

**Sports** cont'd from pg 1

Some now feel compelled to be more cautious in monitoring their child's contact with coaches and other adults.

Experts say the spotty rules and certifications for coaches and glorification of sports culture can make children who feel pressure to achieve even more vulnerable. No longer a casual pastime,

for sexually assaulting some of the nation's top gymnasts under the guise of medical treatment.

The U.S. Olympic Committee developed SafeSport, but it's now an independent organization that works with law enforcement to investigate abuse allegations for the 49 Olympic and Paralympic

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sports teams can leave kids as young as 5 in the care of undertrained, undersupervised coaches.

Emmett Gill, a professor at the University of Texas and expert on the personal development of student-athletes, said success often means children leave their communities to compete, which can leave them at more risk.

“It's clear that the coach's responsibility, and their permanent goal, is to win, and that can sacrifice protecting vulnerable children,” Gill said. “We really have forgotten about that good, old neighborhood team. Now youth sports is a bunch of strangers on teams with the best athletes, with the purpose of winning.”

One national organization trying to prevent abuse of young athletes is the U.S. Center for SafeSport, a Denver-based nonprofit that formed last year.

It launched following the initial allegations of sexual abuse against Larry Nassar, the disgraced sports doctor for USA Gymnastics who will spend his life in prison

pic sports.

In addition to offering an online link for anonymous abuse reports, SafeSport also provides educational and training material for youth leagues nationwide. The goal is to prevent abuse altogether.

“We have got to get upstream and do more to educate athletes, to educate parents, to educate coaches and to educate sport administrators,” SafeSport CEO Shellie Pfohl said. “I want every parent to know what questions they should be asking when they sign their child up.”

Since its inception, SafeSport has received 470 reports of either emotional or physical abuse, including 165 reports this year and 222 active investigations overall. In some cases, the organization didn't have jurisdiction over a youth league to investigate an allegation.

Youth leagues outside Olympic and Paralympic sports don't have a national body to investigate abuse.

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

**Broadband** cont'd from pg 1

to form a 501(c)(4) corporation and political action committee.

According to the Institute for Local Self-Reliance's Community Networks page, more than 750 American communities have built publicly owned broadband networks.

“When a community is served by a municipal network, the infrastructure

institute's Community Broadband Networks Initiative.

Hanna sees the notion as a revival of a Progressive Era notion of making certain utilities part of the public good.

“A hundred years ago there was an effort to municipalize utilities, which is responsible for the city life we know today. There's been a gradual chipping

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is a publicly-owned asset, similar to a road or an electric utility. There are a variety of models from full retail, in which the city takes on the role of an Internet Service Provider like Comcast or AT&T, delivering services directly to residents and businesses, to institutional networks in which only municipal facilities receive services,” said Lisa Gonzalez, a senior researcher for the

away at that effort,” Hanna said.

Senior likened the potential creation of a municipal utility to the creation of the Portland Water Bureau in 1885, prior to which there were a number of private water companies in Portland that failed to consistently provide clean water as the city grew.

Last year the City of Portland released a Digital Equity Action Plan that

reported 15 percent of Portland households do not have Internet access at home, citing cost as a barrier.

“It starts when young people have homework they cannot complete,” Phillip-Robbins said. That inequity perpetuates itself when low-income people do not have the necessary tools to search for jobs or housing. “If we want to close the gap, this is a major opportunity.”

The plan recommends making sure wi-fi is available at all public buildings throughout the county, and outreach to ensure private programs that provide Internet access to low-income people, such as Comcast's Internet Essentials program and CenturyLink's Internet Basics.

Senior said while those programs can

though a 1949 court ruling, *Shelley v. Kraemer*, ruled that racially restrictive housing covenants violated the Equal Protection Clause and were unenforceable in court. Nineteen years later, a federal appeals court ruled that the covenants themselves violated the Fair Housing Act and that recording deeds with such clauses violated the 14th Amendment.

“As the court observed, such provisions, even if they lacked power, still would make black purchasers reluctant to buy into white neighborhoods if the recorded deeds gave implicit recognition of the racial prohibition and gave an official imprimatur to the message that the purchasers should not live where they were not wanted,” Rothstein wrote.

*The Skanner* invites readers to share their stories with restrictive covenants in Portland. Please write to [news@theskanner.com](mailto:news@theskanner.com) or call (503) 285-5555, ext. 503.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PCRI

**PCRI Breaks Ground**

Portland Community Reinvestment Initiatives, along with Albina Construction, Brett Schulz Architect and other partners broke ground Feb. 27 on the first homes for purchase by first-time homebuyers as part of its Pathway 1000 Initiative. Four new townhomes will be built in North Portland. These new homes, for sale to low- and moderate-income first-time buyers will be prioritized for families displaced from North and Northeast Portland and families at risk of displacement.

Pictured here are Travis Phillips, Housing Development Director (PCRI) –Maxine Fitzpatrick Executive Director (PCRI), Dennis Harris (Owner of Albina Construction, LLC.) and Brett Schulz, Bret Schulz Architect.

**Law** cont'd from pg 1

Fund and of the Haas Institute at the University of California (Berkeley), writes in the 2017 book, “The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America,” that restrictive covenants were common in housing deeds through the mid-20th century and were part of a system of legal tools that kept neighborhoods segregated and prevented African American families from owning homes and accruing wealth.

On their face, the contracts were difficult to enforce, as original owners were unlikely to take action should their former house be sold to a family of color. White homeowners formed neighborhood associations which enforced the deeds instead.

“Between 1935 and 1955 W.E. Boeing, the founder of Boeing Aircraft, developed suburbs north of Seattle. During this period and after World War II, the South Seattle Land Company, the

Puget Sound Mill Company, and others constructed more suburbs. The builders all wrote racially restrictive language into their deeds. The result was a city whose African American population was encircled by all-white

“White homeowners formed neighborhood associations which enforced the deeds

suburbs,” Rothstein wrote.

The book also notes that local governments aggressively promoted restrictive covenants and that the Federal Housing Administration gave higher ratings to mortgage applications if there were no African Americans living in the neighborhood. Al-



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Advocates are pushing for a publicly-owned broadband network in Portland.

be helpful, they can also be complex and difficult to apply for, and that may be why they are so under-utilized.

“The other part of this that's really compelling is money stays in the community,” Phillip-Robbins said.

The next step is to procure \$300,000 for a feasibility study. Advocates said they've had interest from both the city and the county.

Read the full story at [TheSkanner.com](http://TheSkanner.com)