



Community Invited to Support During the Holiday Season

One Year Since Near Bankruptcy, Community Cycling Center has Recovered

One year ago, the Community Cycling Center announced it was at risk of closing its doors after more than a quarter century serving Portland's youth and families. Thanks to strong community support, decisive internal changes, and renewed focus, the organization enters the 2025 holiday giving season in a more stable position, while still relying on donor support to sustain and grow its mission. Staff and volunteers of the Community Cycling Center hope that you can spread cheer by ensuring 400 people in 2026 gain access to free bikes and continue supporting our community through no-cost bike clubs, bike camps, the Repair Hub and so much more.

Over the past year, the Community Cycling Center surveyed over 100 community members and completed a strategic planning process, informing key operational changes. Retail space in the Alberta shop was redesigned to respond to customer needs, expand revenue-generating services, and support a better visitor experience.



The Community Cycling Center on the corner of Alberta and 17th.

Customer service with a trauma informed lens is now a core training priority for all front-line staff while also hosting more community events such as bike fairs and community advocacy rides.

Despite scaling the annual operating budget by 25 percent, primarily in admin costs, the organization has continued to expand its impact. Across all programs, more than

400 bicycles have been provided to families and youth in the past year. Before the pandemic, similar numbers were only achieved during the organization's large-scale Holiday Bike Drive event. Today, bikes are distributed through multiple community-based partnerships and year-round programming allowing community members access to bikes during dryer riding seasons,

and giving staff the ability to have multiple touch points with the people they serve throughout the year.

The volunteer program has also rebounded. Volunteer engagement is now the strongest it has been since before the pandemic at 1,420 hours, fueling bike builds, repairs, and community programs.

"This past year showed what's possible when Portland rallies

around equitable access to transportation," said Ruben Alvarado, Executive Director. "We're not just keeping the doors open. We're rebuilding a stronger, more community-centered Cycling Center that reflects what our neighbors have told us they need."

Looking ahead, the Community Cycling Center is focused on financial sustainability, expanding program capacity, and deepening community partnerships. Holiday giving continues to be an essential part of making that work possible.

At the Community Cycling Center's core, it simply wants to spread joy and empowerment through bikes. To afford their 2026 goal of bringing 400 bikes to people who would otherwise not have access to them, they need to raise \$200,000 by December 31st. Donations can be made online, in person or by mailing a check at the bike shop located at 1700 NE Alberta Street Portland Oregon 97211, or through employer matching. Stock donations are also welcome.

About Community Cycling Center Founded in 1994, the Community Cycling Center is a nonprofit organization dedicated to broadening access to bicycling and its benefits. Through education, programs, and free services, the organization works to make biking accessible and empowering for people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds.



Jeffrey Hairston

City Of Gresham Names Next Fire Chief

Strengthening the City's Commitment to Community-Focused Service

The City of Gresham announced today that Fire Chief Derik Minard will be departing the organization, effective December 12, to accept the position of Fire Chief for the City of Savannah, Georgia.

"Chief Minard brought stability and strength to Gresham Fire at a critical moment, and we are grateful for his service," said City Manager Eric Schmidt. "His leadership, vision, and contributions have set up the Gresham Fire Department for long-term success.

With Chief Minard's departure, the City has named Assistant Chief Jeffrey Hairston as Gresham's next Fire Chief, effective December 13. A top finalist in the City's most recent national recruitment for Fire Chief, Hairston received strong evaluations throughout the interview process in 2024.

"Chief Hairston is a respected and proven leader who will continue the strong momentum started by Chief Minard," said Schmidt. "He understands the unique needs of this organization, believes deeply in this community, and is ready to lead the department forward."

Over the coming weeks, the city will work closely with both Chief Minard and Chief Hairston to support a smooth transition and maintain operational continuity.

"Gresham Fire has made tremendous progress in recent years,"

Schmidt added. "With Chief Hairston's leadership and our strong Command Staff, Local 1062, and support staff, the department is well-positioned for the future."

Incoming Chief Hairston shared his gratitude and vision for the work ahead, noting, "I'm honored to serve as the next Fire Chief of the Gresham Fire Department. We have important work ahead of us, and none of it can be done alone. I'm committed to strengthening our service, supporting our firefighters, and building deeper relationships with the communities we serve. With partnership, transparency, and everyone's support, we will move this department forward together."

The City of Gresham extends its appreciation to Chief Minard for his service and congratulates Chief Hairston on his appointment as Gresham's next Fire Chief.

Teacher Education Program Earns Full Accreditation

State Approval Recognizes Program & Strengthens Region's Education Workforce

Clark College is proud to announce that its Bachelor of Applied Science in Teacher Education (BASTE) program has been fully accredited by the Professional Educator Standards Board (PESB) of Washington state. The board approved the accreditation at its Nov. 13 meeting.

PESB is the state body responsible for reviewing and approving teacher preparation programs in Washington. Full accreditation affirms that Clark's BASTE program meets all statewide standards for preparing high-quality educators. Because the program has been engaged in the accreditation process since before its first cohort began, graduates from all cohorts—past, current, and future—qualify for teacher certification.

"This achievement marks the culmination of a long journey and represents an incredible milestone for Clark College and our students," said Dr. Donald Ludwig, division chair of Behavioral Sciences and Clark's Baccalaureate Leadership Council representative. "It stands as a testament to years of vision, perseverance, and collaboration."

The Bachelor of Applied Science in Teacher Education (BASTE) is a two-year program that leads to teacher certification for preschool through eighth grade and offers endorsement options in Elementary Education, Early Childhood Education, Bilingual Education, Special Education, and Early Childhood Special Education. The program provides a seamless pathway for students who have completed an associate



2025 BASTE grads at Commencement

of applied science degree and want to continue into a teacher education and certification program.

The program was intentionally designed to support Grow Your Own Teacher initiatives, which ensure that the teacher workforce reflects the demographics of the school district.

Clark College began exploring the need for a BASTE program in 2019 by reviewing models from other institutions, analyzing regional teacher shortages, and consulting with school districts. The college then moved through a multi-stage approval process with its Board of Trustees, the Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC), and PESB.

During this process, Clark submitted an initial notification of intent and a pre-proposal, which describes how the program design and methods uniquely fill the needs of its community. The final stages of the process required a full program proposal that detailed specific program requirements. Each step goes through a detailed

review before receiving final approval and full accreditation.

Washington is experiencing significant teacher shortages in several key endorsement areas. Four of Clark's program endorsements—Elementary Education, Early Childhood Education, Special Education, and Early Childhood Special Education—are shortage areas both statewide and within Clark County, according to PESB. The need for bilingual teachers is also growing, with 15.1% of Washington students identified as English Language Learners in 2024-25—an increase from the previous year. Two of Clark County's largest school districts reported ELL enrollment above 18%, mirroring statewide trends. Locally, special education and bilingual teachers are the most challenging positions to fill, but BASTE's endorsement offerings address these shortages head-on.

"Having worked in education for my entire career, I know that people choose to become educators not to make a lot of money, but because they are passionate

about helping students, impacting lives, and making a difference in their community," said Clark College President Dr. Karin Edwards. "It is gratifying to consider how deeply our BASTE-trained teachers will impact the lives of their students, their students' families, and their communities over their teaching careers."

By design, the program prepares graduates to meet the workforce needs of Clark County. Ongoing collaboration with local school districts allows students to complete their teacher residencies within local classrooms, supporting a smooth transition into teaching positions after graduation.

The BASTE program's first cohort of five students graduated in June 2024. The second cohort tripled, with 17 graduates in June 2025. A new cohort begins every fall term, and this year, Clark welcomed 24 students to the program—one shy of the maximum allowed per cohort. Those interested in learning more can visit <https://www.clark.edu/academics/programs/public-service-society-and-education/baste/>

ODHS Urges Oregonians to Act Against Fraud

Protect your SNAP & TANF benefits

The Oregon Department of Human Services is encouraging people in Oregon to take action today to protect the SNAP food and TANF cash benefits on their EBT cards from electronic theft like card skimming, card cloning, phishing and other similar methods.

Most theft occurs in the beginning of the month immediately after SNAP and TANF benefits are issued to EBT cards. Criminals use methods like skimming devices, internet scams and fake websites to steal card numbers and personal identification numbers (PIN). Once they have this information, they use online or out-of-state purchases to drain SNAP food and TANF cash benefits from a person's card.

In October, approximately 220 households reported to ODHS that nearly \$86,000 worth of SNAP food and TANF cash benefits had been stolen from their EBT cards. Criminals were blocked from stealing EBT benefits 104 times because people took action to protect their EBT cards.



Photo courtesy of Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS)

"People and families in Oregon rely on their SNAP food and TANF cash benefits to help them meet their basic needs," said Director Liesl Wendt. "Taking simple steps like changing your PIN, locking your cards and blocking online and out-of-state purchases works and keeps your benefits safe. We encourage everyone to do this today."

The Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) recommends several steps

for everyone with an EBT card to keep their benefits safe. First, it is important to only use the official ebtEDGE website and the mobile app for Apple or Android devices, as ODHS does not guarantee the safety of any other apps or websites that manage EBT accounts. Cardholders should consider freezing their EBT card between uses as an extra layer of protection, and unfreeze it only when ready to make a purchase. This can be done through the ebtEDGE website or mobile app under "Freeze Card" in the Account Services section. Additionally, users have the option to block out-of-state and online purchases, which can help prevent unauthorized transactions. These blocks can be managed under "Protect My Account" in Account Services and removed when desired.

Changing the PIN regularly is another key security measure. Updating the PIN frequently can protect the account if someone gains access to the card number. PINs can be changed by calling 888-997-4447 or logging into the ebtEDGE website. It is also essential to keep the PIN secret, never share it, and avoid writing it on the card. Users should cover the keypad when entering their PIN in public, as small cam-

eras can capture the input. Inspecting card readers carefully before swiping the card at ATMs or other machines is recommended, as skimming devices are sometimes placed over legitimate readers. Any suspicious-looking devices should be avoided and reported to the business immediately.

Monitoring EBT account activity regularly is crucial. Cardholders should check for unusual charges and report any unauthorized transactions immediately. In such cases, they should cancel the card and request a replacement either by calling the EBT Replacement Line at 1-855-328-6715 or visiting an ODHS benefits office. Additionally, individuals should never respond to suspicious texts requesting their card number or PIN, as ODHS will never ask for this information through text messages. Social media scams should also be avoided, and only posts from official ODHS accounts should be trusted regarding benefits information.

More detailed guidance is available on the Protect Your EBT Card and Benefits webpage, which includes brochures, fly-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

The Portland Observer

Established 1970 USPS 959 680
1727 NE 13th Ave. Suite 201
Portland, OR 97212

The Portland Observer welcomes freelance submissions. Manuscripts and photographs should be clearly labeled and will be returned if accompanied by a self addressed envelope. All created design display ads become the sole property of the newspaper and cannot be used in other publications or personal usage without the written consent of the general manager, unless the client has purchased the composition of such ad. © 2008 THE PORTLAND OBSERVER. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED, RE-PRODUCTION IN WHOLE OR IN PART WITHOUT PERMISSION IS



PROHIBITED. The Portland Observer--Oregon's Oldest Multicultural Publication--is a member of the National Newspaper Association--Founded in 1885, and The National Advertising Representative Amalgamated Publishers, Inc, New York, NY, and The West Coast Black Publishers Association

Publisher: Mark Washington, Sr.

Editor: Shawntell Washington • Admin Coord: Quayuana Washington
Office Mngr/Clasfids: Lucinda Baldwin • Creative Director: Kenya Anderson

CALL 503-288-0033 • FAX 503-288-0015

news@portlandobserver.com • ads@portlandobserver.com
subscription@portlandobserver.com

Postmaster: Send address changes to Portland Observer,
PO Box 3137, Portland, OR 97208

LOCAL NEWS

PF&R Responds to Downed Wires Crews Extinguish Small Fires in NE Portland

At 5:06 a.m. on Friday, Nov. 28, Portland Fire Engine 14 was dispatched to an arcing electrical wire near the intersection of NE 22nd and NE Bryant in the Concordia Neighborhood. When the crew arrived, they found a downed wire that had ignited street-side vegetation, and they worked quickly to extinguish the small fires and put up safety tape to prevent residents from unknowingly approaching the potentially dangerous area.

While addressing this location, the dispatch center alerted



Vehicle that was actively burning with downed line on the ground nearby after complete extinguishment. (Photo courtesy of Portland Fire & Rescue)

the crew of another downed line located approximately 8 blocks away near the intersection of NE 17th and NE Buffalo. The command officer requested Truck 8 to respond to the initial incident and relocated to the new emergency. Engine 14 found a large tree had

fallen due to the saturated soils and had dropped a high-powered elevated power line along with a few houses service drop lines. The high-powered line was bouncing actively on the ground and cre-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

A Christian Guide to Truth and Spiritual Growth



This powerful book offers fresh insights into Scripture and practical applications for those who want to grow in faith, overcome doubts, and live with purpose. With simple yet profound lessons, it speaks to Christians at every stage — from seekers to mature believers.

From the Publisher — "...This book sheds light on who Jesus Christ truly is. He is not just a historical figure or a religious symbol, but the living Word, the cornerstone of our salvation, and the One who stands between us and spiritual destruction. His role in our lives is not minor or distant; it is pivotal, personal, and powerful."

Whether you are struggling with questions, seeking encouragement, or ready to take your spiritual walk to the next level, this book is a guide to discovering God's truth in a personal and transformative way.

Order your copy today through our site:
www.being-right-with-god.com/books

Evening Bus Service Reduced Across Five Routes

TriMet Implements Initial Cost-Saving Cuts

Fewer buses began running on five TriMet lines in the evenings starting Sunday, Nov. 30, with service reduced during lower-ridership hours.

TriMet also adjusted several bus schedules to improve on-time performance and restored service to Southwest Campus Drive following a long-term detour.

The reductions that took effect Nov. 30 mark the first step in a multiyear effort to align service levels with available revenue, address a \$300 million annual budget gap, and ensure TriMet can continue providing safe, reliable and convenient transit in the future.

On five bus lines, buses will arrive less often during evening hours when fewer people are riding. Bus arrival times will shift on several more lines, due to schedule adjustments.

After 9 p.m., buses on several lines will now arrive hourly, including Line 35-Macadam/Greeley and Line 52-Farmington/185th on all days, as well as



First round of planned service reductions puts TriMet on course to align spending with revenue. (Photo courtesy of TriMet)

Line 77-Broadway/Halsey and Line 81-Kane/25th on weekdays.

FX2-Division, TriMet's Frequent Express line between Gresham and Downtown Portland, will run less often after 7 p.m. on all days. FX2 buses, which usually arrive about every 12 minutes throughout the day, will instead arrive every 24 to 35 minutes in the evenings.

This round of service cuts won't affect how late buses run. Buses will run at this reduced frequency through their last scheduled trip of the night.

TriMet is adjusting schedules by up to 10 minutes to help keep buses on time on several lines, including Line 70-12th/NE 33rd Ave on all days, Line 71-60th Ave on weekdays, Line 72-Killing-

sworth/82nd on weekends, and both Line 287-Blue Eastside Bus and Line 288-Blue Westside Bus on all days.

Line 45-Garden Home will also see a schedule adjustment of up to 4 minutes to better match school bell times on weekdays.

Additionally, the following lines will resume serving stops on Southwest Campus Drive in Portland: Line 8-Jackson Park/NE 15th, Line 43-Taylor's Ferry/Marquam Hill, and Line 56-Scholls Ferry/Marquam Hill.

These lines have been detoured since summer 2024 due to construction at the OHSU Marquam Hill campus.

Visit trimet.org/servicechanges to view updated bus schedules. Plan your trip by visiting trimet.org.

Oregon State Hires Alabama Assistant to Take Over Struggling Football Program



(AP) — Oregon State on Friday announced the hiring of Alabama assistant JaMarcus Shephard as its head coach, replacing Trent Bray, who was fired following the Beavers’ 0-7 start.

The 42-year-old Shephard has been on Kalen DeBoer’s staff for two years and most recently has served as assistant head coach, co-offensive coordinator and wide receivers coach. He previously was an assistant under DeBoer at Washington for two years. He also has been on staffs at Purdue, Washington State and Western Kentucky.

“I’m extremely excited to announce JaMarcus Shephard as the head coach of the Oregon State football program,” athletic director Scott Barnes said. “His character and persona are top-notch and genuine, which will make all of Beaver Nation proud. His values align perfectly as an exceptional leader who fosters a sincere connection with his student athletes. He has coached at the highest level, with stops in the Pacific Northwest, and I cannot wait to see him on the recruiting trail and leading our football program to immediate success.” Shephard will be formally introduced at a news conference Tuesday. “I’m honored to lead the Oregon State University football program and to join a community that cares so deeply about its student-athletes,” Shephard said. “We will build a culture rooted in toughness, integrity, and relentless effort, and I’m excited to get

to work with our players, staff, and supporters to write the next great chapter of Beaver football.” The Beavers are about to wrap up their second straight losing season since Jonathan Smith’s departure for Michigan State. Oregon State and Washington State are the only remaining members of the Pac-12 and have played independent schedules for two seasons since 10 members left for other conferences. A reconstituted Pac-12 will begin playing football again in 2026.

Bray led Oregon State to a 4-1 start last season and then lost 13 of 14 games before he was fired Oct. 12, the day after a 39-14 home loss to Wake Forest. The Beavers are 2-2 under interim coach Robb Akey and take a 2-9 record into Saturday’s final game at Washington State.

Shephard followed DeBoer to Alabama in February 2024 after Washington made its run to the national championship game against Michigan. At Washington, Shephard was passing game coordinator and receivers coach for an offense that averaged 343.7 yards passing per game with Michael Penix at quarterback and Rome Odunze as his main target.

Shephard played college football from 2001-04 at Division III DePauw, where he was a standout receiver and kick returner.

**PREMIER**
MORTGAGE RESOURCES





PAUL MARRS
MORTGAGE
LOAN OFFICER

NMLS 5212, WA MLO-5212

- Born and raised in NE Portland
- Irvington Graduate
- Fernwood Graduate
- Grant HS Graduate
- San Francisco State University Graduate
- Loan Officer since 1999



SCAN TO APPLY

Phone: (503) 781-2114
paul.marrs@pmrloans.com
1325 NW Flanders St. Unit 3
Portland, OR 97209

Premier Mortgage Resources, LLC
Co NMLS 1169 | Equal Housing Opportunity

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







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

Reo's Ribs
Mississippi BBQ
and Soul Food



PRE-ORDER DIRECT & SAVE
PARTIES, EVENTS - LARGE & SMALL

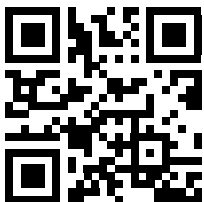
FEATURING OUR WORLD-
FAMOUS BRISKET

OPEN HOURS LUNCH: TUES. to SAT. from 11-3

WALK-IN, PHONE-IN 503.310.3600, ReosRibs.com or UBEREATS



EnergyTrust
of Oregon



**WHEN IT COMES TO SAVING MONEY,
YOUR HOME HAS A LOT TO SAY.**
TAKE THE ONLINE HOME ENERGY ASSESSMENT
To learn more, visit www.energytrust.org/assessment.



Platinum Fade Salon
5010 NE 9th Ave Portland, OR 97211
(503) 284-2989

• Services Offered	• Blowout Services	• Kids' Haircuts
• Beards & Mustaches	• Hot Lather Shave	• Razor Cuts and More
• Head Shave	• Line Up Haircut	

Call Today or Walk In

sunlan LIGHTING, INC.



*For your light bulbs & parts to
repair or make fixtures*

Web: www.sunlanlighting.com
E-mail: kay@sunlanlighting.com

3901 N. Mississippi Ave.
Portland, OR 97227
503.281.0453
Fax 503.281.3408

CLASSIFIEDS/BIDS

CALL FOR BIDS

CITY OF CAMAS PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
CITY PROJECT NO. WTR23001
WELL 6/14 TRANSMISSION MAIN

Sealed bids will be received by City of Camas Administrative Services, located at 616 NE 4th Avenue, Camas, Washington, until 11:00 A.M. on Tuesday, December 16, 2025. Bids will then be opened and publicly read in the City Hall Council Chambers.

Pre-Bid Walk

A Pre-Bid Walk is scheduled for 10:00 A.M. on Tuesday, December 2, 2025. Attendees should check in at the building on site at 1635 SE 6th Avenue, Camas, WA 98607 with full PPE (hard hats, safety glasses, steel toe boots, and reflective vests). Prospective bidders are strongly encouraged to participate. No unauthorized visits or unscheduled visits will be allowed.

Statement of Work

The Well 6/14 Transmission Main project provides for water system improvements consisting of approximately 1452 LF of 18 In. Diam., and 10 LF of 24 In. Diam. water main including valves, fittings, thrust blocks, restraint devices, trench excavation and backfill, surface restoration, and other appurtenances in the City of Camas, Clark County, Washington in the Northeast of the intersection of SE 6th Avenue and SE Polk Street.

The Contractor is obligated to pay the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries Prevailing Wages, Rates for Clark County, effective December 16, 2025.

Bid Documents:

Free-of-charge access to project bid documents (plans, specifications, addenda, and Bidders List) is provided to Prime Bidders, Subcontractors, and Vendors by going to Builders Exchange of Washington (BXWA) at www.bxwa.com and clicking on "Posted Projects", "Public Works", and "City of Camas". Contact Builders Exchange of Washington at 425-258-1303 should you require assistance with access or registration.

For questions, please contact Rob Charles at 360-817-7003 or rcharles@cityofcamas.us, or Bob Willis, WSP, at 503-780-9542 or robert.willis@wsp.com.

Civil Rights Act:

The City of Camas is an Equal Employment Opportunity employer. This Information is available in an alternate form by request by contacting 360-834-6864.

Spanish La información está disponible en un idioma alternativo a pedido,

Chinese Simplified kě gēn jù yāo qiú tí gòng tì dài yǔ yán de xìn xī,

Japanese Rikuesuto ni ōjite,-betsu no gengo de jōhō o nyūshu dekimasu,

Korean jeongboneun yochyeong si daeche eon-eolo jegongdoebnida,

Vietnamese Thông tin có sẵn bằng ngôn ngữ thay thế theo yêu cầu,

Romanian Informațiile sunt disponibile într-o limbă alternativă la cerere,

Russian Информатсия доступна на drugom yazyke po zaprosu, and

Ukrainian Інформатсия доступна inshoyu movoyu za zapytom.

The City of Camas expressly reserves the right to reject any or all Proposals and to waive minor irregularities or informalities and to Award the Project to the lowest responsible bidder as it best serves the interests of the City. The City of Camas also reserves the right to delete any or all portions of individual bid items.

Holdens Pledge \$500,000 To Molalla High School Sports Complex

A Campaign to Make Critical Upgrades to Increase Usability

Momentum is soaring for the \$3.35 million campaign to transform Molalla High School's Burghardt Sports Complex. Philanthropists Terry (class of 1968) and Cheryl Holden have pledged a transformational \$500,000 gift. The Holdens are splitting their gift with \$250,000 supporting the major capital improvements and \$250,000 going to an ongoing maintenance fund, ensuring that the facility remains in use for many generations.

The Molalla River School District embarked on this bold campaign to make critical upgrades to Burghardt Sports Complex to increase usability; reduce ongoing maintenance of grass, which frequently becomes unplayable; and provide modern, safe and durable facilities. The installation of all-weather turf on the main field and the resurfacing of the track will increase the usability for football, soccer, track and community events, such as graduation ceremonies.

Molalla River Schools Superintendent Tony Mann expressed his deep gratitude for the gift. "Molalla River Schools has benefited from the generosity of the Holdens in the past. This major gift sets us on a path to successfully provide improved, year-round facilities that will benefit athletes of all ages and our community."

The Holdens' gift is part of a larger \$3.35 million campaign to modernize the Burghardt Sports Complex and secure its future for generations of Molalla students and families. Thanks to early leadership commitments, including a \$1 million lead gift from alumni Dale and Julie Burghardt, the campaign is well underway.

With the Holdens' donation, the campaign now has just \$900,000 left to raise to fully fund the project. If the remaining resources are secured by early next year, construction is slated to begin in summer 2026.

Molalla High School Athletic Director Mike Lord noted the impact on the school's mission. "Mo-



Terry and Cheryl Holden

lalla athletics is about excellence in character, academics, and athletics. The Holdens joining this effort gives me hope that we will realize the ideal athletic program and the dividends from those investments well into the future, assuring that the facilities reflect excellence."

The Holdens are long-term donors with a primary focus on education, health care, and veterans. They have previously invested in scholarships for high-achieving Molalla graduates, the Hobart Locker Room, and supported Career Technical Education programs at Molalla High School.

In 2021, Holdens made a major donation to Clackamas Community College. Their donation provides needed funding for career technical education (CTE) scholarships, facilities and program development. Several Molalla students and graduates have benefited from the scholarship program and facilities at the Holden Industrial Technical Center.

The Holdens' philanthropy extends beyond Molalla and surrounding areas. The Holdens have supported and made major contributions to OHSU for the benefit of the Doernbecher Children's Hospital and the Casey Eye Clin-

ic. They also recently made a major contribution to the Cleveland Clinic and the Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health.

Terry Holden believes deeply in the value of active giving and supporting worthy public programs. "If and when you have the opportunity to help others, I would encourage you to pay it forward," he said.

Cheryl Holden is often quoted as saying, "Giving is very rewarding. What better way to use your money? When you buy things, you don't own anything, it owns you. But when you give from your heart, it can't be measured. It just feels good." Terry Holden added, "In the case of the upgrades to the football field and track at the Burghardt Sports Complex, it feels very good and is an extremely worthwhile project which will benefit the students and residents of Molalla for many years. We are proud to support and follow the leadership of our good friends Dale and Julie Burghardt. I invite my fellow alumni and business owners to join the Burghardt's and us to quickly raise the remaining funds to realize the opportunity for students to develop their minds, character, and bodies."

Advertise with diversity
in The Portland Observer
Call 503-288-0033
or email ads@portlandobserver.com

PF&R Responds to Downed Wires

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

ating explosive electrical charges where the wire contacted the ground as the power was flowing. This wire was adjacent to a vehicle that was ignited because of the fire activity at the end of the downed line. This active bouncing of the electrical wire prevented a safe approach by firefighters to address the vehicle fire that was not in any danger of spreading as the parking location did not have any exposure concerns.

The command officer directed the crew to focus on establishing a safety perimeter with caution tape at this location and to extend a hose line as close as possible to address any possible exposure from the active vehicle fire. The command officer then contacted the Pacific Power (PPL) who serves this area and requested the power be dropped immediately in this grid as it was unknown if any other lines in the area were severed. This led to a large grid in this area be completely without power for the safe-

ty of responders and curious residents out and about investigating the scene for themselves. Downed power lines pose significant danger to anyone and unknowingly encountering an active downed powerline can have grave consequences.

PPL service technicians arrived at both locations and are addressing all known damaged power lines. Service will be restored to the area when deemed safe. Portland Fire & Rescue wants to remind you to treat any downed elevated electrical line as high-risk danger and stay at least 50' away and call professionals to address the situation. Any downed power line can be active with electricity and be hazardous.

PF&R would like to thank the dispatchers at BOEC for their assistance in this incident along with the professionals at PPL for their assistance in dropping the power in the grid for the safety of the responders along with the residents in the area. Treat all downed lines as dangerous – stay away and call 911.

ODHS Urges Oregonians to Act Against Fraud

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

ers, and wallet cards in multiple languages. Short videos explaining how to use and replace an EBT card, as well as ways to protect benefits, are posted in the How-to Videos section of benefits.oregon.gov.

According to October reports, 223 Oregon households were affected by EBT benefit theft. Of these, 104 theft attempts failed because cardholders had taken steps to protect their cards. The breakdown of thefts by program shows 49 cases in TANF and 559 cases in SNAP. The total dollar amount of stolen benefits reached \$85,902, with \$17,108 taken from TANF (cash) and \$68,794 from SNAP (food).

NOTE: This data represents only what has been reported to the Oregon Department of Human Services and likely undercounts actual instances of EBT theft experienced by people in Oregon.

ODHS can replace Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefits

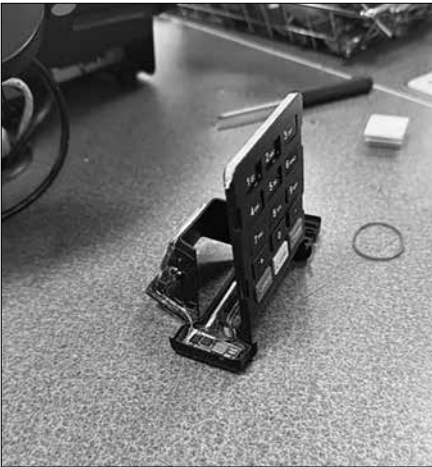
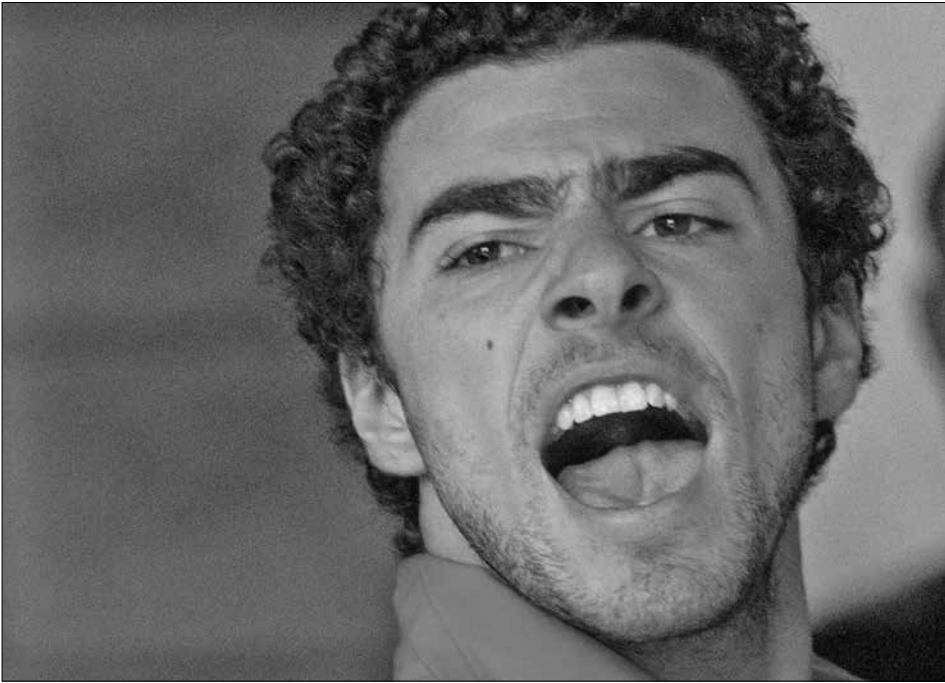


Photo courtesy of Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS)

that are lost due to fraud. TANF families who believe benefits have been stole from their EBT card should contact ODHS to request replacement benefits within 30 days of the benefits being stolen.

The federal funding to replace benefits ran out on Dec. 21, 2024, and ODHS is no longer authorized to replace stolen Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits.

Mangione Also Facing a Federal Death Penalty Case





OREGON PROBLEM GAMBLING RESOURCE

OPGR

HERE COME THE HOLIDAYS

If there's one thing we know about joyous celebrations and family get togethers, it is that the fun inevitably comes with a certain amount of pressure. With the natural desire to make everything perfect, the stakes are just a little bit higher as the year draws to a close. The holidays can quickly turn into a litmus test of how we handle pressure. And, for some of us, we seek release in habits that might not serve our best interests—habits like gambling.

OPGR CAN HELP

As we roll into the holiday season, make a plan to cope with the pressure of the holidays this year. The Oregon Problem Gambling Resource (OPGR) can help. With free online and in-person resources, we can help you explore the path ahead and equip you with a plan of action. If you simply want to regain control of your gambling or eliminate it entirely, we can help. Save the best gift for yourself this holiday season: a better path forward.



Learn more: [OPGR.org](https://www.opgr.org)