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RISE AND ORGANIZE



PHOTO BY SUSAN FRIED

Deputy DNC Chair Keith Ellison joined Washington Senator Maria Cantwell, and Seattle City Councilmember Teresa Mosqueda, April 6 Kane Hall on the University of Washington campus to help organize Democrats in Washington State for the midterm elections in November.

Solar Tiny Houses Erected at Dignity Village

New homes generate enough electricity for the entire shelter community

By *Melanie Sevcenko*
For *The Skanner News*

The community-run Dignity Village shelter in Northeast Portland celebrated a collaborative milestone April 4, when four new tiny houses were unveiled on site.

A collaborative project between the ReBuilding Center, DPI Solar and the Portland Trail Blazers, as well as a handful of trades training organizations, the tiny homes are the newest

addition to a long-term plan to improve and innovate the older structures at Dignity Village.

Established in 2000, the houseless community is one of Portland's oldest camps and is currently home to 53 residents. As a self-governing entity, it seeks to "create a green, sustainable urban village for those who are seeking shelter but are unable to find it," according to its online mission.

Now, village residents have the opportunity to

participate in a project at the forefront of sustainable "tiny house" construction. The 8-by-14-foot structures are fully insulated, solar-power generating, and use weather-resistant cedar and salvaged materials — one-third of which was donated by the ReBuilding Center, a nonprofit store that offers used and salvaged building materials. The center has also worked with other homeless communities in the Portland area, including Hazelnut Grove, Right

to Dream Too and the Kenton Women's Village.

Funded primarily by the Portland Trail Blazers, the budget for the tiny houses reached roughly \$20,000. John Goodwin, premium services manager with the Blazers, ultimately got the project off the ground.

Over the years, his team has been volunteering for a number of social service organizations, including New Avenues for Youth and the Blanchet House. For the Dignity Village

See **DIGNITY** on page 3

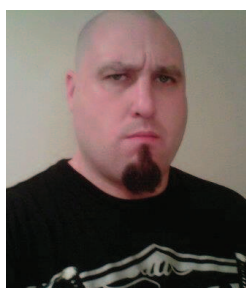
Portland Police Shoot and Kill Man at Shelter

John A. Elifritz died Saturday after an apparent mental health crisis

The Skanner News

Seven Portland Police Bureau officers and one sheriff's deputy were involved in a shooting Saturday that left one man dead after he entered a southeast Portland homeless shelter.

On Tuesday Portland police released the names of officers who were involved in the shooting and



John A. Elifritz

their years of service with their respective agencies, but did not release information about who fired lethal rounds or how many. The Portland police officers involved are:

- Richard Bailey, two years;
- Justin Damerville, seven years;
- Kameron Fender, eight years;
- Alexandru Martiniuc, six years;
- Bradley Nutting, 11 years;
- Chad Phifer, 10 years;
- Andrew Polas, 14 years.

Aaron Sieczkowski, a six-year member of the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office, was also involved in the shooting.

Several of the officers involved

have use-of-force incidents in their past: Polas was involved in the 2010 shooting of Keaton Otis, a 25-year-old Black man who was shot 23 times after being stopped for unsignaled lane changes and shooting an officer in the groin. Phifer was cited in the Department of Justice's investigation of Portland police as an example of PPB's use of excessive force against people with mental illness, after an incident where he fired a Taser repeatedly and punched a man with mental illness multiple times. In 2014 Nutting used a stun gun in 2014 against Portland bicyclist Matthew Klug.

See **SHOOTING** on page 3



PHOTO BY CHRISTEN MCCURDY

Portland State University graduate student Greta Smith stands at the corner of N. Williams and Skidmore, a historically Black neighborhood undergoing rapid gentrification, to talk about the legacy of Portland's racist housing policies.

Mapping Segregation in Portland

PSU grad students collecting, mapping restrictive covenants

By *Christen McCurdy*
Of *The Skanner News*

Portland State University and the city of Portland are collaborating this spring to research the history of racist housing policies in Portland, and they're looking for help from the public.

Greta Smith, a graduate student in PSU's public history program, has collected about 30 restrictive covenants from housing deeds around Portland and created an interactive map of the addresses where covenants were cre-

See **MAPPING** on page 3



AP PHOTO/NATHANIK, FILE

In this Nov. 9, 2016, file photo, Brad Ashford speaks at a news conference in Omaha, Neb. declaring his opposition to banning assault weapons, Ashford has since changed his mind. He's being challenged aggressively in the primary by Kara Eastman, an ardent gun-control advocate. Democrats believe that they cannot win in this supercharged environment without embracing gun control.

Dems in GOP Country

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Kam Reviews 'Chappaquiddick'

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