college and career preparation, parenting resources and counseling.

When Jefferson High School in North Portland - Oregon's only remaining majority-Black public high school - took a look at SEI's graduation rates, it got inspired. For two decades, 97 percent of SEI's predominantly low-income African American core program students have been graduating from high school on

time, and 85 percent were going on to post-secondary education.

SEI's success lies in its integrated approach, according to president and CEO Tony Hopson Sr.

"SEI services the students, the families, the schools and the community," Hopson said. "It also maintains its relationship with students from elementary school through college or a family wage job, basically until students become adults."

Threatened with closure due to declining enrollment and poor perfor-

mance - with only around half of the senior class graduating - Jefferson decided to use the its negative statistics as a catalyst for change.

In 2011, the high school partnered with Portland Public Schools and Self Enhancement Inc. to create the SEI Whole School Model for underserved youth - and the results have continued to improve year by year.

The program works by making available SEI's mentoring, tutoring, and

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Reacting to the Travel Ban

Community groups offer legal resources, advice on engagement in wake of rapid changes in immigration

By *The Skanner News Staff*

Tuesday afternoon the Ninth Circuit Court heard arguments on whether it will restore President Donald Trump's Jan. 27 executive order banning travel to and from seven predominantly-Muslim nations.

That hearing was the result of the states of Washington and Minnesota's legal brief arguing against

the Trump administration's appeal (which was later joined by attorneys general from multiple states, including Oregon). The executive order has been the subject of numerous other legal complaints, including a lawsuit brought last week by immigrants' rights groups in Oregon.

The 9th Circuit Court has said it will issue a decision on the executive order as soon as possible. It's not clear whether the court will over-



Mat dos Santos, legal director for ACLU of Oregon, speaks at a Feb. 1 press conference with Manije Mehrnoosh, Unite Oregon board co-chair and Muwafaq Alkattan, Unite Oregon staff member and Iraqi refugee.

turn the ban entirely, or merely overturn parts of it.

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