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not everyone is experiencing this prosperity.”

Homelessness and spiraling rents must be tackled, Brown said, noting her proposed budget makes a historic \$400 million investment in housing. She also said a bill sponsored by House Speaker Tina Kotek and Senate Majority Leader Ginny Burdick, both Portland Democrats, is

natorial race in Oregon history. In the run-up to the finish, her campaign committee had received almost \$10.3 million in cash contributions while Republican candidate Knute Buehler's received \$13.2 million.

“No one should be able to buy a megaphone so loud that it drowns out all the other voices,” Brown said.

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“innovative” and will give renters some peace of mind.

The bill prohibits landlord from terminating month-to-month tenancy without cause after 12 months of occupancy, allows a landlord to terminate tenancy with 90 days' written notice and payment of one month's rent under certain conditions, and limits annual rent increase to 7 percent above annual changes in the consumer price index.

House Republicans said they are “poised to resist harmful legislation, vigorously safeguard Oregonians' tax dollars, and protect their rights” during the 80th Oregon Legislative Assembly, which starts next week.

Democrats control the Legislature, with a three-fifths super majority in the House and Senate, giving them greater power to impose taxes.

In her address Brown also repeated her intent to end what she called the “wild, wild west” of campaign finance.

She was re-elected in November after the most expensive guber-

At one point, a couple of people opposed to a proposed deep-water marine terminal on the Oregon coast where ships could load liquefied natural gas from a planned pipeline interrupted Brown's speech to shout a few words before departing.

At another point, Brown thanked state employees and volunteers, including “first gentleman” Dan Little, who are working to keep federal facilities accessible during the partial federal government shutdown. Brown tweeted photos on Saturday of her husband, Little, after he cleaned toilets at Mt. Hood National Forest. Little sent the \$28 bill for disposing of the trash to President Donald Trump.

Brown's \$23.6 billion budget proposal for the next biennium aims to stabilize funding for the Oregon Health Plan, a free health coverage offered by the state for people who meet income and other requirements.

“Health care is a fundamental right,” she declared.

Read the rest of this story at TheSkanner.com

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investigations,” she said.

Thompson, the chair of the Homeland Security Committee, said the shutdown is taking its toll on workers and government operations.

“It is a challenge for us in Homeland Security. We have 80 percent of the workforce not being paid. That goes from TSA employees in airports, to the Coast Guard, to the Secret Service, to Custom Border Protection individuals,



Maryland Rep. Anthony Brown

“The CBC members said they were calling for an end to the shutdown so that workers can again begin to collect their paychecks and critical government services can resume

and all of those individuals who have sworn to keep us safe, are not being paid,” Thompson said.

“That's not fair and we are compromising our national security strategy by reducing the morale of the employ-

ees.”

On Saturday, Jan. 12, the shutdown entered its 22nd day, a record.

NBC News and other outlets estimate that 800,000 federal employees are furloughed or working without pay

BlackProGen Host to Speak at GFO Jan. 26

The Genealogical Forum of Oregon is pleased to welcome BlackProGen host Nicka Smith to its next African American Ancestry Group meeting from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Jan. 26. Smith is a professional photographer, speaker, and documentarian with more than 20 years of experience as a genealogist. She is the host of BlackProGen Live, a web show focused on people of color genealogy and family history. She will speak on “The Future of African American Genealogy.” Attendees can discover why advancements in DNA cataloging are key for all types of genealogy and how they can help break down years-long barriers in personal research efforts. The meeting is free and open to the public at the GFO Library in the basement of the historic Ford Building at S.E. 11th Ave. & Division in Portland.



PHOTO COURTESY OF GENEALOGICAL FORUM OF OREGON

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district; under a new cost-sharing arrangement, the district would pay the police bureau \$364,000 this year and just over \$1.2 million a year for three years.

The decision would not increase the number of officers, but it would increase the number of days they work from four days a week to five.

Students' concerns are three-fold, Steele told *The Skanner*. First, they argue it's not the best use of district funding given schools still have lead in the drinking water and other structural issues, like leaking roofs and asbestos.

“We don't have a clean, safe learning environment,” Steele said.

Second, research suggests that in the two decades since the Columbine High School shooting the increased presence of cops in schools has led to increased targeting and criminalization of students of color and students with disabilities.

And while calls for increasing

the number of school resource officers have increased since last year's shooting at Marjorie Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla., critics have noted that Stoneman's school resource officer stayed out of the

“We don't have a clean, safe learning environment

building while the shooting was taking place.

“They think of SROs and they think of somebody that's supposed to protect us,” Steele said, but instead, more students are funneled into the school-to-prison pipeline.

No SROs PDX organized in November after, students said, they became upset and dissatisfied with the district's efforts at engagement.

The district solicited feedback at events held in schools but, according to Steele, students got little notice about the board's impending vote and district officials seemed to want to explain the plan to them rather than gather input.

“What got me interested was it was just really the blatant lack of trying – the fact that they got students involved so late,” Steele said.

On Jan. 2 about a dozen students gathered in front of Portland City Hall for a press conference and protest to raise awareness about the issue. They continue to organize and make contact through social media – they have a YouTube channel, a Twitter feed and are circulating an online petition – and are looking to involve students from every high school in the area.

“Just because we are young adults, that doesn't mean we don't know what we are talking about,” Steele said.

because Trump and Congress cannot reach a deal to reopen the government.

They are at an impasse over \$5.7 billion for construction of a wall along the southern border.

The number of furloughed employees does not include federal contractors, according to a report by NBC News.

It's unclear how many contract or grant employees are affected by the shutdown – or even how many there are in total – but a Volcker Alliance report estimated that nearly 5.3 million worked as contractors in 2015.

Unlike furloughed federal employees, who have received assurances that they will be paid once the shutdown ends, contractors are not owed back pay and that has left them in an even murkier economic position.

Further, communities of color are probably the hardest hit by the shutdown, said Lee, who co-chairs the Steering and Policy Committee and serves on the House Committee on Appropriations.

Black people comprise 12 percent of the country's population but are 18 percent of the federal workforce, according to the Partnership for Public Service.

“We know that communities of color are disproportionately affected by this irresponsible Trump government shutdown. And today is especially painful for so many workers because it should be payday,” Lee said.

Without these paychecks, many federal workers are hanging on by a thread, she said.

“I know there are hundreds of thousands of families out there who are grappling with the anxiety, and really fear, of not being able to pay the bills as this shutdown drags on.