



# Advancing Solutions for Health Equity!

## NMA Hosts 2026 Colloquium on African American Health

The National Medical Association (NMA), the nation's largest and oldest organization representing African American physicians and their patients, is convening leading clinicians, researchers, and health advocates for its 2026 National Colloquium on African American Health, taking place at The Morrow Hotel in Washington, D.C. The event started on Thursday and concludes today.

Guided by this year's theme, "The New Reconstruction: Mobilizing Healthcare Justice for a New America, Our Patients, Providers, and Policy," the colloquium serves as a national platform to advance solutions addressing health disparities and systemic inequities impacting Black communities and other historically underserved populations.

Through a series of dynamic panels, workshops, and collaborative sessions, attendees are engaging in solutions-driven dialogue on critical topics including chronic disease, artificial intelligence in healthcare, workforce development, and the



Photo courtesy of The National Medical Association (NMA)

intersection of policy and patient care. Sessions throughout the convening have explored innovative approaches to managing conditions disproportionately affecting Black Americans, ensuring equity in emerging health technologies, and strengthening trust between providers and communities.

A key component of this year's colloquium is direct advocacy. NMA physician leaders organized into advocacy teams and walked across Capitol Hill, not only as clinicians but as champions for their patients and communities, meeting with lawmakers to address pressing healthcare issues and advance equitable policy solutions.

As part of these efforts, the NMA presented Senator Cory Booker with an award recognizing his continued support for advancing Black health and healthcare equity. Moreover, the NMA hosted the Gary C. Dennis, M.D. 25th Annual Health Policy Awards Dinner, where it honored leaders in health and advocacy. Award recipients

included Althea Maybank, M.D., M.P.H., who received the Louis Stokes Health Advocacy Award; Monique De Four Jones, M.D., M.B.A., M.S., who received the James M. Whittico, Jr., M.D. Community Advocate Award; and Dionne Warwick, recipient of the NMA President's Distinguished Achievement Award.

"This colloquium is more than a convening, it is a leadership training ground and an advocacy forum," said Roger A. Mitchell Jr., President of the National Medical Association. "It is where we conduct focused exploration of the policies that shape our patients' lives and develop positions that will be advanced at the local, state, and federal levels. In this New Reconstruction, our patients are not statistics, they are sacred. Our providers are not merely practitioners; they are advocates and architects of justice. And our policy is not paperwork, it is power."

As the colloquium concludes today, the NMA underscores the importance of sustained collaboration between clinicians, policymakers, and community leaders to transform healthcare delivery and outcomes nationwide. The insights and strategies developed during the convening are expected to inform both clinical practice and policy conversations well beyond the event.

# NBA Board Approves Trail Blazers Sale

## Dundon-led Ownership Group to Assume Control

(AP) – The NBA Board of Governors approved the sale of controlling interest in the Portland Trail Blazers from Paul Allen's estate to a group led by investor Tom Dundon on Monday.

The league said in a statement it expects the deal to close this week. ESPN previously reported it was for \$4 billion. In March, the Boston Celtics sold for \$6.1 billion.

Dundon's group includes Portland-based Sheel Tyle, the co-founder of investment firm Collective Global; Marc Zahr, co-president of Blue Owl Capital; and the Cherng Family Trust, the family office and investment

firm of the co-founders of Panda Express. Earlier this month, Dundon sold a portion of the NHL's Carolina Hurricanes to three new minority owners, a transaction reportedly worth \$332.5 million for 12.5% of the team.

Dundon bought a stake in the Hurricanes in 2017, became the majority owner in 2018 and took sole possession of the club in 2021. He is chairman and managing partner of the Dallas-based firm Dundon Capital Partners.

The approval of the sale of the Trail Blazers comes after the Oregon Legislature approved funds for the renovation of the Moda Center in early March. The measure gives the state joint ownership of the 30-year-old arena with the city and provides a mechanism to secure \$365 million for the building's renovation. It also allayed fears that new ownership might move the team to another city.

Allen's estate announced in May that it had begun the process of selling the Trail Blazers. The billionaire co-founder of Microsoft, who died in 2018 at age 65 from complications of non-Hodgkin lymphoma, originally bought the Blazers in 1988 for \$70 million.

Allen also owned the NFL's Seattle Seahawks and a minority share of Major League Soccer's Seattle Sounders.

Since his death, Allen's sister, Jody Allen, has served as chair of both the Blazers and Seahawks and is a trustee of the Paul G. Allen Trust. Paul Allen stipulated in his will the eventual sale of his teams, with the proceeds to be given to philanthropic endeavors. Allen's estate announced it began the process of selling the Seahawks in mid-February, about two weeks after the team captured the franchise's second Super Bowl championship.



Tom Dundon, majority owner of the Carolina Hurricanes talks to the media before the start of an NHL hockey game between the New York Rangers and the Carolina Hurricanes in Raleigh, N.C., Feb. 19, 2019. (AP Photo/Chris Seward, File)

# Portland Launches E-Bike Rebate Program

## \$20M Program Offers Instant E-bike Rebates, Prioritizing Low-Income Residents

The Portland Clean Energy Community Benefits Fund (PCEF) is excited to announce that applications will open April 6, 2026 for its E-Bike Rebate Program, Portland Rides. This new initiative will provide an instant discount rebate to eligible residents to purchase standard, cargo, and adaptive e-bikes for personal use. The city-wide program will expand access to clean, affordable, and reliable transportation through a \$20 million investment over five years, prioritizing low-income Portlanders and frontline communities.

“Portland has a deeply rooted bike culture and has led the nation with innovative bike transportation infrastructures,” said PCEF Transportation Decarbonization Program Manager Seetha Ream-Rao. “We continue to support our residents with access to convenient and affordable transportation options. This new e-bike rebate program will make commuting more affordable for low-income households, support healthier communities, improve transportation access and help the city reduce greenhouse gas emissions.”

The program officially kicks off April 6, 2026, with online applications open for Class 1 and 2 Standard and Class 1 and 2 Cargo e-bikes, followed by the application opening for adaptive e-bikes on April



Photo courtesy of Portland Rides

20 (customized for riders with disabilities and/or limited mobility). This first release includes discounts up to \$1,600 for Standard e-bikes, up to \$2,350 for Cargo e-bikes specifically designed to carry heavier loads or additional passengers and up to \$300 for essential accessories like helmets, locks, and lights. Eligible Portlanders who are selected via automated random selection will receive an email with details to redeem their e-bike rebate and an accessories rebate.

There will also be an adaptive e-bike rebate option for those who have a disability and cannot have their needs met by a standard or cargo e-bike.

The 2026 program aims to provide:

- Equitable distribution of discounted e-bikes to eligible Portlanders
- Accessories that enhance safety, comfort, and resiliency of new e-bike riders
- E-bike education and safety training

Eligible participants must be at or below 60% of Area Median Income (AMI). The first round of applications will be accepted online at [www.portlandebikerebate.com](http://www.portlandebikerebate.com) between April 6 and July 24, 2026. PCEF staff will be in person on April 11, at Parkrose Middle School from 12-3 p.m. at the EV Tailgate Party Powered by PCEF Earth Day event. Participants can test ride e-bikes and submit

their application in person with staff.

### Fall 2025 Pilot Program at PCC a Success

PCEF kicked off the Portland Rides rebate program with a soft launch last September for Portland Community College (PCC) students from low-income communities. “The 2025 e-bike pilot launch at PCC was a huge success providing more than 100 eligible students with e-bikes, stimulating local bike shop business, and showing strong community demand for expanded access to clean, affordable transportation,” said Seetha Ream-Rao from PCEF.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

## Arrests Made in Jantzen Beach Retail Theft Crackdown



The Portland Police Bureau is continuing its efforts to address retail theft by conducting another retail theft mission, this time in the Jantzen Beach Shopping Center. (Photo courtesy of Portland Police Bureau)

### Stolen Items Recovered During Enforcement Mission

On Wednesday, March 18, 2026, officers from North Precinct Neighborhood Response Team conducted a retail theft mission at Jantzen Beach Shopping Center.

During this daytime operation, law enforcement contacted individuals suspected of theft and other criminal activity. Officers made five arrests and recovered \$400 of stolen property. Charges include Theft in the Third Degree, Theft in the Second Degree, Criminal Mischief in the Second Degree, and arrest warrants.

One suspect was arrested while in possession of a stolen backpack and shoes.

During retail theft missions, PPB members work directly with our retail partners to identify, apprehend, and work toward prosecution of these offenders. Following each retail theft mission, officers conduct follow-up and work closely with the Multnomah County District Attorney's Office to ensure prosecution on these cases.

Retail theft is often more than just shoplifting items for personal use. Many suspects are involved in organized theft rings.

That entails stealing items that can easily be sold for cash on the secondary market or returned to stores for a "refund." Returning or attempting to return stolen property, no matter the value, is a class-C felony.

In many cases, these individuals are involved in criminal activity that extends far beyond retail theft, including illegally possessed guns, drug possession and distribution, vehicle theft, and more. Additionally, disrupting theft preserves the viability of retail businesses that serve the Portland community. Therefore, these missions go a long way in improving livability across the area. Mission commanders analyze theft and other crime data to focus their missions on the neighborhoods most impacted by these crimes, which are often large retail shopping complexes.

PPB recognizes that smaller local businesses are also impacted by retail theft and it is our belief and goal that arresting and holding prolific thieves accountable will help reduce these crimes for the entire business community.

PPB would like to thank its partners for their collaboration aimed at addressing the ongoing problem of retail theft in the Portland Metropolitan area. Additional missions are planned for the future.

# The INSIDE



Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

Lady Sings the Blues - A Tribute to Billie Holiday

page 5

CLASSIFIEDS/BIDS page 6



page 7

DHS Funding Dispute in Congress Continues



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# LOCAL NEWS

## Fred Meyer Kicks Off Earth Month Community Cleanup Targets Downtown Portland

Fred Meyer, in partnership with the Portland Trail Blazers and SOLVE, is hosting an Earth Month Kickoff event on Wednesday, April 8, from 10 am to 12 pm at Director Park in Downtown Portland.

The event brings the community together for a morning of giving back right in the heart of the city. Volunteers will help remove litter from surrounding streets and public spaces while connecting with neighbors and taking part in a shared effort to care for downtown Portland.

Blaze the Trail Cat and a live DJ, along with music, snacks, and giveaways, will bring energy to the park as the community comes together to kick off Earth Month.

“At Fred Meyer, caring for our communities goes beyond our stores - it’s about showing up for the places we all share,” says Tiffany Sanders, Fred Meyer Head of Public Affairs. “Our Director park cleanup day reflects the pride Fred Meyer associates have in their neighborhoods and our ongoing commitment to positively impacting our communities.”



Fred Meyer volunteering with SOLVE

Community members are encouraged to sign up in advance to take part in the cleanup. Volunteers of all experience levels are welcome, and all necessary supplies will be provided on site, making it easy to participate and contribute to a shared effort.

This event kicks off SOLVE’s

Earth Month celebrations, taking place throughout April as part of SOLVE’s annual Spring Cleanup, a region-wide effort bringing communities together for litter cleanup and habitat restoration across Oregon and Southwest Washington. For more information visit [solve.org/oregon-spring](http://solve.org/oregon-spring).

## Portland 10-Year-Old Selected for Team USA Karate Young Athlete to Compete on International Stage

Ten-year-old Tikori Hill has been selected to represent the United States on Team USA through the World Kickboxing and Karate Union (WKU) following national tryouts held in Utah. Hill earned placement in two divisions, Point Fighting and Kick-Lite, and is currently the only athlete from Oregon selected in this round.

Tikori trains under Sensei Orlice Harper of No Limit Pro Karate, a respected world champion and longtime coach known for developing high-level competitors through a “small but mighty” team philosophy.

His family often refers to him as “Little Warrior,” a nod to his heritage as a descendant of Black-foot war chief Lone Walker.

Now wearing the colors of Team USA, Tikori prepares for the next stage of his martial arts journey on the international stage.



Photo courtesy of Toni Hill

# Flour Power!

Five Decades of Craft, Community and Legacy  
with Dorothy and Hurtis Hadley

*Milwaukie Pastry Kitchen*



**On view**

April 3 - April 30, 2026

10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Tuesday thru Saturday



# Local Artist Saleam



Saleam standing in front of one of his murals. Photo courtesy of Saleam

Saleam has been a full-time artist for 13 years and moved here three years ago from Atlanta. He is mainly a painter, specializing in colorful, abstract murals. His main mes-

sage is to keep the faith and trust in God. His work can be found on Instagram and TikTok at Saleam108, and he can be reached by email at artheadliner@gmail.com.



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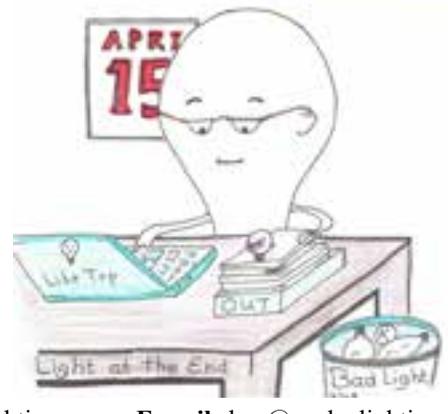
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**By Mithila Tambe**

Rooted in Milwaukie, Oregon, and nurtured by the founding director, Seyona Bela i's profound vision, Toolbox celebrates and elevates craft-trade professionals—the skilled athletes of the building industry. Through storytelling, exhibitions, and collaboration, the non-profit organization sheds light on the often-unseen resilience of craft-trade laborers, amplifying their daily impact on the built world.

No family embodies the principles of igniting pride and

recognition for the trades, as strongly as the Hadley's. Hurtis Mixon Hadley and Dorothy Jean Bishop Hadley's Milwaukie Pastry Kitchen (opened 1977; closed 1985) was the first Black-owned business in Milwaukie and the first Black-owned bakery in the State of Oregon. Located at 10607 SE Main Street, Milwaukie Pastry Kitchen was a full-line bakery offering specialty breads, assorted pastries, and creative birthday and wedding cakes, wherein Hurtis operated in the kitchen as Dorothy coor-

inated the catering service, extended greetings and service to customers. It was hard to miss the cheer echoing through the bakery as one would notice the entryway decorated with a rug proudly displayed the bakery's joyous slogan, "Put a Little Soul in Your Roll."

Toolbox invites all community members to join them in remembering the family's journey from their beginnings in Vanport till date, through an historic exhibition featuring never-before-seen photographs, store equipment, and even recipes from the Hadley's bakery and home. Opening on April 3, 2026, serving a feast of Soul food, the Hadley's take center stage at the Toolbox Gallery—as trailblazing bakers, union members, and advocates for racial justice, craft, and community prosperity

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2**

To support Portland Rides, a variety of local bike shops in Portland will accept the rebates and help eligible participants choose the right e-bike. Find a list of approved retailers on the program website. For more information about upcoming "Try an E-Bike" events in the community, visit [www.portlandebikerebate.com](http://www.portlandebikerebate.com).

The E-Bike Rebate Program is being delivered through key partnerships to ensure effective, equitable implementation with Resource Innovations as program administrator, APTIM as rebate processor, and Portland State University as third-party evaluator.

The Portland Clean Energy Community Benefits Fund (PCEF) initiative was passed by 65% of Portland voters in 2018. It provides a consistent, long-term funding source and oversight structure to ensure that our community's climate action efforts are implemented to support social, economic, and environmental benefits for all Portlanders, particularly communities who have been historically under-resourced. The initiative was supported by a broad coalition of groups and individuals and represents the first environmental initiative in Oregon led by communities on the frontlines of climate change. Visit the PCEF website for details.

Resource Innovations (RI) is

a women-led energy transformation firm focused on impact. They were selected for the role of Central Program Administrator. Resource Innovations, along with local partners and subject matter experts, are responsible for developing and implementing the program including the standard, cargo, and adaptive program. This includes outreach, marketing, and consumer education, and safety training. Visit Resource Innovations to learn more.

APTIM is the nation's leader in e-bike rebate program management overseeing some of the largest, most popular e-bike incentive programs in the country. They will serve in the Rebate Payment and Application Portal role. APTIM is responsible for building and maintaining the application portal, providing customer and retailer service, distributing rebates to participants, reimbursing retailers, and supporting with continued program development and improvement.

The research team housed in the Transportation Research and Education Center (TREC) at Portland State University is a multi-disciplinary center specializing in sustainable, multimodal, and equitable transportation research. They will serve as the third-party evaluator developing and implementing data collection to inform program performance. During this program the work completed will be used to support continued development and improvements.

# CLASSIFIEDS/BIDS

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

**Community Construction Training Program**

Worksystems is seeking competitive proposals from community service providers for the delivery of Community Construction Training Program (CCTP) services in the Portland Metro area. The RFP is posted on the Worksystems website at [www.worksystems.org/news](http://www.worksystems.org/news). Proposals are due no later than noon on April 27, 2026. Worksystems is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available to individuals with disabilities upon request. To place a free relay call in Oregon, dial 711.

**Rainbow Village Low Income Housing**

1250 Rainbow Dr. Springfield, OR 97477

Phone: 541-746-8958

Effective April 1st, 2026 the one bedroom waiting list at Rainbow Village Apartments will open. Applications are located outside the Rainbow Village office as well as in office during office hours of M-F 9am - Noon and 1pm - 3pm. Please contact Rainbow Village for any other questions.

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(AP) – President Donald Trump on Friday signed a promised executive action to pay Transportation Security Administration employees after a bid to end the shutdown of the Department of Homeland Security abruptly fell apart in Congress.

Trump signed the action with an eye toward easing long security lines at many of the nation’s top airports.

“America’s air travel system has reached its breaking point,” Trump said in the memo authorizing the payments. He added, “I have determined that these circumstances constitute an emergency situation compromising the Nation’s security.”

Trump said his administration would use “funds that have a reasonable and logical nexus to TSA operations” for the payments. In a statement Friday, Homeland Security Secretary Markwayne Mullin said TSA workers “should begin seeing paychecks as early as Monday.”

While Trump’s action could help ease the plight of air travelers, it does little to resolve the DHS shutdown that has jammed airports and imposed financial hardship on thousands of federal workers. The House and Senate ended the week by passing vastly different bills, creating a new impasse as lawmakers leave Washington for a two-week recess.

The Senate passed a funding deal early Friday, but blowback from House Republicans came quickly. House Speaker Mike Johnson, upon opening the chamber for business, accused Democrats of playing a dangerous game and said he needed to talk with fellow Republicans about how to proceed.

After a lengthy conference call, Johnson blasted the Senate’s action and announced that the House would be going in a different route. “This gambit that was done last night is a joke,” Johnson said.

Instead, the House on Friday night passed a bill to fund the entire department through May 22. The vote was 213-203. Johnson said he had spoken with Trump about the House Republican plan and the president supported it.



House Republicans were livid that the bill passed by the Senate does not fund Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Border Patrol. Democrats refused to fund those departments without changes to immigration enforcement practices.

“We’re going to do something different,” Johnson said. He challenged the Senate to take up the House’s short-term fix to fund Homeland Security into May.

But senators left town after voting to fund most of DHS, so it would take time for them to return once the House passes a different measure. And even if they were to return, Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer made clear the House GOP plan would be “dead on arrival in the Senate, and Republicans know it.”

House Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries said the Senate-passed bill would clear the House with Republican and Democratic votes if Johnson would allow it to be voted on.

Senators worked through the night to approve a bill by voice vote that would fund much of Homeland Security, including the Federal Emergency Management

Agency, the Coast Guard and TSA.

Senate Republicans said they were disappointed by the lack of funding for ICE and Border Patrol, but noted that immigration enforcement has remained largely uninterrupted. That’s because the GOP’s big tax cuts bill that Trump signed into law last year funneled billions of dollars in extra funds to DHS, including \$75 billion for ICE operations.

Conservative Republicans, however, were against establishing a precedent that allows Congress during the yearly appropriations process to fund some agencies within Homeland Security, but not others.

Democrats have refused to provide funding for ICE and the Border Patrol after the deaths of two Americans protesting the sweeping immigration crackdown in Minneapolis.

They want federal agents to wear identification, remove their face masks and refrain from conducting raids around schools, churches or other sensitive places. Democrats have also pushed for an end of administrative warrants, insisting that judges sign off before agents search

people’s homes or private spaces — something Mullin, the new DHS secretary, said he is open to considering.

After more than a week of intense negotiations -- some involving the White House -- the two sides agreed early Friday to fund most parts of the Homeland Security Department except for ICE and parts of CBP. It passed by voice vote with no objections from either side just after 2 a.m.

The DHS shutdown has resulted in travel delays and even warnings of airport closures as more TSA workers missing paychecks stopped going to work. Those workers had already endured the nation’s longest government shutdown last fall.

Multiple airports have been experiencing greater than 40% callout rates of TSA workers, and nearly 500 of the agency’s nearly 50,000 transportation security officers have quit during the shutdown. Nationwide on Thursday, more than 11.8% of the TSA employees on the schedule missed work, according to DHS. That is more than 3,450 callouts.

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# César Chávez Day Events Altered Over Abuse Claims

## Organizers Rename, Delay or Cancel Observances

(AP) – Many of the celebrations and holidays honoring the late farmworker labor leader César Chavez are being renamed, postponed or completely canceled in the wake of allegations that he sexually abused women and girls while at the helm of the United Farm Workers Union.

Labor rights activist Dolores Huerta revealed last week that she was among those who say they were abused by Chavez, who died more than three decades ago.

The allegations have prompted swift fallout, including from the United Farm Workers, which announced it would not take part in any events named after the organization's former leader.

Several states previously recognized a day on or near Chavez's March 31 birthday as an annual holiday, and in 2014 President Barack Obama signed a proclamation commemorating March 31 as César Chavez Day.

On Thursday, California Gov. Gavin Newsom signed a bill to rename César Chavez Day as Farmworkers Day. The state Senate approved the legislation earlier in the day with bipartisan support.

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott announced last week that his state



Pedestrians walk below an image of César Chavez on mural in San Francisco, Wednesday, March 18, 2026. (AP Photo/Jeff Chiu)

would not observe the holiday this year, and he directed all state agency heads to comply with the change. Abbott also said he would work with legislators to remove the holiday from state law.

Washington Gov. Bob Ferguson's office said the state won't recognize Cesar Chavez Day, instead focusing on Dolores Huerta Day on April 10, her birthday.

The city of Lansing, Michigan, canceled its Legacy of César Chavez Dinner on March 25. The featured speaker was to be Chavez granddaughter Julie Chavez Rodriguez, who was campaign manager for Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris in 2024.

The Coconino County Hispanic Advisory Council in Arizona postponed an annual César E. Chavez Community Breakfast, with plans to reschedule it to focus on the contributions and achievements of Hispanic residents in the county. The city of Tucson, Arizona renamed its annual celebration the "Comunidad y Labor Unity Fair."

San Jose, the largest city in Northern California, is canceling its César Chavez celebration, the mayor announced on March 18. Matt Mahan said the city would identify ways to honor the legacy of the farmworker movement without celebrating "individuals who caused such profound harm

to the community."

The Hispanic Advocates and Business Leaders of Austin, Texas, announced that an annual march honoring Chavez set for March 28 would no longer take place. Several Austin city leaders also announced that they support the renaming of César Chavez Street.

Dozens of schools, streets and other locations across the United States are named for Chavez, including the César E. Chávez National Monument in Keene, California.

Dennis Arguelles, the director of the National Parks Conservation Association in Southern Cal-

ifornia, said renaming the national monument would require an act of Congress. He said the site should continue to honor the farmworker movement and leaders who fought for dignity, better working conditions and fair wages.

The Los Angeles Unified school board on Tuesday approved plans to rename schools and to recognize Farmworkers Day on March 31 rather than César Chavez Day. The Los Angeles County Board of Commissioners approved similar plans.

Portland, Oregon, city councilor Candace Avalos said she would start a petition to rename a city boulevard after Huerta. City rules require 2,500 signatures to start a renaming effort, Avalos wrote on social media, urging her constituents to stay tuned for ways to help with the effort.

U.S. Sen. Ben Ray Luján, a New Mexico Democrat, issued a statement Wednesday saying abuse of any kind, especially against children, is indefensible and a betrayal of the values that Latino leaders have championed for generations.

"His name should be removed from landmarks, institutions and honors," Luján said of Chavez. "We cannot celebrate someone who carried out such disturbing harm." Associated Press reporters around the United States contributed.

## OREGON PROBLEM GAMBLING RESOURCE

# OPGR

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