



The Portland Observer

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'City of
Roses'

www.portlandobserver.com

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Committed to Cultural Diversity

Board of County Commissioners Celebrates Three December Proclamations

Commissioners Approve Proclamations on AIDS, Transgender Remembrance and Genocide

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners marked its monthly Proclamation Day on Wednesday, Dec. 3, by approving three proclamations recognizing World AIDS Day, Transgender Day of Remembrance and the International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of Genocide. Commissioner Julia Brim-Edwards presided over the meeting, as Chair Jessica Vega Pederson and Commissioner Meghan Moyer were excused.



The Board with County staff and community members proclaim World AIDS Day.

"These proclamations affirm Multnomah County's commitment to those in our community living with HIV and AIDS, re-

member transgender and nonbinary community members we've lost to violence, and recognize victims and survivors of geno-

cide," Brim-Edwards said. The celebration also included the presentation of the Kathleen Saadat Community Advocate Award.

The Board proclaimed Dec. 1, 2025, as World AIDS Day in Multnomah County. Sponsored by the Health Department, the proclamation raises awareness of HIV, confronts stigma and honors those lost to AIDS or continuing to fight for equitable care. This year's theme, "Overcoming Disruption, Transforming the AIDS Response," reflects the community-led origins of the HIV response.

Health Department HIV grant administration managers Derek Smith and Scott Strickland presented the proclamation, noting that advocacy efforts arose in response to federal indifference that led to nearly 450,000 HIV/AIDS-related deaths by the 1990s. This year marks 35 years of federal funding through

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Downtown Portland Hosts Creative Pop-Ups



DB Dessert Company is a dessert café and lifestyle brand in Portland specializing in custom cakes, elaborate cupcakes, and picture-perfect treats. (Photo courtesy of Portland Metro Chamber - Downtown Portland Clean & Safe)

Showcasing Local Art Through December 24

As the 2025 PDX Pop-Up Shops continue through December 24th, the 11 participating small business owners are drawing growing interest for the distinct personal histories, cultural influences, and artistic disciplines they bring to their temporary storefronts downtown.

Each entrepreneur has navigated a unique journey to elevate their business, revitalize a vacant downtown space, and present a vibrant storefront—flipping ne-

glected spots into inviting, one-of-a-kind shops in just weeks. From artists reviving 19th-century tintype photography, to a glittering burlesque and boudoir parlor tapping into Old Town's vaudeville past, to an award-winning specialty bookstore focused on comics and graphic novels, these shop owners are illustrating how creativity and resilience are helping to reenergize downtown.

One of the Shops, Madam Cooper's Parlor, has transformed a vacant Old Town space at Ankeny Alley to offer a particularly unique experience—a glittering boutique with a miniature Music Box Theatre offering six-minute burlesque performances, often accompanied by a live piano player and a menu of Spanish Coffees and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

Stolen Vehicle Operations Cut Car Theft, Win Awards

Targeted Efforts Credited with Ongoing Declines

The Portland Police Stolen Vehicle Operations (SVOs) have continued to show results, including arrests and recovered stolen vehicles. Additionally, the innovative, data-driven initiative is getting more national recognition.

This year, there have been 10 Stolen Vehicle Operations missions, involving PPB and nine outside agencies, including the Gresham Police Department, Port of Portland Police Department, Multnomah County Sheriff's Office, Clackamas County Sheriff's Office, Vancouver Police Department, Multnomah County Parole and Probation, the Multnomah County District Attorney's Office, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the United States Department of Justice-District of Oregon.

During the missions, 75 arrests were made (including 64 arrest warrants served), 69 stolen vehicles recovered, and 11 illegally possessed guns seized. Thirty-seven times, drivers attempted to elude police, and there were 12 vehicle pursuits under the PPB pursuit policy.

In 2025, the Stolen Vehicle Operation (SVO) continued to build on the momentum from previous years. The program has grown significantly, expanding its knowledge nationwide and earning an interna-



IACP Award

tional award for its innovative approach.

SVO continues to attract strong interest, with a waitlist of officers eager to participate in the operations. The program also strengthened relationships with surrounding agencies and community partners. Most importantly, stolen vehicle incidents continue to decline across Portland and the metro area, the very outcome that motivated the program's creation.

The Stolen Vehicle Operation (SVO) was awarded the 2025 International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) Leadership in the Prevention of Vehicle Crimes Award. This award recognizes law

enforcement agencies, task forces, community partnerships, and other prevention alliances worldwide that demonstrate exceptional results in vehicle-crime reduction and enforcement.

The recognition highlights SVO's significant success in reducing stolen vehicles and its groundbreaking partnership with cancer researchers at the Knight Cancer Institute at Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU). This innovative collaboration, paired with measurable community impact, sets SVO apart as a national and international leader in vehicle-crime prevention. This is a major

honor that underscores the operation's effectiveness, innovation, and real-world results.

In 2025, the Stolen Vehicle Operation (SVO) continued to strengthen and expand its collaboration with the community, specifically through PDX Stolen Cars, a community-sourced group of over 30,000 participants. The information provided by this group is actively leveraged by SVO to support operations.

Throughout the year, PDX Stolen Cars assisted in seven SVO missions, helping recover 11 stolen vehicles and demonstrating the effectiveness of this unique community-law enforcement partnership. This collaboration serves as a model for how community-sourced information can be strategically integrated into law enforcement efforts to achieve measurable, positive outcomes.

The SVO continues to implement the updated pursuit policy effectively, with the objective of stopping eluding vehicles that pose a significant risk to the community. Recent data shows an average pursuit duration of 2 minutes and 45 seconds. Officers use controlled pursuits to close distance on fleeing vehicles and apply approved intervention techniques to safely disable them. This capability has proven instrumental in the apprehension of dangerous offenders. Pursuits are a coordinated operation involving multiple units, air support, and specialized intervention tactics to ensure the highest level of safety and operational success.

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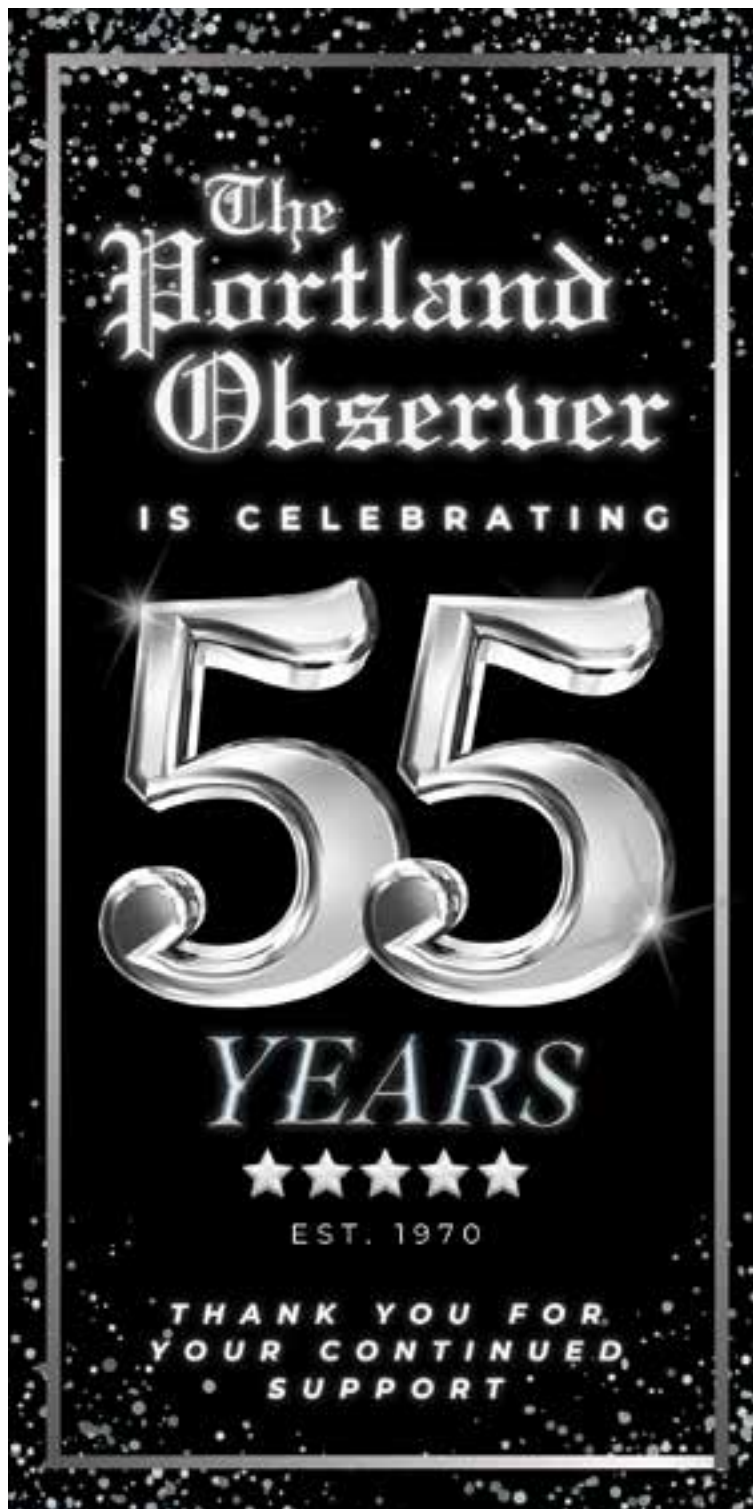
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LOCAL NEWS

Portland Police Increase Patrols at Jewish Events

Move Follows Australia Terror Attack

The Portland Police Bureau (PPB) is responding to increased concerns about safety following a mass casualty attack that took place in Australia on Sunday, December 14.

PPB recognizes the significant impact this tragic event may have on our communities, and our organization is committed to working with our community partners to ensure everyone's safety and well-being.

Following the deadly violence in Australia, PPB reached out to the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland to collaborate on addressing concerns. Representatives from PPB have built strong community relationships with a variety of faith groups



Shenna McClean lays flowers at a memorial at Sydney's Bondi Beach, Monday, Dec. 15, 2025, a day after a shooting. (AP Photo/Mark Baker)

over many years, including the Jewish Federation.

PPB officers are increasing patrols in and around Jewish places of worship, community centers, and schools. Attendees at various events celebrating the beginning of Hanukkah may see increased police patrols.

There are no known active threats to any events or locations in Portland, however, PPB is continuing to monitor the situation. If anyone has information about active threats, please call 911. Non-time sensitive information can be e-mailed to crimetips@police.portlandoregon.gov.

County Declares Immigration Emergency

Chair Cites Impacts of Federal Activity

On Friday, Multnomah County Chair Jessica Vega Pederson declared an emergency in response to ongoing impacts from federal immigration enforcement — providing increased flexibility and direction as the County continues to respond to harmful U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) activity.

"Multnomah County is committed to using every tool at our disposal to support our immigrant and refugee neighbors, and this declaration strengthens our response to the cruel actions that are terrorizing families throughout Multnomah County," said Chair Jessica Vega Pederson. "Our diversity is our strength, and we will never waiver from our commitment to serve every person who lives here with dignity."

Multnomah County is home to a diverse and vibrant community of people representing many races, ethnicities, and nationalities, including immigrants and refugees from all over the world. More than 13% of Multnomah County residents were born outside the United States.



A federal agent wears an Immigration and Customs Enforcement badge at the immigration court. (AP Photo/Yuki Iwamura, File)

The County has long recognized and valued the diverse contributions of all individuals, affirming its commitment to upholding the dignity and respect of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, ethnicity, immigration or refugee status, heritage, culture or religion.

The actions of federal immigration enforcement authorities institutionalizes racial profiling and encourages discrimination, which has caused widespread fear among Multnomah County residents. That fear has led to a measurable decline in workforce participation, particularly among immigrant and mixed-status families. Increased immigration enforcement has caused some residents to fear leaving their homes to go to work, attend

school, access County services, take public transportation, or attend medical appointments.

Declaring an emergency provides increased flexibility and direction to address the harm and fear that is impacting so many of the people Multnomah County serves.

The Emergency Declaration comes in advance of a resolution introduced by Chair Jessica Vega Pederson and District 2 Commissioner Shannon Singleton to reaffirm and strengthen Multnomah County's Sanctuary County status. On Thursday, Dec. 18, the Board of Commissioners will consider both the resolution and an emergency funding allocation to direct \$250,000 toward human and legal services to address impacts of federal action.

Hoops, High-fives and Holiday Meals Highlight a Day of Giving in Northeast Portland

Community Partnership Provides Essential Food Support to Local Families in Need

BY UNITEDHEALTHCARE AND BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS PORTLAND METRO

Portland Trail Blazers center Duop Reath joined UnitedHealthcare and Boys and Girls Clubs of Portland Metro to deliver holiday food boxes to 100 families and shoot hoops with kids at the Blazers Club in Northeast Portland.

Trading three-point field goals for high-fives, Reath and Blazers Club kids—the only Boys & Girls Club in the nation partnered with an NBA franchise—started the special visit dribbling and passing the ball in the club’s gymnasium, celebrating shots with cheers and smiles.

“Basketball is about teamwork and so is giving back,” said Reath. “Together we can help families put food on the table and make a real difference this holiday season.”

After warming up the Club’s court, Reath and UnitedHealthcare volunteers handed food boxes to kids and parents. Each 25-pound box is packed with pasta, rice, canned vegetables and proteins, enough for 50 meals.



Duop Reath Donates Food Boxes & Shoots Hoops with Kids

“A healthy diet promotes good health, so UnitedHealthcare is helping make nutritious food accessible for those who need extra support,” said Scott Forseth, director, UnitedHealthcare.

Oregon ranks 36th in the nation for food insecurity, and in Multnomah County, more than 14 percent of residents—over 114,000 people—struggle to access

enough food. During the holidays, many households face added financial pressure, so finding support is important.

“Partnerships like this mean everything to our families,” said Mandy Tsang, senior director of development, Boys & Girls Clubs of Portland Metro. “When community partners step into our Clubs to ensure families have nutritious meals for the hol-

idays, it brings real relief during a difficult time. It eases stress and helps parents stretch their resources. Boys & Girls Clubs of Portland Metro is grateful to Duop Reath and UnitedHealthcare for making it possible this holiday season.”

When teamwork meets giving, an ordinary day becomes an extraordinary celebration of community and hope.



Event attendees and volunteers

A group of seven diverse women of various ages and ethnicities are smiling and posing for a photo. They are dressed in casual to semi-formal attire.

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The logo for the Give! Guide, featuring the word 'GIVE' in a stylized font inside a square frame.

The logo for the Albina Music Trust, featuring a stylized musical note and the organization's name.

Albina Music Trust
is in
the
Give! Guide
Nov 1st - Dec 31st
2025

A photograph of a group of musicians performing. In the foreground, a man in a red shirt and hat plays a guitar. Behind him, other musicians are visible, including one playing a trumpet.

A square QR code located in the bottom right corner of the advertisement.

Albina Music Trust is dedicated to the restoration of the Albina community’s historic musical culture.

Downtown Portland Hosts Creative Pop-Ups

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

hot popcorn. Together with performer-led walking tours on Old Town's storied past, the Parlor is reminiscent of the historic Entertainment District, which housed vaudeville houses, saloons, cabarets, and offbeat nightlife. Today, entrepreneurs like Madam Cooper are channeling that history to help revive the neighborhood's energy.

"Portland has long embraced the bold, the unusual, and the beautifully theatrical," says Madam Cooper, the co-owner, concept creator, and one of the performers of Madam Cooper's Parlor "We wanted to create a love letter to Old Town's entertainment history, something intimate, fun, and deeply Portland."

Many of the entrepreneurs have overcome meaningful barriers in their journeys, navigating the challenges of scaling home-based businesses, reviving historical art forms for modern audiences, or taking bold steps to grow into brick-and-mortar storefronts and the central city for the first time. Their experiences reflect the momentum of Portland's downtown recovery and small business climate.

Books with Pictures has operated in Southeast Portland since 2016 but joined this year's



Whimsical creations on display! Mike Bennett's Ornament Gift Shop returns to Director Park for its second year, showcasing the local artist's beloved, magical designs. (Photo courtesy of Portland Metro Chamber - Downtown Portland Clean & Safe)

Pop-Ups program to explore the downtown retail climate. Recently voted the best comics store in the world, Books with Pictures is known for redefining what a comics retailer can be—an inviting space for nontraditional readers that champions stories by and about women, queer communities, people of color, and people with disabilities.

Bring! Treats for Dogs is also introducing something entirely different to the city center: gourmet dog treats made with human-grade, organic, gluten-free, and low allergen ingredients. The team, who opened Oregon's first-ever food cart for dogs in Southeast Portland, has built a following with whimsical creations such as pupcakes,

puptarts, and empawnadas. Like Books with Pictures, they joined the Pop-Ups program as a strategic opportunity to explore the potential of a permanent presence in Portland's central city.

Among the featured shops are Blue June Outfitters, featuring handcrafted jewelry and thoughtfully designed apparel, and 789 Custom Designs, pre-

sending Giftlandia, a dimensional art gallery with handmade works by local artists, including Jason Payton's multi-dimensional wood art.

The lineup also includes DB Dessert Company, a Portland-based dessert café known for custom cakes and artful treats; Domaine Divio, a family-owned winery blending French heritage with Oregon winemaking; Mike Bennett's Ornament Gift Shop, a pop-up showcasing the artist's whimsical creations; Ceramics Northwest at Pioneer Place, featuring ceramics by more than 70 local artists and a hands-on community clay area; Portland Camera Club x The Portland Darkroom, a pop-up shop and gallery celebrating photography; and Retórica, showcasing symbolic fine jewelry crafted from repurposed precious metals.

"With the Pop-Up Shops underway, we're seeing just how much the stories behind these businesses resonate with the community," said Sydney Mead, Senior Director of Downtown Programs at Downtown Portland Clean and Safe. "These entrepreneurs aren't just filling storefronts, they're bringing forward the kind of creativity and dedication to Portland that makes downtown feel alive again."

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CLASSIFIEDS/BIDS

INVITATION TO BID


ITB #26-02: Pearson Field Airport Terminal Renovation Project

Notice is hereby given that the City of Vancouver, Washington, will receive sealed bids up to the hour of 11:00 a.m., Pacific Local Time, Tuesday, January 13, 2026 and will publicly open and read aloud at that time on the same day in the Vancouver City Hall, 415 W 6th St, Vancouver, Washington, for the following:

This Contract provides for complete interior renovation of the existing pilot's lounge area, bathroom, snack bar, and office area as well as the replacement of the exterior windows and the (south facing) building exterior wall at the main entry and other work, all in accordance with the attached Contract Plans, these Contract Provisions, and the Standard Specifications.

The Contract work shall be Physically Complete within 98 Calendar Days from the Notice to Proceed.

An optional pre-bid meeting is to be held at 10:00 am, local time, on Tuesday, December 16, 2025 at the Pearson Field Airport at 101 E Reserve St, Vancouver, WA 98661. Interested prime contractors are encouraged to attend. At this meeting questions concerning the Contract Documents and the proposed work will be discussed.

All bid proposals shall be accompanied by a bid proposal deposit in certified check or surety bond in an amount equal to five percent (5%) of the amount of such bid proposal.

The City reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive minor informalities in bids received.

Bidding documents may be obtained from the City of Vancouver Procurement Services website at: <https://cityofvancouver.bonfirehub.com>. These are available for viewing, downloading and printing on your own equipment, free of charge.

The City of Vancouver in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252,42 U.S.C. 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award.

The City of Vancouver is committed to providing equal opportunities to State of Washington certified Minority, Disadvantaged and Women's Business Enterprises in contracting activities. (Section 4 of Chapter 56, Laws of 1975, 1st Ex. Sess., State of Washington).

The contract will require the payment and tracking of federal wages through Davis Bacon and will be subject to regulations of the U.S. Department of Labor. The higher wage rate between the Federal and State rates, at minimum, shall prevail per WAC 296-127-025.

Gresham Grandma Receives \$50K Smile

Holiday Surprise Makes Lasting Impact

On December 10, 2025, 65-year-old Gresham grandmother Sarah Hall was surprised with the life-changing news that she had been selected as the recipient of Beacon Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeons' 7th annual Second Chance program. She will receive a complimentary \$50,000 full-mouth restoration, replacing her failing and missing teeth with a permanent, custom-made smile.

Believing she was only a finalist and joined by her sister, Sarah attended an intimate announcement event for the program, where she learned she had been selected. Her reaction — a mix of shock, tears, and joy — marked the beginning of a transformation that will restore her smile and confidence just in time for the holidays.

Sarah Hall has battled severe hereditary dental deterioration her entire life, including major procedures before the age of two. She only learned at 62 that her biological mother had full dentures by 18, explaining decades of challenges. Missing nearly all her molars and living with chronic pain and infections, Sarah has endured countless dental procedures, limited access to care, and difficulty eating, speaking, and smiling.

Despite these challenges, Sarah remains warm, social, and deeply family-oriented, prioritizing her grandchildren and community involvement. She hopes to be remembered smiling freely, not hiding her teeth. A restored smile will allow her to eat com-



(left, Sarah's sister), Beacon OMS surgical assistant, Brittnee, Sarah Hall, Dr. Lieblick (Beacon OMS)

fortably, reconnect with loved ones, and enjoy the independence and joy she deserves.

"Programs like Second Chance allow us to make a real difference in our community," said Dr. Russell Lieblick, oral surgeon at Beacon Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeons. "For Sarah, this is a fresh start — a chance to smile freely, eat comfortably, and feel confident again after years of struggling with her dental health."

Sarah's smile transformation will use Beacon OMS' DIEM Full-Arch Restoration procedure. Four to six dental implants will be surgically placed and anchored with a permanent, customized prosthetic. Beacon OMS surgeons will perform the surgery and oversee the restorative phase in collaboration with Dr. Jordan Anderson of Eastside

Dental Clinic, ensuring natural aesthetics, optimal function, and durability while preserving jaw-bone health.

The Second Chance program is an extension of Beacon Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeons' long-standing commitment to providing life-changing smile makeovers to the community. Now in its seventh year, the program selects one deserving resident annually to receive a complimentary full-arch restoration, helping to bridge a critical gap in access to advanced dental care. Sarah will begin her treatment journey over the holidays and into the new year, with her full-mouth restoration expected to be completed over the next year. The program restores not only oral health but also confidence, self-esteem, and quality of life for participants like Sarah.

Augustana Lutheran Church Christmas Eve Candlelight Carol Services

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Brown University Shooter Still Loose!

Police Fan Out to Providence Schools to Calm the Worried Community

(AP) — Additional police were sent to Providence schools on Tuesday to reassure worried parents that their kids will be safe with the Brown University shooter on the loose and no indication yet that investigators have zeroed in on a suspect.

Authorities on Monday released several new videos of the man suspected in Saturday's mass shooting inside of a Brown classroom, which killed two students and wounded nine others. On Tuesday, Rhode Island Attorney General Peter Neronha told MS Now that an "enhanced photograph" would soon be released.

"We have a good picture of the gunman's route, but it's not complete yet," he said.

After releasing a person of interest in the case because the evidence pointed elsewhere, they once again pleaded with the public for any tips that might help them catch the attacker.

Tensions remain high in Providence. Ten state troopers were assigned to support the local police sent to beef up security at schools, district Superintendent Javier Montañez said.

"We recognize that the tragic incident at Brown University, occurring so close to where many of our students and families live and learn, is deeply unsettling and frightening," he wrote in an email to parents.

With the investigation in its third day Monday, officers were still knocking on doors and poring through dumpsters and backyards near the Ivy League campus in search of additional video evidence or other clues.

But some locals expressed defiance.

"Of course it feels scary. But at the same time, I think that if the person really wanted to scare us, we shouldn't allow him or her to win," said Tatjana Stojanovic, a Providence parent who lives next door to the Brown campus. "Despite all of that, we should just go about our lives. I mean, obviously, you cannot forget this. But I think we shouldn't cower and just sort of stop living despite what has happened."



Visitors pause at a makeshift memorial for the victims of Saturday's shooting, at the Van Wickle Gate at Brown University, Monday, Dec. 15, 2025, in Providence, R.I. (AP Photo/Robert F. Bukaty)

In the five videos authorities have released of the suspect, he was wearing a mask or his face was turned. The FBI described him as about 5 feet, 8 inches (173 centimeters) tall, with a stocky build.

The attack and the shooter's escape have raised questions about campus security, including a lack of security cameras, and led to calls for better locks on campus doors. Others pushed back, though, saying such efforts do little to address the real issue.

"The issue isn't the doors, it's the guns," said Zoe Kass, a senior who fled the engineering building as police stormed in Saturday. "And all of this, like, 'Oh, the doors need to be locked.' I get it, parents are scared. But any of us could have opened the door for the guy if the doors had been locked."

After spending of her life in schools where every door was locked and school shootings continued to persist, Kass said such security measures only created "the illusion of safety."

Meanwhile, details have emerged about the victims, who were in the first-

floor classroom in the school's engineering building studying for a final.

Only one of the wounded students had been released as of Sunday, Brown President Christina Paxson said. One was in critical condition and the other seven were in critical but stable condition.

One of the wounded students, 18-year-old freshman Spencer Yang of New York City, told the New York Times and the Brown Daily Herald that there was a mad scramble after the gunman entered the room. Many students ran toward the front, but Yang said he wound up on the ground between some seats and was shot in the leg. He expected to be discharged within days.

Jacob Spears, 18, a freshman from Evans, Georgia, was shot in the stomach, "but through sheer adrenaline and courage, he managed to run outside, where he was aided by others," according to a GoFundMe site organized for him.

Ella Cook, a 19-year-old sophomore who was one of the two students killed, was vice president of the Brown Col-

lege Republicans and was beloved in her church in Birmingham, Alabama. In announcing her death Sunday, the Rev. R. Craig Smalley described her as "an incredible grounded, faithful, bright light" who encouraged and "lifted up those around her."

The other student killed was, MukhammadAziz Umurzokov, an 18-year-old freshman from Brandermill, Virginia, who was majoring in biochemistry and neuroscience. His family immigrated to the U.S. from Uzbekistan when he was a kid.

As a child, Umurzokov suffered a neurological condition that required surgery, and he later wore a back brace because of scoliosis, his sister Samira Umurzokova told The Associated Press by phone. He knew from an early age that he wanted to be a neurosurgeon to help others like him.

"He had so many hardships in his life, and he got into this amazing school and tried so hard to follow through with the promise he made when was 7 years old," she said.

Board of County Commissioners Celebrates Three December Proclamations

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

programs such as the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program.

Strickland warned that rhetoric today mirrors that of the 1980s. "New infections continue to occur, people who would benefit from treatment are being denied and unnecessary deaths are recurring," he said.

Advances in treatment have allowed people with HIV who reach viral suppression to live long, healthy lives without risk of transmission. In 2023, 93% of people receiving HIV medical care in the region

achieved viral suppression. However, inequities persist, with higher rates among people of color, youth, transgender women, people who use drugs and those with prior sexually transmitted infections.

Community advocate Bee Velasquez emphasized the importance of local support systems. "These services do more than treat HIV," she said. "They keep people housed, connected, supported and alive." The County reaffirmed its commitment to the End HIV in Oregon Strategy and continues to display a historic National AIDS Quilt panel at the Gladys McCoy Building.

The Board proclaimed Nov. 20, 2025, as

Transgender Day of Remembrance, honoring transgender people lost to violence. Commissioner Shannon Singleton noted the rise in anti-trans rhetoric and policies. Since November 2024, at least 27 trans and nonbinary people have been killed nationwide, with violence disproportionately impacting trans femmes of color.

As part of the observance, the Kathleen Saadat Community Advocate Award was presented to Joelle Kim, executive director of the Q Center, for her leadership in creating spaces of healing, connection and advocacy. Kim thanked Saadat and County employee resource

groups for their support of queer and trans employees.

The Board also proclaimed Dec. 9, 2025, as the International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crimes of Genocide. Speakers shared personal experiences as genocide survivors and advocates, reflecting on atrocities past and present.

The proclamation invoked the promise of "never again" and concluded with a call to action, urging continued vigilance, accountability and collective efforts to end suffering and uphold human dignity worldwide.

Black-Led Nonprofits Receive Major Funding

Funds Aimed at Programs Improving Student Outcomes

The Oregon Community Foundation announced \$720,000 in new grants to 30 Black-led, Black-serving nonprofits across Oregon, many located in North and Northeast Portland. The grants are designed to strengthen organizations that improve outcomes for Black students statewide.

Through its Black Student Success Initiative, the Oregon Community Foundation has supported culturally led organizations since 2020 as part of the Oregon Black Student Success Network. The Oregon Black Student Success Network has grown to five regions across Oregon, collaborating on programs and policy advocacy to improve educational access from K-12 through postsecondary education.

“Oregon Community Foundation continues to deepen our commitment to help ensure the success of Black students in Oregon,” said Marcy Bradley, OCF’s Chief Community Engagement and Equity Officer. “These partnerships help these organizations to innovate and grow their programs and operations to effectively prepare Oregon’s future Black leaders for success.”

OCF created this funding opportunity in response to feedback from community partners about the need to help organizations build capacity — enhancing governance, operations, internal culture and



Youth Organized and United to Help, also known as Y.O.U.T.H. (Courtesy of Oregon Community Foundation)

community relationships. Applications were reviewed by a committee of state, local and community leaders, with final approval by the OCF Board of Directors.

“This capacity grant through OCF has

been a catalyst for Y.O.U.T.H.,” said Imani Muhammad, Founder and Executive Director of Portland’s Youth Organized and United to Help. “The financial support helps to fortify our organizational

structure, expand our ability to serve East Multnomah County families and ensured that our mission — from tutoring to empowerment — can grow sustainably for years to come.”

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