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"Even though we're two white boys in an African-American neighborhood, we're doing our best to maintain the legacy and the community's pride," said Oravetz.

They are maintaining ties that Hardy had with the Portland chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, contributing to a chocolate tasting with the Northwest Housing Project next month, working with the Portland Youth Program, giving day-old pastries to a food bank and donating cake samples to the Washington County Bridal Showcase later this month. They have also commissioned a portrait of Hardy, which will hang in the bakery along with other works of African-American art.

"Our biggest goal, besides having a successful business, is to build relationships with the community," said Williamson.

FTM CONFERENCE SCHEDULED FOR LABOR DAY WEEKEND

FTM 2005: A Gender Odyssey is a national conference for masculine-identified people who were assigned female gender at birth. As the organizers state, "It is a place for us to gather together, share our lives, speak our truths, learn from one another and celebrate our communities."

Now in its third year, Gender Odyssey is expanding and changing locations to accommodate the growing number of participants. Three full days of programming will take place on Labor Day weekend, Sept. 2 to 5, at the Washington State Convention Center in Seattle.

Workshops will address the practical aspects of trans lives including legal issues; intersections

of race and gender; coming out to family and friends; transitioning at work; hormones and surgery; and dating, sex and relationships. Accompanying events include a vendor fair, art exhibit, cabaret, all-ages dance and much more. Transsexual dyke and performance artist Kate Bornstein will be the keynote speaker.

Conference organizers are inviting workshop proposals that address older or post-transitioned female-to-male trans people and the complex needs of families.

For more information, log on to www.transconference.org.

SEMINAR FOCUSES ON FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS OF DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIP

Merrill Lynch is playing host to a free seminar to address special financial planning issues domestic partners face.

Using real-life scenarios, an adviser will explore the financial and tax implications of

domestic partnerships and help find beneficial strategies. The seminar will cover preserving assets for domestic partners and children; protecting assets with life and long-term-care insurance; effective retirement and estate planning solutions; philanthropic strategies; new tax legislation on distribution of individual retirement accounts; and retirement plan profitability.

The workshop will be presented by financial adviser Sean Seidell, certified public accountant Mark Clift and attorney James McVittie. It will start 6 p.m. March 23 at the Merrill Lynch office on the 25th floor of the PacWest Building, 1211 S.W. Fifth Ave.

To make reservations contact Seidell at 503-221-4683 or sean_seidell@ml.com.

YOUTH INVITED TO ACT FOR ACTION

The Metro chapter of Love Makes a Family will hold its monthly meeting from 6 to 7:45 p.m. March 22 at Augustana Lutheran Church, 2710 N.E. 14th Ave.

Jeannie LaFrance of Act for Action will lead a workshop for middle and high schoolers, while adults will discuss what they have learned about the youth's point of view from their children and from a recent panel. The program will conclude with the young people presenting a skit about their experience.

A children's program will also be provided for younger kids. Participants are asked to bring a potluck snack to share.

For more information call 503-228-3892 or e-mail info@lmfamily.org.



Jeannie LaFrance facilitates an Act for Action event at PCC called the Illumination Project.

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