

METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

Community Calendar

Hospice Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed to provide transportation, pick up medications, run errands and give other practical support for hospice patients. Training is provided. For information call Kilian Kuntz Kaiser Permanente at 499-5285.

Sharecropping Struggle Profiled

Conditions for African American sharecroppers in Mississippi in 1965 and the struggle of a family to provide a decent education for their children, will be the subject of a real life story when Constance Curry, author of Silver Rights and Mae Bertha Carter, whose family is the subject of the book, visit Portland. A book signing and reading is scheduled for Wednesday, Dec. 13 at Barnes & Noble, 1231 N.E. Broadway.

Festival Features Lights, Music

The Washington Park zoo will be transformed into a sparkling holiday display as 500,000 lights illuminate the grounds for the holiday season beginning Friday at 5 p.m. Over a hundred community music groups will perform during the ZooLights Festival which will run every night this month except Dec. 24 and Dec. 25.

Seattle Band Plans Concert

The Seattle rock band Candlebox has scheduled a Portland performance Thursday, Dec. 28 at 8 p.m. at the Roseland Theater. Tickets are available at Fred Meyer Fastixx locations.

Enchanted Christmas Presented

Michael Allen Harrison presents Enchanted Christmas, Volume II, Saturday, Dec. 2 at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall. The concert will also feature the Jefferson Dancers, singer/song writer Bill Lamb, the Children's Choir and Fred Korman and Dawn Weis, principals with the Oregon Symphony. Tickets are available at Ticketmaster outlets.

Fishing Clinic At Oxbow Park

Fishing experts will percent a hands-on clinic covering the techniques of winter steelhead fishing on the Sandy River, Saturday, Dec. 9 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Oxbow Regional park. Participants are encouraged to come prepared for the weather and bring their fishing equipment.

Lawmakers Address Crime Proposal

Sen. Shirley Gold, D-Portland and Rep. George Eighmeny, D-Portland, will host a town meeting Saturday, Dec. 2 at Sunnyside United Methodist Church. The topic will center on the governor's community corrections bill which may be the subject of a special legislative session. Multnomah County Sheriff Dan Noelle has been invited to discuss how the law will affect our communities.

Gingerbread Workshop Held

Your invited to build and decorate your very own gingerbread house and take it home with you at the end of the day. The Berlin Inn, German Bakery and Restaurant holds classes Sunday at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. There is a \$5 cover charge with snacks and beverages provided and a \$35 charge to buy a package gingerbread house kit which includes all the ingredients, framework and decorating needs.

SUBMISSIONS: Community Calendar information will be given priority if dated two weeks before the event date.



Reggie Petry (left) holds out a beautiful tapestry for a customer at his new "Our Dream" gallery at 4356 N.E. 33rd. Other artists, including Diana McKnight (above) of the African Village boutique on northeast Alberta, joined Petry for his recent grand opening celebration.

(Photos by Duane Lewis)

Portland Exit Of 300 Jobs Draws City's Ire

Mayor Vera Katz and the Portland City Council are calling on Gov. John Kitzhaber to reconsider moving the Public Employees Retirement System office from downtown Portland.

The PERS Board of Directors recently announced its intention to build a new headquarters at a suburban location near a freeway interchange in Tigard, rather than continuing to lease office space in the central

city. Some 300 people currently work in the PERS office.

In a letter to Kitzhaber, Katz and the council urged the PERS Board and the Governor to complete a full evaluation of Portland central business district sites before acting on the relocation.

The council cited Oregon Executive Order No. 94-07, which requires state facilities to strengthen central business districts and mixed-mixed-use centers. They also not-

ed Kitzhaber's work to encourage state agencies to work together with other governments on growth management strategies and regional planning.

"The proposed PERS re-location turns its back on these efforts, the council wrote. "The proposed PERS site is a suburban freeway site, plain and simple. It does not support our regional planing tools and it does not meet PERS' responsibility to demonstrate corporate leadership."

The proposed site is about a half mile from the edge of Tigard and at least one and a half miles from Washington Square.

There is also limited mass transit options; two of the four bus lines the PERS Board said will serve the site stop three-quarters of a mile away. A third is at least one-quarter of a mile away.

"No matter which bus you take, the site is in an area that is heavily auto-oriented," wrote the council.



Rosie Dean and volunteers delivering Thanksgiving meals for the needy.

Photo by Mark Washington

Thanksgiving Dinners Served Free

BY CORA SMITH

Rosie Dean and Jewell Thomas's love of cooking Holiday dinners inspired them to open up their home to Elderly people who were left out on Thanksgiving 9 years ago.

Others who were shut-ins and seniors unable to prepare their own began to receive meals from Dean and Thomas on an annually.

Dean and Thomas has built their own loyal customer base for volunteers who came out to support this special Event launched the Holiday Celebration by contributing loving dinners to approximately 1,100 residents in the north/northeast

Portland Community volunteers included McDonald's Afro-American Network black salaried managers who are involved in career orientation and Youth activities within the

district. Regional director James Tims and managers Robin Wisner and Steve Jackson sported Trailblazers aprons along with 10 beautiful Trailblazer dancers. Dancer Michelle Burton was seen boxing up lunches wearing a handsome Trailblazer jacket.

The partnership of Nabisco, Concession International, New Song Church, Trail Blazers, and Doris Cafe made this delicious dinner a pre-holiday success.

City Homeless Shelter For Singles Opens

The Singles Homeless Assessment Center, developed by the city of Portland and operated by Multnomah County, held a public opening Monday.

Located at 1212 N.W. 9th Ave., the center will provide assessment services and shelter for 82 men and 14 women.

It is expected that people will stay at the center from 7 to 30 days and then move into

transitional programs or permanent housing, according to officials of Commissioner Gretchen Miller-Kafoury's office.

The center was established in part due to the closure of Recovery Inn in July 1995. It will remain in operation on the site north of the Police Horse Barn until March 1998.

Meanwhile, special facilities for women and mentally ill homeless persons are in development. A facility or multiple facilities

for single men is under discussion by a task force convened by the Portland Development Commission at the direction of the City Council.

"Many people have really worked hard to get this facility open so quickly," Miller-Kafoury said. "The cooperation and good will of the city and county departments working together made it happen."

Funds Run Short On Energy Help

An energy assistance program run through the Albina Ministerial Alliance of North and Northeast Portland will not start up in December due to a lack of federal money, representatives of the Portland agency announced last week.

"This is very important information for low-income persons who may be counting on this assistance," said alliance spokesperson Eileen Burnes.

The agency is encouraging needy residents to continue paying their utility bills and to contact their utility company to make payment arrangements if they are having difficulties paying their bill.

Officials said if utility service is discontinued because of non-payment, it will not qualify as an emergency under the Oregon state energy assistance plan.

Alliance officials also are encouraging residents to voice their concerns to Gov. John Kitzhaber at (541) 378-3111, Sen. Mark Hatfield at 326-3386, Rep. Elizabeth Furse at 326-2901 and Rep. Ron Wyden at 231-2300.

Kids To Get Free Holiday Haircuts

Area boys and girls will have an opportunity to look their best for Christmas thanks to donations by professional hairstylists and barbers and the Salvation Army.

Free haircuts to area children 16 and under will be available on a first come, first served basis, on Monday, Dec. 18 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Salvation Army Moore Street Corps Community Center, 5430 N. Moore.

For information call 239-1241.