



The Portland Observer

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'City of
Roses'

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Committed to Cultural Diversity

Oregon Community Foundation Expands Investment in Education

Supporting Equity, Access and Student Success Statewide

Oregon Community Foundation is investing more than \$1.5 million in education initiatives designed to strengthen student success, expand STEM learning opportunities and support the child care workforce.

The investments include grants supporting Black Student Success programs across Oregon; funding for Oregon's regional STEM Hubs and support for statewide scholarships that help child care providers access training and professional development.



KairosPDX (Courtesy of Oregon Community Foundation)

Oregon Community Foundation awarded \$480,000 in grants across the Black Student Success Network, a statewide coalition

of more than two dozen Black-led organizations.

The network — slated to expand this year — brings together

organizations that are advancing equitable educational opportunities for Black students through collaboration, shared learning

and community-rooted strategies. Leaders from participating organizations meet regularly to share knowledge, strengthen partnerships and develop statewide solutions that support Black students from early learning through postsecondary education and career pathways.

The Black Student Success Network was formed six years ago and has expanded its reach into rural communities in Eastern and Southern Oregon while continuing to strengthen partnerships statewide.

"We're pleased to continue to support organizations in the Network as they elevate best practices that eliminate disparities affecting Black students and forge statewide partnerships on behalf of improving educational outcomes," said John Chang, Director of Culturally Responsive Programs.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Interim Director of the Portland Housing Bureau



City of Portland Announces
Quisha Light as Interim Director
of the Portland Housing Bureau

Light Will Serve the City's Housing Bureau as Interim Director

Deputy City Administrator for Community and Economic Development Donnie Oliveira today announced that Quisha Light will serve as the interim director of the Portland Housing Bureau. Current Interim Director Michael Buonocore will step down May 15 to serve as the next executive director of Home Forward. Light will join the bureau starting May 18.

"I am grateful to Quisha for her willingness to step up and lead this bureau and ensure there is no lapse in leadership as the city makes challenging budget decisions to address the ongoing housing and budgetary crises," said Oliveira. "She brings a customer-focused lens to the work, and when we are talking about providing housing to Portlanders, that service can be life-saving."

Light, currently the Public Works Customer Service Division Manager, oversees citywide customer service strategy, service delivery systems, affordability programs, and customer experience modernization—ensuring public services are accessible, equitable, and human-centered. Light has also served as the Interim Director of the Portland Water Bureau,

leading almost 600 employees, including through complex operational, cultural, and organizational transitions. She joined the City of Portland in 2022 as the Water Bureau's Director of Customer Service, where she led major technology modernization efforts and strengthened end-to-end customer operations. Before entering public service, Light spent over a decade at Portland General Electric, working in Legal, Strategy, Integrated Resource Planning, and Product Development, where she launched innovative clean energy and demand response initiatives. Prior to PGE, she practiced law in Tennessee.

She will start as interim Housing director May 18, ensuring a smooth transition as interim Director Buonocore takes the helm

at Home Forward on the same day.

"Thank you, Michael, for your partnership and for leading this team with expertise, passion, and empathy," Oliveira added. "As your colleague and friend, I am grateful that I had the opportunity to work with you again and trust our collaboration will continue in the future."

The Portland Housing Bureau is one of several bureaus and programs in the Community and Economic Development service area. This service area creates and delivers efficient, transparent, and equitable solutions for a resilient built environment — as well as services, resources, and experiences for our community. This work is accomplished by aligning City programs focused on building prosperity for all Portlanders.

Black Men's Wellness PDX Hosts Juneteenth Wellness Week

Bringing People Together Through Health and Recreation

Black Men's Wellness PDX is continuing Juneteenth Wellness Week 2026, a six-day series of free, community-centered events designed to celebrate freedom, promote wellness, strengthen families, and build community through shared experiences across the Portland metropolitan area.

Taking place June 15–20, 2026, Juneteenth Wellness Week brings together Black men, families, youth, and community members for activities centered on physical wellness, outdoor recreation, fellowship, and empowerment. Under the theme “Honoring Our Past. Investing In Our Future.” the week reflects Black Men's Wellness PDX's ongoing commitment to advancing health, healing, connection, and opportunity for Black communities across Oregon.

The week began Monday, June 15 with (W)Healthy Walks at Benson Polytechnic High School, where participants gathered in the evening for a community walk fo-



Black Men Wellness. Photo Courtesy of www.blackmenswellness.org

cused on movement, conversation, and healthy living. On Tuesday, June 16, The Rollout at McCoy Park Fountain brought community members together for an evening of skating, scootering, and outdoor fellowship, creating a festive space for recreation and connection.

Wednesday's programming featured Shoot Your Shot 4 at the Forest Park Archery Range, held at 2:00 PM. The event offered participants a hands-on opportunity to experience archery, build confi-

dence, and engage in a unique outdoor wellness activity designed to promote focus and personal growth.

The week continues Thursday, June 18 with Can I Kayak??? at Whitaker Ponds, beginning at 5:30 PM. Participants will take to the water for an evening of kayaking, outdoor exploration, and wellness-centered recreation in a natural setting.

On Friday, June 19, More Than A Game will be held at Irving Park at 6:00 PM. The community gathering will cen-

ter around sports, mentorship, family engagement, and celebrating Juneteenth through healthy competition, connection, and shared experience.

Juneteenth Wellness Week concludes Saturday, June 20 with Mobbin With Muki at Lower Macleay Park at 1:00 PM. The closing event will feature a community hike and outdoor wellness experience focused on physical activity, reflection, and strengthening community ties.

Juneteenth Wellness Week was created to encourage healthy lifestyles, strengthen relationships, and provide opportunities for Black men and their families to engage in positive, affirming experiences throughout Portland. The initiative highlights the five pillars of Black Men's Wellness PDX: Mind, Body, Community, Legacy, and Family.

Through accessible, culturally relevant programming, Black Men's Wellness PDX continues its mission of supporting healthier outcomes and building stronger, more connected communities across Oregon.

Black Men's Wellness PDX is dedicated to empowering Black men, strengthening families, and building thriving communities through health education, wellness programming, advocacy, and community engagement. The organization works to create equitable opportunities for health, healing, and success throughout Oregon.

Oregon Community Foundation Expands Investment in Education

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Chang noted that the grants come as the Black Student Success Program welcomes a new leader, with Dorian Smith joining OCF as the Senior Program Officer.

“Dorian brings 15 years of experience advancing Black student success and statewide education equity initiatives at Oregon State University,” Chang said. “He is widely respected by education leaders across the state for his ability to build strong partnerships spanning K–12 and post-secondary education to meaningfully serve urban and rural students.”

Smith said: “It is an honor to serve in this role and work with the state's most innovative programs as they improve educational equity and academic performance in their communities.”

Black Student Success Network organizations include BASE Oregon, the Beaverton Black Peoples Union, Black Educational Achievement Movement, Black Parent Initiative, Black Southern Oregon Alliance, Black United Fund of Oregon, Center for Black Student Excellence, Hermiston Cultural Awareness Coalition, HOLLA Mentors, Oregon State University Foundation, KairosPDX, KinCultivate, Self Enhancement, Inc., African Youth & Community Organization, Oregon Alliance of Black School Educators, Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center, Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization, The Father's Group, Youth Organized and United to Help (Y.O.U.T.H.), Elevate Oregon, Bridge-Pamoja, REAP Inc., the Alumni Association of the University of Oregon, A Composer's Heart, and Albina Head Start.

The Oracle STEM Education Grants Fund of Oregon Community Foundation awarded \$975,000 in grants to Oregon's regional STEM Hubs, with each Hub receiving a \$75,000 grant and targeted technical assistance support.

As a statewide network of regional partnerships, Oregon's STEM Hubs connect schools, industry and community organizations to provide hands-on science, technology, engineering, arts and math learning opportunities. The Hubs focus on expanding access for students who have historically been underserved, including rural students, students from low-income families, students of color and girls.

“The grants prioritize long-term sustainability and ecosystem strengthening across the Hub network,” said Belle Cantor, Senior Program Officer for Education and Youth Development. “Funding will help regional STEM Hubs build organizational capacity, strengthen community partnerships and expand donor support to ensure students across Oregon continue to have access to career-connected STEM learning opportunities.”

The Betty Gray Endowment Fund at Oregon Community Foundation also awarded \$100,000 to the Oregon Center for Career Development in Childhood Care and Education in support of the Betty Gray Statewide Scholarship for Child Care Provider Training and Certification.

For nearly 25 years, OCF's Early Childhood Program has prioritized professional development for Oregon's early care and education workforce. Since 2002, the scholarship program has helped thousands of child care providers access



BASE (Courtesy of Oregon Community Foundation)

training, coursework, credentials and professional development opportunities that strengthen Oregon's early childhood education system.

The scholarship program has served more than 13,500 participants statewide. Nearly half of scholarship applicants identify as Latine, and the program also prioritizes outreach to Black, Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander educators, rural providers, immigrant and refugee educators and family child care providers.

The program supports early-career educators and helps providers working in licensed or regulated settings access

conferences, coursework, credentialing opportunities and other professional development resources that improve the quality of care available to Oregon children and families.

Since 1973, Oregon Community Foundation has worked to improve the lives of all Oregonians through the power of philanthropy. Each year, OCF distributes more than \$200 million in grants and scholarships statewide in partnership with donors and volunteers. Individuals, families, businesses and organizations can work with OCF to create charitable funds to support causes important to them. To learn more, visit oregoncf.org.

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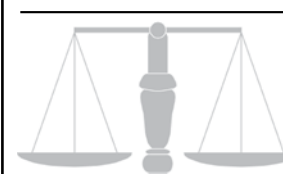
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Nine Years Later, Case Remains Open Reward Still Offered for Information

Nine years after the homicide of a 36-year-old man in Northeast Portland, the Portland Police Bureau is asking for the public's help to solve the case. Brian Spaulding's family and friends have privately raised approximately \$20,000 to offer as a reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for his death.

On Monday, June 12, 2017, at 12:27 p.m., North Precinct officers responded to a residence in the 3500 block of Northeast 10th Avenue to conduct a death investigation. Officers and medical personnel arrived and determined that Spaulding was deceased. Based on observations of officers, Homicide Detectives responded to the scene. The Medical Exam-



Detectives with PPB are asking for information from the public nine years after a homicide in Northeast Portland. (Photo courtesy of Portland Police Bureau)

iner conducted an autopsy and determined that Spaulding was the victim of a shooting and ruled the death a homicide.

Detectives have never stopped working this case. Over the past nine years, they have followed leads, reexamined evidence, and remained committed to finding

answers for Spaulding's loved ones. Even the smallest piece of information from the public could prove critical in moving this investigation forward.

Anyone with information about this case is urged to contact homicidetips@police.portlandoregon.gov.

DJ O.G. ONE Raises Juneteenth Flag in Beaverton Celebrating a Legacy of Community Impact

The City of Beaverton will commemorate Juneteenth with a special flag raising ceremony on June 18th, featuring Portland hip-hop pioneer and community leader DJ O.G. ONE, co-founder of PDX Hip Hop Week.

The ceremony will begin at 2:00 p.m. with welcoming remarks from Beaverton Mayor Lacey Beaty, followed by the reading of the City Council's Juneteenth Proclamation. Mayor Beaty will be recognizing the



DJ O.G. ONE.

significance of Juneteenth and the importance of honoring Black history, culture, and achievement.

DJ O.G. ONE will have the

honor of raising the Juneteenth flag in recognition of his decades long commitment to community leadership, cultural preservation, and education.

A trailblazing figure in the Pacific Northwest, DJ O.G. ONE is best known as the longtime official DJ for the Portland Trail Blazers and as the co-founder of PDX Hip Hop Week. Through his work with Leadertainment, he continues to inspire creators, artists and entrepreneurs through leadership development, arts education, and community engagement. In recognition of his impact, the City of Portland recently proclaimed November 30th as DJ O.G. ONE Day.

The public is invited to attend this free community celebration honoring freedom, resilience, and the ongoing pursuit of equality.

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Seven Earn Tenure at Clark College

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The Clark College Board of Trustees unanimously granted tenure to seven outstanding educators: Kevin Edwards of the Library, Jeff Rush of the Diesel program, Bo Li of Nursing, Nicole Mottier of History, Tina Jenkins of Mechatronics, David Zonana of Environmental Science, and Sarah Blanchette of Addiction Counselor Education.

Tenure is awarded by the college's board of trustees based on professional excellence and outstanding abilities in their disciplines. The granting of tenure is based on the recommendations of tenure review committees to the Vice President of Instruction, which are then forwarded to the President, who presents a final recommendation to the board of trustees. Recommendations are based on self-evaluations, tenure review committee evaluations, student evaluations, supervisory evaluations, and peer evaluations. The final decision to award or withhold tenure rests with the board of trustees.



Left to right: Board Chair Marilee Scarbrough, Trustee Jeanne Bennett, Nicole Mottier, Sarah Blanchette, Tina Jenkins, Jeff Rush, Kevin Edwards, Bo Li, President Karin Edwards, Dr. William 'Terry' Brown. (Photo Courtesy of Clark College)

2026 Good in the Hood Scholarship Winners

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George Fox University

Dominica Griffith
Warner Pacific University

Jacodi Styles
Delaware State University

Nia Moore
Spelman College

Ilham Kemer
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Saint Martin's University

Miranda West
Portland State University

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Portland Parks & Recreation's Summer Free for All Kickoff Is Coming!

Welcoming Back Free Movies, Concerts, Free Lunch, Fun Activities and More

Portland Parks & Recreation (PP&R) is rolling out another amazing series of Summer Free for All events for 2026. This wildly popular annual program is made possible by the voter-approved Parks Local Option Levy (2025 Parks Levy) and countless community partners and volunteers.

Join the official Summer Free for All Free Lunch + Play kickoff celebration on Thursday, June 25, from 11am to 1pm at Parklane Park. Everyone 18 and under can come to share a meal together and have fun in the sun! Free lunch is served between 11:30am and 1pm.

The Free Lunch + Play program starts June 22 at parks across Portland, and helps to help fill the summertime gap, with free meals for anyone 18 and under while schools are out of session.

More than half of Portland's school-age children qualify for free or reduced-price meals during the school year. PP&R's Free Lunch + Play program offers nutritious meals and fun activities for kids and families when school is out. There are sports, games, arts, crafts, music, and other activities led by trained staff and community partners.

Free Lunch + Play begins in late June and runs Monday through Friday, 10am to 2pm with lunch at noon. Check the Free Lunch + Play webpage for the latest information and most up to date schedules for specific parks and mealtimes.

This program is delivered in partnership with four local public school districts including Portland, Centennial, David Douglas, and Parkrose at about two dozen parks across the city.

Free live music, movies, and cultural events start July 8 citywide with a Bolly-



Peninsula Pool Water Hoops

wood dance party at Gateway Discovery Park. This year's program features nearly 50 free outdoor events for all ages, including multicultural festivals such as Somali Heritage Day (Friday, August 21 at Luuwit View Park), free outdoor movies and park concerts all over town, and more ways to experience community across the city.

For schedules and information, visit the Summer Free for All webpage. Schedules are currently available in English and Spanish, with more languages coming soon, including Ukrainian, Tongan, Russian, Somali, Chinese, and Vietnamese.

"It wouldn't be summer in Portland without Summer Free for All," says PP&R Interim Director Sonia Schmanski. "There's something special about gathering in our parks to enjoy live music, movies, and time with neighbors, friends, and family."

"This year, with the support of some new program partners, we're excited to promote even more activities for children, youth, and families and welcome everyone back for another season of great performances and community connection."

Movies of note include Wicked, The Princess Bride, A Minecraft Movie, Elio (con subtítulos en español), and Zootopia

2. Concert highlights feature Soul Vaccination, Ache Son and many more dazzling performers. The East Portland Summer Arts Festival, and Washington Park Summer Festival return.

The Summer Free For All programs would not be possible without the 2025 Parks Levy, a critical community investment in Portland Parks & Recreation. As promised to Portland voters, the Parks Levy is delivering for the city, providing recreational programs including family-friendly movies and concerts, fitness and art classes, teen- and older adult-focused programs, life-saving swim lessons, and more. The Parks Levy also allows PP&R to eliminate cost as a barrier to participation. It's back! East Portland Summer Arts Festival: July 11 and 12 at Ventura Park

This year's festival headliners are LaRhonda Steele and Conjuto Alegre performing Latin and soul on day one, and Portland Cello Project's tribute to Stevie Wonder on day two. Washington Park Summer Festival: August 8 and 9 at the Rose Garden Amphitheater.

Events begin at 6pm both days. This year's lineup features Albina Music Trust presenting big-band jazz, followed by an

evening of soul music with Ural Thomas and the Pain.

Summer Free For All events at Gateway Discovery Park. Join Portland Parks & Recreation for free summer activities at Gateway Discovery Park, Monday through Friday, 9am to 2pm, from June 22 to August 21. No registration needed! Enjoy free arts and crafts, games, cultural events, and special activities on the Plaza. Plus, free lunches are available for youth 18 and under, served daily from 11 to 11:45am as part of Free Lunch + Play.

Enjoy weekly free swim sessions at these PP&R outdoor pools:

- Creston Pool – Mondays 6:30pm to 8pm
- Peninsula Pool – Tuesdays 1pm to 3:45pm
- Montavilla Pool – Tuesdays 6pm to 8pm
- Grant Pool – Wednesdays 1pm to 3pm
- Sellwood Pool – Wednesdays 6:30pm to 8pm
- Pier Pool – Thursdays 1:30pm to 3:30pm

Outdoor pools open on Thursday, June 18, and close Sunday, August 23, 2026 (except Peninsula Pool*). Find full schedules and more information for all PP&R pools on our swimming pools webpage. Peninsula Pool will remain open through Monday, September 7, 2026.

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Oregon Man Arraigned on Fifth Murder Charge

Jesse Calhoun Now Faces Five Murder Counts in a Multistate Killings Case

AP - A man accused of killing several women and dumping their bodies in the Portland area was arraigned Wednesday on a fifth murder charge.

Jesse Calhoun's defense attorney entered a not-guilty plea on his behalf in a Portland courtroom where victims' family members were present. The hearing, during which Calhoun remained silent, came after he was indicted last week on the most recent second-degree murder charge over the death of Ashley Real, 22, in 2023.

Calhoun has now been charged with five counts of second-degree murder for five victims, along with four counts of abuse of a corpse. The victims' bodies were found over multiple months in early 2023, sparking concern at the time that a serial killer might be targeting young women in the region.

Calhoun was previously indicted in the deaths of Kristin Smith, 22; Charity Perry, 24; Bridget Webster, 31; and Joanna Speaks, 32. He remains in custody at the Multnomah County Detention Center. His defense attorneys declined to comment.

Real, Perry, Webster and Smith were found in northwestern Oregon, while Speaks was found near an abandoned barn in southwestern Washington. Their bodies were found in a roughly 100-mile (160-kilometer) radius, including in wooded areas and in a culvert.

Jose Real, Ashley Real's father, was in tears as he spoke



Jesse Calhoun appears in Multnomah County Court for his arraignment in Portland Ore., on June 6, 2024. (Dave Killen/The Oregonian via AP, Pool, File)

with reporters after the hearing. He recalled memories of watching her grow up and playing with her brother.

"I never thought or imagined that my family would experience something like this," he said through a Spanish interpreter. "She had a heart of gold."

Masciell Real, Ashley's sister, also spoke through tears.

"I think being in that courtroom today and being able to see him, and know that he is behind bars now, it takes the weight off my shoulders knowing that he isn't around and free to cause any harm to any other women out there," she said. "But it also doesn't take away the fact that my sister isn't here anymore." Relatives of other victims were also present.

"We've all experienced the worst thing that could ever happen to you, and it's incredibly hard to see one of the other families hurt the way we do," said Melissa Smith, mother of Kristin Smith. Jose Real previously told The Associated Press that he had called police in November 2022 after his daughter showed up crying at his Portland home, saying she had been choked by Calhoun. She had marks on her

throat, he said, and he took her to a hospital.

Real said at the time that an initial police report was taken but that the case was then transferred to a different jurisdiction and it was difficult to reach those overseeing it. Details of the attack were first reported by The Oregonian/OregonLive.

His daughter's body was found in May 2023 by a man who was fishing in a pond south-east of Portland.

Calhoun was arrested in June 2023 on unrelated parole warrants and then indicted in 2024 and 2025 in the other four women's deaths. The initial indictment came weeks before Calhoun was due to be released from state prison, where he was returned in 2023 to finish serving a four-year term for assaulting a police officer, trying to strangle a police dog, burglary and other charges.

He was initially released in 2021, a year early, because he helped fight wildfires in 2020 under a prison firefighting program. Gov. Tina Kotek revoked the commutation in 2023 when police began investigating him in the deaths.

A trial date has yet to be set.



Police remind public to use safe practices when buying and selling items. (Pexels/Mike Jones)

PPB Emphasizes Marketplace Safety

Tips Shared After recent Robbery Incident

The Portland Police Bureau is reminding community members to prioritize safety when buying or selling items through online marketplaces after a recent armed robbery linked to a Facebook Marketplace transaction.

On Tuesday night, June 9, 2026, officers assigned to PPB's Central Precinct responded to reports of a threat with a weapon at a residence in the 3000 block of Southwest Mt. Adams Drive. When they arrived, officers learned that an electric bicycle being sold through Facebook Marketplace had been stolen at gunpoint during the transaction. The two juvenile suspects fled the scene before officers arrived. Through investigative efforts, officers were able to locate and arrest both suspects. Because they are juveniles, the suspects' identities will not be released.

This case highlights a growing concern for PPB. Since the beginning of 2026, the Major Crimes Unit has investigated at least 10 similar incidents involving online marketplace transactions that escalated into robberies or other crimes. Since these cases are under active investiga-

tion, no further information will be released at this time.

"Online marketplaces provide a convenient way for people to buy and sell items, but criminals can take advantage of these transactions when proper precautions are not taken," Det. Sgt. Matt Jacobsen of the Major Crimes Unit said. "A few simple safety measures can significantly reduce the risk of becoming a victim."

When buying or selling items through an online marketplace, meet in a well-lit public location where other people are nearby and consider using a designated safe exchange zone, such as a police station parking lot. Research the buyer or seller before agreeing to a transaction, verify details about the item being bought or sold, and bring a friend or family member with you whenever possible. Using online payment services instead of cash can provide an added layer of security. Most importantly, trust your instincts—if something feels suspicious or unsafe, end the transaction and leave immediately.

PPB encourages anyone using online marketplaces such as Facebook Marketplace, Craigslist, OfferUp, or similar platforms to take extra precautions and plan transactions with safety in mind. While most exchanges occur without incident, a little preparation can help protect both people and property.



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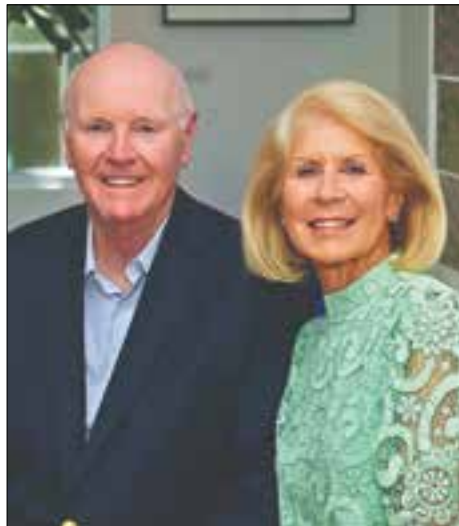
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Clackamas Community College Receives Second Historic Donation

The Holdens have a Long History and Connection with Clackamas Community College and the Surrounding Community

Clackamas Community College has received a second historic \$5 million gift from long-time career and technical education (CTE) advocates Terry and Cheryl Holden to advance the college's planned Natural Resources Center.

In 2021, the Holdens donated \$5 million to establish the Holden CTE Capital Projects Funds to help support the construction of an industrial technology center, as well as provide scholarships for students in



Terry and Cheryl Holden

CTE programs and funding for student veterans. To acknowledge the generous gift, the college named the building the Holden Industrial Technology Center.

In recent history, the Holdens have donated to the Health Sciences Department, including an ambulance simulator and fully remodeling and upgrading the Medical Assistant program teaching space. And just last year, they donated \$150,000 to the Automotive Department to purchase vehicles for students to work on.

With the new \$5 million donation, the college will name its new Natural Resources Center after them. The center, which is part of a bond passed in 2024, will be a modern, purpose-built space supporting programs such as horticulture and wildland fire, featuring updated indoor and outdoor learning environments. It's designed to enhance hands-on training and better prepare students for careers in high-demand natural resource fields.

The Holdens have a long history and connection with Clackamas Community College and the surrounding community.

Cheryl Holden grew up in Estacada, and Terry Holden in Molalla.

When Terry Holden graduated from Molalla High School, he received a scholarship, which had a huge impact on him and made college accessible. Because that gift changed his life, he believes in paying it forward. Terry Holden still recalls that time in his life and how receiving a scholarship deepened his understanding of the importance of education.

"The Holdens understand that when we invest in students, we invest in the future of our communities," CCC President Tim Cook said. "Their extraordinary generosity will create opportunities for generations of students pursuing careers in career and technical education. Their commitment to affordable education and to the communities they call home will have a lasting impact on students and our region."

Former Oregon Senator Bob Packwood Dies at 93

Packwood's Political Career Ended Under the Shadow of Sexual Misconduct Allegations

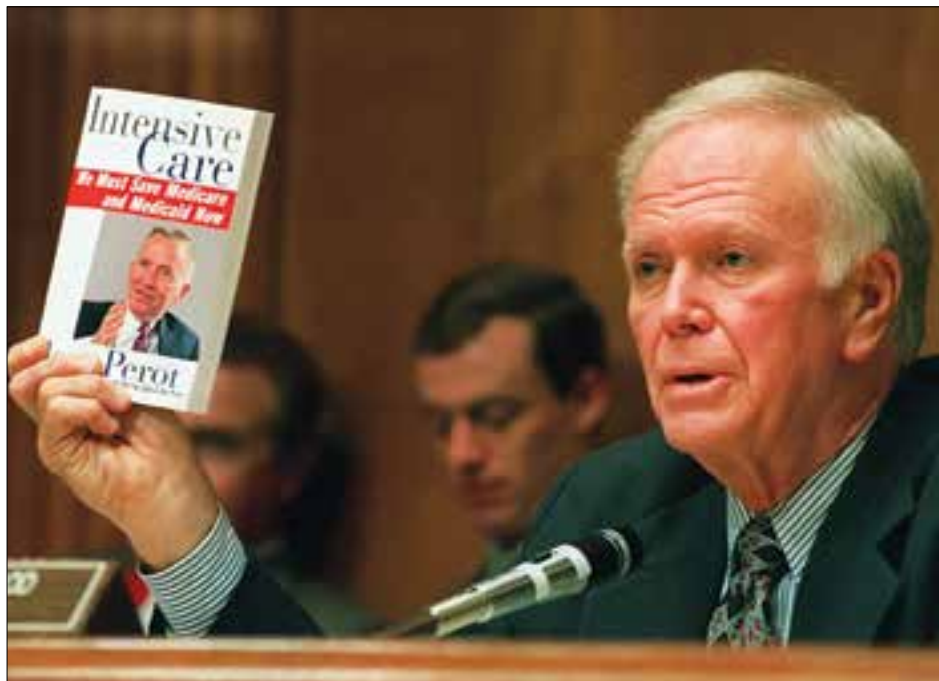
AP - Former U.S. Sen. Bob Packwood, a moderate Oregon Republican whose long political career was overshadowed by a sexual harassment scandal that forced his resignation, has died at age 93.

Packwood died Saturday, according to an obituary released by his family. No additional details were provided.

A dominant figure in Oregon politics for nearly three decades, Packwood was known as a social moderate and fiscal conservative who often broke with his party. Elected to the Senate in 1968 at age 36, he became one of the nation's leading Republican supporters of abortion rights and earned praise from women's advocacy groups, including Planned Parenthood.

The great-grandson of a delegate to Oregon's 1857 Constitutional Convention, Packwood built a reputation as an independent-minded lawmaker willing to challenge both party leaders and Republican presidents. He briefly considered a run for president in 1980 and rose to national prominence as chairman of the National Republican Senatorial Committee.

As chairman and later ranking Republican on the Senate Finance Committee, Packwood became one of Congress' most influential tax writers. He played a key role in crafting the Tax Reform Act of 1986, a sweeping overhaul that lowered the top in-



Senate Finance Committee Chairman Bob Packwood, R-Ore., holds a book entitled "Intensive Care" by Ross Perot, during hearings dealing with the future of Medicare on Capitol Hill, Aug. 30, 1995. (AP Photo/Dennis Cook, File)

come tax rate while eliminating numerous deductions and loopholes. Packwood often described himself as willing to fight for his conclusions, even when it meant opposing his own party.

"I would like to think that I am nobody's lackey," he told The Associated Press in 1992.

Throughout his career, Packwood was variously described as a maverick, political survivor, boat-rocker and loose cannon. His reputation as an effective legislator and dealmaker helped him win five Senate terms.

But his political legacy was permanently altered after allegations of sexual misconduct surfaced shortly after his 1992 reelection.

In 1992, The Washington Post reported claims from former employees and acquaintances who accused Packwood of making unwanted sexual advances. More

than two dozen women ultimately came forward with allegations.

The Senate Ethics Committee launched an investigation in 1993 that expanded beyond sexual misconduct claims to include allegations that Packwood solicited jobs from lobbyists for his ex-wife, attempted to pressure accusers into silence and obstructed the investigation by altering his personal diaries.

The diaries became central to the case. After an extraordinary Senate debate, lawmakers voted 94-6 to enforce a subpoena requiring Packwood to turn them over. He challenged the order in federal court but ultimately lost, including an appeal that reached Chief Justice William Rehnquist.

Facing mounting pressure, Packwood resigned from the Senate in September 1995 after 27 years in office.

Though he initially resisted calls to step down, Packwood later said he did

not want the scandal to define his life. He moved into lobbying, founding Sunrise Research Corp. in Washington, D.C., in 1997. The firm became highly successful, generating millions of dollars in revenue during its peak years.

Even after leaving office, Packwood remained engaged in public policy debates. As partisan divisions in Congress deepened, he argued for a more centrist approach to politics and advocated non-partisan election reforms in Oregon.

Yet for many, his accomplishments remained inseparable from the misconduct allegations that ended his Senate career.

U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden, who won the special election to replace Packwood in 1996, said Packwood's record on abortion rights and tax reform was significant but could not be separated from his treatment of women.

"His horrible history as documented in his own diaries will forever overshadow that public record," Wyden said in a statement. "Simply put, historians' first line about Bob Packwood must include those women who he abused and assaulted for years and years."

Packwood spent his later years dividing his time between Oregon and Washington with his wife, Elaine Franklin, his former chief of staff who later became a political consultant.

In a 2002 interview with the Salem Statesman Journal, Packwood said he had moved beyond the scandal that forced him from office and was focused on continuing his life and work.

"I told myself I was not old enough to retire," he said. "So, I have got to get at life and not complain about it."

Packwood's career remains one of the most consequential and complicated in modern Oregon political history — marked by major legislative achievements, a reputation for independence and a scandal that ultimately overshadowed both.

Student Named 2026 Avel Gordly Scholar

Recognizing Excellence in Education

Ava S. Cabine, member of the Clackamas High School class of 2026, is named the fourth winner of the Avel Louise Gordly Scholarship for Oregon Black Women. Cabine received a \$3,500 scholarship, renewable to support four years at her “dream school,” Spelman College.

At Clackamas High School, Ava was active in the Black Student Union and the Varsity Dance Team. She was also part of the student council and a member of the National Honor Society. One of her proudest accomplishments at Clackamas was founding a poetry club where students could explore their voices and share without judgement. Ava’s community service includes activities with the Portland Willamette Chapter of the Jack and Jill Society of America as well as Kairos PDX Charter School. Theater is a passion. “From the moment I stepped onto a stage, I knew art was a part of who I am.” Ava’s theatrical talent has been recognized by the Mount Hood Conference One Act Competition and the Next Narrative Monologue Competition. “Not everyone has had access to the feeling of belonging in the arts,” she



Ava S. Cabine, winner of the 2026 Avel Louise Gordly Scholarship

noted in her application. “I plan to use my legal education to help build and protect creative spaces where future generations can thrive.”

Ava Cabine is from a family that values education, with two members already in college. “My goal is to become an entertainment lawyer because I want to help bridge the inequality gaps in the performing arts industry for performers of color,” she told the committee. “I want to give a huge thank you to the Avel Gordly Scholarship Committee for selecting me for this

award and helping make this amazing opportunity possible.”

The committee was impressed with Cabine’s achievements as well as her keen sense of intergenerational obligation. “We were unanimous that Ava was the top candidate from a strong pool,” noted award committee chair Carmen Thompson.

The Avel Louise Gordly Scholarship provides four years of financial support to a Black female graduate of an Oregon high school. Funds can be used at any institution of higher education in the state or

at any of the Historically Black Colleges and Universities in the United States. More information for student applicants is available at the Scholarship Blog. The scholarship, housed with the Oregon Community Foundation, is still raising money toward its \$1MM goal. Donations are welcome online at www.oregoncf.org/gordly-scholarship or by check to OCF, 1221 SW Yamhill Street, Suite 100, Portland, OR 97205.

Avel Gordly (1947-2026) was born in Portland and graduated from Girls Polytechnic High School and then Portland State University. She held positions in the Oregon Department of Corrections, the Urban League of Portland, and the American Friends Service Committee. She was a leader within the Black United Front, a group that pushed for reform within Portland Public Schools. She also coordinated Oregon’s divestment from Apartheid in Southern Africa. In 1996, Gordly became the first Black woman elected to the Oregon State Senate, representing NE Portland.

The Gordly Center for Healing at Oregon Health and Sciences University was established to provide culturally competent mental health care to diverse patients in recognition of Gordly’s work on this issue. In 2011, she published a memoir *Remembering the Power of Words: The Life of an Oregon Activist, Legislator, and Community Leader* with OSU press. Among her numerous honors and recognitions, Gordly was awarded an honorary doctorate from PSU in 2017.

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