

METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

Community Calendar

Older workers promoted

To promote the hiring of older workers, Green Thumb is promoting two contests to search for Oregon's most outstanding older worker and oldest worker. Nominees must be 55 years and older. Entry forms can be obtained by contacting the group at 9115 S.W. Olson Rd., Suite 101, Portland, OR 97223 or calling 244-3776

Hip hop dance

Youthfest "Don't Believe Da Hype," a celebration of peace and unity through poetry, rap, spoken words, music and dance, featuring the sounds of MixMasta' K.D. will be held Wednesday, Dec. 14. The event will begin at 4:30 p.m. at the Filipino American Center, 8917 S.E. Stark.

DJ with Chata Man

Afro reggae and funky highlife is the scene Monday's as DJ with Chata Man performs at Kokopelis, 2845 S.E. Stark. Shows start at 9:30 p.m.

Advocates sought

Volunteers interested in investigation, advocacy and elderly care needed to serve as ombudsmen for residents of nursing homes, residential care facilities, assisted-living facilities and adult foster care homes. State officials will train the volunteers in sessions beginning Jan. 22. For information, contact Kathy Walter at (1-800) 522-2602.

See Handel's Messiah

The Portland Baroque Orchestra presents Handel's Messiah under the direction of highly-acclaimed conductor of the Smithsonian Chamber Players, Friday and Saturday, Dec. 19-20 at 7:30 p.m. and Monday Dec. 22 at 7:30 p.m. at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in northwest Portland. Tickets are available for \$37, \$28 and \$19 by calling 222-6000.

Free haircuts

Professional haircuts for boys and girls will be given on a first come, first serve basis at the Salvation Army Moore Street Corps Community Center, 5325 N. Williams, Monday, Dec. 22 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call 239-1241 for information.

Spiritual leader hosted

Area residents are invited to meet Quaford Coleman, president of the Young Men for Christ and syndicated columnist for Gospel Today and Score magazines, Saturday at 5 p.m. at Reflections Coffee House in the Walnut Park Shopping Center. Refreshments will be provided. RSVP by calling Lambert Meade at 281-4925.

Opportunity knocks

Looking for networking opportunities? Check out the Portland Business Professional Women's Club, meeting the third Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. at various locations. For more information, call 238-3877.

A Tuna Christmas

Portland Center Sage presents its wildly successful hit of last year, A Tuna Christmas, through Jan. 3 at the Intermediate Theater of the Portland Center for the Performing Arts. Tickets range from \$10 to \$36 with special discounts for groups. For information, call 274-6588.

Salvation Army needs

The Salvation Army offers many volunteer opportunities for caring people wanting to make the holidays brighter for those in need. You can pack holiday food boxes, donate time as bell ringers, serve Christmas meals, or greet donors and receive gifts for needy children and families at the Lloyd Center "Giving Tree." Call Jan McHarg at 731-0156.

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

"Our Children's Store" celebrates

By NEIL HEILPERN

Youngsters from several Portland area schools swarmed to the opening of "Our Children's Store" at the Galleria downtown last Wednesday for the opening sales day of their own products.

More than 200 children came from six schools for the event—Alameda, Arleta, Bridlemile, Hollywood, Laurelhurst and Skyline.

They took turns shopping for gifts, including ones they made to raise money for several charities, part of a program known as "Kids Helping Kids."

There were painted dinner plates, beaded bracelets and hand crafted greeting cards, among a parade of gift items available. Santa made his entrance and a line of children quickly formed to sit on his lap and discuss their desires for the holidays.

Ballerina Rene Thomas, 14, of Oregon Ballet Theater School, let her pink tutu twirl as she met children and showed them the various steps used in the production of "The Nutcracker."

During welcoming remarks, Joan Stevens, of the Children's Fund Committee, thanked the assembled children for "going to bat for other kids."

The Portland students spent the last few weeks making gift tags, glass gift plates and colorful bead bracelets to donate to the store. All profits go to 64 participating charities that help Portland children in need.

While munching their Christmas cookies and juice, children sat on the floor and compared their purchases.

Several AT&T employees were on hand to serve treats to the children. AT&T sponsored the party



Markeshia Montgomery, 7, of the YWCA Transitional School, compares purchases with Geovanna Hall, 8 1/2, (left) during the opening of "Our Children's Store" Christmas sales at the Galleria.



Sen. Ron Wyden (center), with Tony Washington (left), and Charles Washington of the Portland Observer.

(Photo by M. Washington)

Senator visits Portland Observer

By LEE PERLMAN

Ron Wyden remains what he always has been: a man of the people. It's just that as he climbs the political ladder, he has more people, scattered over more territory, to be a man of.

It's mid-afternoon as he pays a courtesy call to the Portland Observer office to visit old friends, but the day's schedule still calls for meetings in Hood River and Corvallis.

It seems to agree with him and definitely fits his style. The tall, lanky senior advocate-turned congressman-turned U.S. senator has always loved public contact, scheduling regular public forums and showing up at every possible event to press the flesh. Even so, he cannot maintain the same level of contact with the nation's tenth largest state that he once had with part of its largest city.

"I visited each of the 36 counties in Oregon last year, and I'll visit each of them this year," he says, "but a town hall in Wheeler County doesn't allow someone in southeast Portland to see me."

Still, he's trying, and finding new ways to do it. In the tiny Wheeler County town of Fossil, he tried out his latest trick: a side-walk town hall. He places a desk at a busy intersection and, while an aide takes notes,

he speaks with whoever passes by about whatever they want to discuss. The less formal atmosphere allowed participation by people who might have felt too intimidated to come to an indoor meeting, let alone speak at one.

Wyden is also getting himself heard in Washington, no small feat for a first-term minority party senator. He has tried to turn the spotlight on more powerful colleagues who have secretly stalled the progress of important legislation, making them take responsibility for their actions. "I could walk up to anyone on MLK and they'd say, 'That makes sense, but in Washington it's considered radical,'" he says.

He clashed with the Clinton administration when he called on federal authorities not to interfere with Oregon's assisted suicide law. "I voted against Ballot Measure 19 when it was originally proposed, and I voted for Measure 51 (to repeal the suicide law) this year," he says. "But the people have spoken." To continue the opposition would show contempt for the will of the people of Oregon, and contribute to public cynicism about the political process, he says.

On a more positive note, Wyden helped enact a new housing assistance program that provides 100 percent down payments for quali-

fying first-time homebuyers at three percent interest. He also supported the Kennedy-Hatch Act, which he calls the "federal version of the Oregon Health Plan," that uses tobacco taxes for children's health assistance.

To deny proper health care to growing children is to ensure that they will be a drain on public resources when they get older. "Pay now or pay later," he says.

On this visit to Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard he says, "You have the two shoe stores, the police precinct, the small shops and they all add up, but what's missing is one more big retailer to act as an anchor."

The former basketball player says he's disappointed in the Portland Trail Blazers management and players, perceiving that in recent years they have cut themselves off from the community. He makes an exception for young Alvin Williams, who attended a recent Backboards and Blackboards youth function. Without making a point of it, Williams was willing to stay as late as needed to sign autographs, making fans of many kids and one senator.

Wyden in turn has fans of his own in the The Portland Observer family, who fondly remember his support when matriarch Joyce Washington passed away, but also in the "family" of north and northeast Portland, whom he has supported dutifully over the years.

Bring Your Kids In To Be Immunized Saturday

Area residents are encouraged to have their children immunized at a free clinic and make-your-own holiday greeting card day at the Western States Chiropractic College Campus Clinic.

This holiday season, there is one gift that even Santa can't deliver to your children: the gift of good health.

According to the Oregon Health Division, Oregon ranks 47th out of 50 states in the national immunization rates for children. The original study was conducted in 1994. Today, three years later, Oregon is still ranked at the same appalling level.

Every year, hundreds of American children are sent home from school because of inadequate immunization records or, worse, get sick with diseases that could have been prevented with proper immunization. This happens for a couple of reasons: parents may not be aware of the importance of immunization, or they are unable to afford the vaccinations.

Western States Chiropractic College Campus Clinic is combating the problem by presenting free immunizations on Saturday from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. At the event, kids can join in a holiday party! There will be fun snacks and an opportunity to make your own holiday greeting card.

The WSCC Campus Clinic offers both chiropractic and medical care under one roof, and treatment options that also integrate the two health disciplines. The Clinic hosts a free immunization day every other month, in cooperation with the Multnomah County Health Department. At the event, both chiropractic interns and medical physicians will be on hand to answer questions.

Western States Chiropractic College, founded in 1904 in Portland, grants both a bachelor of science degree and the doctor of chiropractic degree. WSCC is one of 16 chiropractic colleges in the United States, and is accredited by the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges and the Council on Chiropractic Education.