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JOIN THE FUN! COLUMBIA VILLA ANNUAL PICNIC SATURDAY, JULY 29!

Come celebrate the future of Columbia Villa. Join the residents and the Housing Authority of Portland at the Second Annual Columbia Villa Community Picnic. The last few months have been filled with change for this North Portland neighborhood. HAP increased its staff presence at Columbia Villa, the Safety Action Team moved in, and a multitude of services began operating on-site, such as the State Employment Division and the Youth Gang Outreach workers. The picnic is a great opportunity to meet and talk with residents about the changes in Columbia Villa and how they have been affected by them. The picnic's co-sponsor, Bureau of Labor and Industries' Job Corps, has been busily soliciting donations for the picnic from such as Franz Bakery, Nabisco, and Payless for food, and prizes for the games organized by the residents.

Please plan to join the fun:
Saturday, July 29, 1989
8920 North Wolsey Avenue
Columbia Villa
12:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.
Live music donated by the band "Cliche."
For more information call 249-5514 or 229-6902.

COMMUNITY HEALTH FAIR (located between Vancouver and Williams at Stanton) SATURDAY JULY 29TH 1989 10:00 am-2:00 PM

WYDEN ANNOUNCES NEW FEDERAL JOB TRAINING PROGRAM FOR PORTLAND

The Job Corps project would target teen parents and provide on-site child care. Calling it "a coup" for Portland, Congressman Ron Wyden (D-3rd) announced today that the Department of Labor has approved a proposal to establish a new job training project in Portland.

The project, which will be located at the former Washington-Monroe School in southeast Portland, will target teenage parents and provide on-site day care for children of the participants.

"We're in a crisis right now. So many young people want to break out of the cycle of poverty, but can't because they don't have the skills or they can't afford day care. This project tackles both of these problems head on," Wyden said. "With this project, we literally have a chance to have members of two generations of Oregonians become self-sufficient, productive citizens," he said.

Wyden said the project, dubbed PIVOT--Partners In Vocational Opportunity Training--is a "first of its kind" in the country because it combines state, local and private resources with the Federal contribution.

"I think this project will benefit more than Portlanders," Wyden said. "Because of the unique partnership we've been able to put together, this project will be a model for the rest of the country."

In addition to the Department of Labor, the Portland public Schools, the State Human Resources Division and the Portland/Multnomah Private Industry Council will be partners in the project and will commit their services to the project.

"The reason I worked so hard on this project, and the reason it was selected was that we demonstrated the need and we put together a unique plan that combines the talents and resources of the public and private sectors," Wyden said. "The result will be hundreds of young, disadvantaged Portlanders moving off the welfare rolls and on to family wage payrolls," Wyden said.

The project will serve young people 16 to 21 years old who are economically disadvantaged, who have children under three years of age and who are eligible for aid for Families with Dependent Children. Participants will be identified through referrals from the Portland Public Schools Teen Parent Program, the State Adult and Family Services Division, the Children's Services Division, The Private Industry Council, the Boys and Girls Aid Society and the Albina Ministerial Alliance.

Vocational training available will include Business/Clerical, Word Processing/Data Entry, and administration. In addition to the vocational training, a Graduate Equivalency Degree (GED) will be offered through the Portland public Schools, as well as a parenting skills class, driver's education and other "life skills" programs. Following completion of the program, which for most students should take approximately 9 months, Job Corps placement services will be available to assist in placing graduates in full-time jobs. The project will have a capacity of 50 students at any one time.

"Though Oregon has five existing residential Job Corps facilities, the inner Portland area has been without a Job Corps facility since 1982," Wyden said. "Inner Portland residents, particularly young parents, have not had access to a non-residential program that provides quality job training, but also allows them to live at home with their kids," Wyden said.

"This is a real coup for Portland to get this project. I am extremely pleased that we're seeing this kind of federal investment--an investment that will lead to self sufficiency for our disadvantaged young people--in our state."

Wyden said he had been working with the various parties involved in the project for the last year-and-a-half to work out details of the project and had been in close contact with Department of labor officials in Washington, D.C. about the project. The PIVOT project is expected to be open in the fall of 1989.

INTRODUCING



Vernellia Ruth Randall, 41, has been selected for the 1989 edition of Who's Who in American Law. Ms. Randall is an associate with Bullivant, Houser, Bailey, Pendergrass & Hoffman where she practices primarily in the areas of health care law, personal injury defense, professional malpractice defense, and life, health, and disability insurance coverage issues. Ms. Randall is also an adjunct professor at Lewis & Clark Northwestern School of Law where she teaches health care law and is a recognized expert in health care law issues. She graduated from Lewis & Clark Northwestern School of Law in 1987, has a Master's in Community & Family Nursing and practiced nursing 14 years before attending law school.

Ms. Randall is the vice-chair of the American Bar Associations, Young Lawyers Division, Health Law Committee. She is on the Board of Directors for the American Heart Association (Oregon Affiliate), the Oregon Legal Services, and Oregon Women Lawyers. She is also very active in affirmative action efforts at Lewis & Clark Northwestern School of Law, the Multnomah Bar Association, and the Oregon Bar Association. She is the secretary for the Association of Oregon Black Lawyers and chair of the Special Events/Public Relations Committee for the Oregon United Negro College Fund Campaign.

Ms. Randall lives in Lake Oswego, Oregon with her two sons (Tshaka, 18 and Issa, 12). She is the daughter of Ernest and Grace Randall of Northeast Portland.

AMERICAN BRIDGE ASSOCIATION'S NATIONAL TOURNAMENT IN PORTLAND, OREGON

More than 2000 Bridge Players, most of them African-Americans will begin to assemble in Portland, Oregon August 2, 1989, when the 56th Annual Summer National Tournament of the A.B.A. gets under way at the Hilton Hotel. It is the first time the Tournament has been held in the Pacific Northwest. The tournament is expected to attract bridge enthusiasts from all over the country, who will compete for prizes and master point awards.

The A.B.A. a nationwide organization with membership exceeding 5000 was formed in 1932. The primary objective of the charter members was to create an organization where African Americans could compete in tournament bridge, since the existing bridge organization denied them membership and participation.

The A.B.A. is a social service club in the broadest sense of the word. It advocates competition, but also addresses social concerns. The organization's sensitivity is marked by programs designed to balance inequities. Through competitions, financial and human to support the activities of others who work to preserve the rights, respect, and general welfare of the race. The A.B.A. has contributed many of its resources to the improvement of civic and cultural activities within the community.

The tournament is being hosted by the Pacific Northwest Section which include clubs in the cities of Seattle and Tacoma, Washington, and Portland, Oregon. The Northwest Section has approximately 200 members. Portland is the host city with Martha B. Jordan (Portland) and Ed West (Seattle) co-chairing the host activities.

There will be 10 days of bridge play where the general public is invited to play and/or attend the General Membership meeting on Tuesday August 8, 1989. The Tournament games will be organized into four basic fields. Starting time for afternoon sessions is 1:00 pm, with evening sessions beginning at 8:00. All bridge players are invited to participate.

N.E. Y.W.C.A. Summer Plus Youth Program Is A Plus To The Community

By Jimi Johnson

"Ajo Dun" which means "Happy Celebration" in Yoruba, Nigeria is what can be heard around the N.E. Y.W.C.A. as they celebrate their first summer youth program. Youth are learning about themselves and other cultures through music and song. "It's fun way to play and learn because students can enjoy themselves and not become bored while learning," stated Charlotte Easley, a guest speaker at the center.

Constance "Connie" Carley, Deputy Director of Youth Services Y.W.C.A., says "One unique thing about this program is we have a super staff". "The young people get to know the staff on a personal basis and we encourage staff people to interact with students on a problem-solving basis as well as a creative basis", continued Connie Carley.

The staff believes by knowing the students individually, they can be more prepared to identify the needs

GUEST COMMENTARY

One of the objectives of the Oregon State Commission for Women is to address issues affecting low income women. On April 21, the Commission sponsored a conference on Welfare Reform. The purpose of the conference was to create a forum that would enhance public debate on welfare reform in Oregon and scrutinize Oregon's New JOBS program as a model of welfare reform. The final recommendations in the report from the conference show that Oregon has taken a leadership role in initiating welfare reform.

The Women's Commission is concerned about the nature of the accusations concerning the Administrator of Adult and Family Services Division, Ms. Freddie Webb-Petett's letter to Governor Goldschmidt, dated May 25, she was willing to accept the challenging assignment, make difficult decisions and take aggressive action to best serve the citizens of Oregon. now, with the recent public charges and questions about expenditures facing her performance as Administrator, Ms. Petett may never see these goals and recommendations become a reality.

From a historical perspective, AFS has always had trouble with budget deficits and low employee morale. Since the 1970's the AFS budget has been cut and programs serving low income women and children have undergone cuts while some programs such as two-parent welfare have been scrapped altogether. One former Administrator, was quoted as saying that AFS was the hardest job in state government. Some of the actions that Ms. Petett took are some of the same actions that other administrators took to raise employee morale and try to make the division more efficient. Ms. Petett found an agency demoralized over the past years by constant budget cuts, staff layoffs, holding of vacancies and deterioration of facilities. How could AFS and it's employees expect to service clients in a professional, dignified manner, if the employees themselves didn't feel much better than the person sitting across from them?

Ms. Petett challenged her management staff to build a team that works effectively together. She developed new approaches and removed obstacles. She stressed the need to hold the line (or reduce) caseloads, stabilize the agency, and improve communications within the division. Under Ms. Petett's management, the CASCADE system has been fully implemented, there has been a real commitment to have a multi-ethnic staff, and the division has made progress with long range planning processes. She emphasized the importance of providing consistent but fair treatment for clients. The bottom line was to maintain a balanced budget.

Some of the questions of expenditures in Ms. Petett's administration concern "meetings at resorts", "leather-bound gifts to employees" and "silk flowers in offices". Governor Goldschmidt directed the AFS Review Commission, chaired by Gary H. Heide, to review these concerns. The Review Commission reported positive changes during Ms. Petett's administration. According to Mr. Heide in his letter to Gov. Goldschmidt: "We strongly affirm her emphasis on staff training and group building as a means to achieve positive effects on the morale and the effectiveness of the Division's employees. Her insistence on professionalism for all our workers and her efforts to improve the appearance of our local offices speak eloquently of her respect for our clients".

In the opinion of the Review Commission, nothing was found in any sense to be violation of the budget, or administrative rules concerning expenditures. The Review Commission pledged to continue working with Ms. Petett and her staff to accomplish their goals. There were some poor administrative judgments made for some expenses, but none that were not made in the previous administration or in other state agencies. These expenditures are basically standard operating procedures. Most state agencies have the same type of expenses. Does this mean that state agencies cannot spend within their budgets to improve and create an efficient office as private industry does? Meetings have been held at the same resorts by AFS and other state agencies for over a decade. These resorts charge lower rates for state government than they do the public.

When the press reports such accusations and questions, it actually takes on the responsibility of influencing public reaction about a state agency. The public should ask itself: Why is AFS a favorite "whipping boy" of the press? It is not popular being poor in our society. And the press perpetuates the problem by reporting only negative opinions about the state agency that serves low income clients. What part of the criticism is based on fact and what part is based on an underlying belief that poor people and those who serve them, (mostly women, many of whom are former recipients) don't deserve the public's money. Why does the press ignore Freddie Webb-Petett's letter and twenty-three page report, dated May 25, to Governor Goldschmidt? In the case of Ms. Petett, what part of the criticism is motivated by sexist and racist attitudes? Finally, when the press has the facts, why doesn't it report them just as vigorously as it does the accusations? What obligation does the press have to the public in this regard?

The Women's Commission supports the changes that have been made by Ms. Petett to better serve low income people. The Commission has monitored the welfare process in Oregon for over 4 years and we can say with certainty that welfare reform will benefit those individuals participating in the programs and the economic development of the state. The increase in pregnant women who are eligible for pre-natal health care will decrease the mortality rate of babies and mothers and in general free up the system to care for those with unavoidable health problems. What Oregon needed was an Administrator with vision and Governor Goldschmidt appointed one. Now we urge the Governor to reinstate Freddie Webb-Petett as Administrator of Adult and Family Services Division so she can continue her work there.

Submitted By the Oregon State Commission For Women

and create a personal format for the students.

The program is based on a whole-istic approach dealing with cultural enrichment, self-esteem and the importance of educational awareness.

My staff and I have the willingness to take the time to develop a good program and provide quality service to our children, we need activities for our youth before they get into "trouble", states Carley.

We encourage parental involvement as well as young people to volunteer and become visible role models to our youth.

Some of the activities the youth

take part in are field trips, swimming twice a week, guest speakers, and an array of educational and cultural awareness classes including Swahili.

"Young People need to channel their energy in positive ways, or they'll use it in a negative way" stated Marie DeCuir, a Youth Program Specialist.

The N.E. Y.W.C.A Summer Plus Program is a positive "happening" in our community and hopefully, this program is here to stay for many summers to come.

For more information about "Summer Plus" please call Gena Sloan at 282-0003.