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PHOTO BY ELI DUKE (CC BY-SA 2.0) VIA FLICKR.
A Portland nonprofit has a new proposal for the never-used Wapato Jail.

VOA Eyes Wapato

Portland nonprofit proposes repurposing the never-used jail as a community wellness center

By Christen McCurdy
Of The Skanner News

A year ago, real estate magnate Jordan Schnitzer bought the Wapato Jail, talking initially of using it as a warehouse and later, repurposing it as a homeless shelter with help from developer Homer Williams — an idea floated by multiple advocates in the last years the facility was publicly owned. By November he'd filed for a demolition permit for the building, which was built in 2004 but has never been used.

But Kay Toran, the president and CEO of Volunteers of America Oregon, has a different proposal for the building.

Toran has drafted a proposal to re-

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VIGIL FOR NIPSEY HUSSLE

People line up to sign a tribute poster to Nipsey Hussle, the rapper, songwriter and businessman who was murdered in Los Angeles March 31, at vigil for the rapper, businessman and community activist's life April 7 at Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Park in Seattle. Similar events were held all over the country, including one at the Eritrean Community Organization in Portland. The organizers of the Seattle event to be able to bring the signed poster to the public memorial service April 11 at Staples Center in Los Angeles.



PHOTO BY SUSAN FRIED

Legislature Considers Youth Justice Reform

Sens. Jackie Winters, James Manning spearhead effort to mitigate Measure

By Saundra Sorensen
For The Skanner News

The Oregon legislature is considering an ambitious bill to reform juvenile justice, and to mitigate mandatory minimum sentencing for youth offenders under Measure 11.

Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum appeared before the Senate Judiciary Committee on March 28 alongside Sen. Jackie Winters (R-Salem) and Sen. James I. Manning, Jr. (D-Eugene) to voice her support

for the four Senate bills that were later merged as SB 1008 during an April 8 work session.

“As we learn more about the fluid nature of neurological development in our adolescents, and as our science continually improves, it is only proper that we use this new information to critically question the accuracy of long-held assumptions about culpability, reformation, and the capacity of our youth for self-betterment, even in the most adverse of circumstances,” Rosen-

blum told the committee.

Sen. Winters praised the sweeping sentencing reforms accomplished by HB 3194 in 2013, but said, “We left the juvies out.”

Winters criticized “the issue of juvies having had the training and the investment that we make at (Oregon Youth Authority), only to be sent to the (Department of Corrections) to learn how to be a better criminal.”

“What you do at 13 is not the same as where your brain is when you’re 20, 21, 22,” Winters said. “So col-

leagues: I came this morning asking you to join me and others who actually believe that it’s time for Oregon to actually do the reforms for juveniles.”

To that end, Dr. Ajit Jetmalani, Director of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at OHSU, gave expert testimony in support of the bills, outlining the cognitive differences between adults and adolescents.

“Adolescents are not big kids or small adults,” Jetmalani said. “Their neuropsychological functions

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PHOTO VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS
Sports betting in Las Vegas

Sports Gambling

Oregon may legalize the practice

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Wolf Population Rises in Oregon

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States Mull Right to Drive

Oregon and other states are considering easing restrictions on accessing a driver's license

By Claudia Torrens and Michael Hill
Associated Press

ALBION, N.Y. — Dairy farm worker Luis Jiménez gambles every time he drives without a license. Even a minor traffic stop could alert immigration agents that he is in the country illegally and lead to deportation.

But in the wide open spaces of upstate New York's farm country, supermarkets and job sites are often too far away for walking, there's not

always somebody around to give you a ride, and catching a city bus or subway just isn't an option.

“Necessity forces us to take a risk,” Jiménez said in Spanish as he drove home recently. “We have to work, we have to buy food. Sometimes we get sick and workers like me can't drive to a hospital, can't buy medicine. But I feel I need to take the risk so that my kids and my family can have a better life.”

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AP PHOTO/ MICHAEL HILL

In this March 20 photo, Ismael Castellanos feeds calves on a the dairy farm where he works, in Bethany, New York. A renewed push around the country to let immigrants here illegally get driver's licenses resonates on the farms and orchards of upstate New York. Castellanos says he feels isolated and that trips to town to buy groceries can cost \$40.