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with a fine, and which would recriminalize meth and heroin possession. The coalition is co-led by Dan Lavey, one of two political consultants who founded the dark money group People for Portland. People for Portland was criticized for attempts to counteract

again with the new coalition. BIPOC addiction service providers and advocates have warned that the changes the coalition proposes will lead back to disproportionately high rates of incarceration for Oregonians of color, and will defund community-based pro-

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the 2020 voter-approved Metro homeless services tax, which had a focus on permanent housing and wraparound services to break the cycle of homelessness. People for Portland’s proposed measure sought to redirect 75% of the funding to emergency shelters instead of more permanent solutions – a move critics saw as a cynical attempt to remove homeless individuals from public view, rather than offer them housing. That attempt was struck down in court, and the measure did not appear on ballots. But many addiction service advocates see that pattern playing out yet

grams that are already showing success with Measure 110 funding. The Skanner sat down with Julia Mines, the executive director of The Miracles Club, to discuss how these proposed changes threaten BIPOC communities. The Miracles Club is a Black peer-led recovery center specifically serving marginalized individuals struggling with addiction. Now nearing its 30th year of operation, the nonprofit provides harm reduction and addiction recovery services, and has expanded its offerings since receiving \$2.6 million of an allotted \$3.2 million of Measure 110



PHOTO COURTESY COMMUNITY WAREHOUSE

Furniture Bank Facing Low Inventory, Offers Sliding-Scale Pickup Fee for Donations

Portland metro area residents become less motivated to transport bulky furniture and home goods to donation sites amidst the cold and rain. As the only furniture bank serving the tri-county area, Community Warehouse’s Portland and Tualatin locations combined serve up to twenty individuals and families each day. In order to meet the needs of their clients, Community Warehouse must procure approximately 20 couches and 40 mattress donations each day, in addition to a variety of other furniture and household items such as dressers, chairs, linens, lamps, pots, pans, and silverware. To incentivize furniture donations during this time of need, Community Warehouse is offering donation pickups on a sliding-scale starting at just \$20 now through December 31. On average, the cost is \$130 per pickup. Schedule a donation pickup at <https://www.communitywarehouse.org> or drop off at 3969 NE MLK Jr Blvd.

funding.

The Skanner: How has Measure 110 changed operations at The Miracles Club?
Mines: We know that Measure 110 came about because of the epic failure of the war on drugs. It came about to provide services for the African American, Latino and Indigenous populations of

the state. However, we’re a small population in this state. We have received funding and what is happening for Miracles is that we have our doors swing from the time we open in the morning til the time we close at night. We are giving incentives, programming – mainly for clients, but it also helps our staff. We have

been able to increase our workforce, we have been able to train people up to work for Miracles. So with that, the only drawbacks are the populations – the White organizations, they’re really not giving services to our populations. They’ll refer them to us, which is fine because we don’t mind. We help everybody. We don’t discrimi-

nate. Our target is the African American recovery population, but anybody who walks through the door if they need help, that’s what we do. And if we can’t provide them with services, we will refer them to somebody that can. We have an organization – the Oregon Black **See MEASURE on page 7**

Senators cont'd from pg 1

central committees and two voters, filed the lawsuit in the U.S. District Court of Oregon on Monday. In the complaint, Sens. Dennis Linthicum, Brian Boquist and Cedric Hayden – who all racked up more than 10 unexcused absences during this year’s walkout – argue that expressing their political views through protest is protected under the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution

and shouldn’t disqualify them from reelection. In the complaint, the lawmakers described walkouts as a tool the minority party could use to protest against the policies of Democrats, who hold majorities in both chambers of the Legislature. The lawmakers also allege the measure violates their 14th Amendment right to due process. This year’s GOP walk-

out sought to block Democratic legislation on abortion, transgender health care and guns. It prevented the state Senate from reaching the two-thirds quorum it needed to conduct business and held up hundreds of bills for six weeks. The defendants named in the lawsuit are Secretary of State LaVonne Griffin-Valade and Democratic Senate President Rob Wagner. Wagner de-

clined to comment on the suit, and Griffin-Valade’s office didn’t immediately respond to an emailed request for comment. Several Oregon state senators with at least 10 absences have already filed candidacy papers with election authorities, even though Griffin-Valade announced in August that they were disqualified from running for legislative seats in the 2024 election.

Under Measure 113, lawmakers with more than 10 unexcused absences are supposed to be disqualified from being reelected for the following term. But some Republicans have raised questions over the measure’s vague wording. The constitutional amendment says a lawmaker is not allowed to run “for the term following the election after the member’s current term

is completed.” Since a senator’s term ends in January and elections are held in November, Republican state senators argue the penalty doesn’t take effect immediately, but instead after they’ve served another term. The federal lawsuit comes on top of a state lawsuit filed by Republican state senators that is set to be heard by the Oregon Supreme Court next month.

Businesses cont'd from pg 1

ported by public data, census data and information supplied by the Black Wealth Data Center. For health, the dashboard reports the percentage of the Black population by state that carries health insurance coverage, percentage of live births with low birthweight, teen birth rates, average life expectancy, rates of premature death, rates of homicide, drug overdose mortality and suicide rates. Economic well-being is reported via poverty rates, child poverty rates, household income, rates of home ownership, home values, home loan applications denied by race and ethnicity, housing cost burden, broadband access and incarceration rates. “I was not surprised that a lot of the information was going to be dismal,” Randall said. “But I was pleasantly surprised in some areas I looked at that

showed Black Oregonians are doing much better here in Oregon than they are in other states around the country.”

“I was not surprised that a lot of the information was going to be dismal

Often, the results are mixed: The dashboard shows that only 36% of Black Oregonians own their homes, compared to 67% of their White counterparts. However, those who do own property enjoy the seventh-highest home values in the country, emphasizing the wealth-building opportunities in real estate and the importance of home-buying readiness initiatives for BIPOC Orego-

nians (<https://www.theskanner.com/news/northwest/29174-homeownership-task-force-submits-recommendations>). **Business Concentration** BBAO identified 530 Black-owned businesses in the state, including sole proprietors and S-Corps, although the organization notes this may not be a complete list since the state’s business registry does not include information about owners’ race or ethnicity. The dashboard’s statewide map of such businesses provides a stark illustration: There is only one Black-owned business identified in all of Eastern Oregon. Meanwhile, BBAO found that 38% of Black-owned businesses in Oregon are based within three miles of Martin Luther King Boulevard. Randall also expressed concern that the majority of Black businesses are

concentrated in only a few sectors, adding that he would like to see more Black business owners in the areas of healthcare and information technology. “What I’m noticing is that when it comes to Black business owners, we have a tendency to focus on a very small set of opportunities” like construction, waste management and food services, he said. “I believe what we’re going to have to do is we’ve got to help the Black community diversify their entrepreneurial desires – we have to help them look at other aspects and other segments of the business community they can go into. We have to make sure we introduce people to different sectors and let them begin to take a look into those sectors to find an opportunity where they can fit in and start a business, or purchase a business, or expand existing business.”