

METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

Community Calendar

Home Buying Fair

The 1st annual African American Home Buying Fair will be held on Saturday, Oct. 28 from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Self Enhancement, located at 3920 N. Kerby. Learn about such things as understanding your credit, ABC's of home buying, working with a lender and other things. For more information, call Shelli Romero at 503/282-7455.

Spiritual Healing

Are you looking for more healing in your life? Learn how prayer can help you find spiritual solutions to everyday problems. Tenth Church of Christ, Scientist in Portland, at 5736 SE 17th Ave. will host a free public talk on a spiritual approach to healing. Evan Mehlenbacher of Kennewick, WA will speak on Sunday, Oct. 29 at 2 p.m. in the church's Sunday School building. Child care is provided. All are welcome.

Halloween Party

Madison's Grill, located at 1109 SE Madison, on the corner of SE 11th and Madison will be having a Halloween party featuring Catfish, prizes and drink and food specials. Dress up as your favorite musician for prizes! The event will be on Saturday, Oct. 28 There is a \$3 cover charge for all shows. Call 503/220-0901.

Oaks Park Halloween

Oaks Park and PAX TV present a fun afternoon Halloween party for the entire family. Prizes of PAX tulip bulbs will be awarded to the best costumes in four categories: most Halloween-like, best over all, most scary and most funny. Everyone that joins the costume contest will receive a treat. Oaks will provide special Halloween treats to all of the party guests! Call 503/233-5777.

Understanding Men

Understanding Men Beyond Myths and Stereotypes, a workshop for men and women led by Judy Brodkey, will be held Saturday, Oct. 29, from 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. at the Friends Meeting House, 4312 SE Stark. This workshop will address myths and stereotypes about men, how narrow definitions of masculinity affect all of us, and how we can take action to be allies for men and boys. Cost: \$25 - \$75 sliding fee scale. Call 503/234-1012.

Tennis Fest 2000

As the name suggests, Tennis Fest 2000 promises to be a weekend-long celebration of tennis. The event, scheduled for Oct. 26-29 at the Multnomah Athletic Club in Portland, intends to provide information and excitement to tennis enthusiasts throughout the Pacific Northwest. Some of the greatest names in tennis will be on hand, including Roy Emerson and Stan Smith. For further information and to register, call 503/520-1877, ext. 21.

Raphael House Benefit

Raphael House will host their 18th annual dinner and auction, "A Home for All Seasons" on Saturday, Nov. 4. Proceeds will go to support the organization's emergency shelter, transitional housing, education outreach, and programs for the care and support of women and children escaping domestic violence. The evening includes a silent auction, live auction, raffle drawing and gourmet dinner. The event will be located at the Oregon Ballroom of the Portland Marriott, 1401 SW Naito Parkway. Call 503/222-6507.

Library Bookfest

The North Portland Bookfest Book Arts Exhibition will be on display from Oct. 29 through Nov 12th at the North Portland Branch of the Multnomah County Library, 512 N. Killingsworth. An opening reception is scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 29 from 1 to 4 p.m.

Highlighting the work of contemporary bookmakers from the western United States, the Northwest Bookfest Book Arts Exhibition will feature both traditional fine press books and artists' books in a wide range of media.

Youth Volunteers Power Through Beach Trash



Tom Marek and his daughter Nichole do good work and have a great time at Fogarty Creek State Park as members of the PGE Power Generation and the Great Oregon Beach Cleanup.

More than 50 youth volunteers from Portland General Electric lugged garbage bags full of collected debris out of Fogarty Creek State Park on Oct. 14 as part of SOLV's Great Oregon Beach Cleanup.

In addition to removing trash from the park, the volunteers, who range in age from four to 18, also learned about the hazards that litter poses to Oregon's wildlife and ecosystems.

"It really drives the message of ecological responsibility home to the kids when they realize that the piece of Styrofoam they pick up today could save a bird's life tomorrow," said Terry Clelen, PGE coordinator for the group.

Besides the beach cleanup, the kids have removed tree-damaging English ivy from Forest Park, stenciled warnings on storm drains in Southeast Portland and picked up garbage for SOLV at the Rose Festival Starlight Parade.

In addition to these so-called PGE Power Generation volunteers, nearly 1,000 employees of the utility were involved in this year's beach cleanup.

These volunteers removed litter from Beverly Beach State Park, Gleneden Beach Wayside, Siletz Bay and other beaches along the Oregon coast.

Co-Workers Save Life

Clark County employees Heidi Bunch, Leisha Cosey, and Carol Ulappa were honored recently for helping save the life of a co-worker suffering from a heart attack, according to Tim McVicker, the county's Occupational Health and Safety Specialist.

"Congratulations to the District Court Clark's Office for a group effort in recognizing and responding to an emergency," he said.

The incident occurred on Oct. 9 when Ulappa, who is first-aid certified, noticed that one of her staff was ashen, sweating profusely, and sitting with her head in her hands. Ulappa recognized the symptoms as being associated with a heart attack. Together with Bunch and Cosey, they called 9-1-1 and assisted the woman until the paramedics arrived.

Star Wars... Again?

The Oregon Chapter of Physicians for Social Responsibility will sponsor a seminar on the proposed National Missile Defense featuring Don Whitmore, retired Boeing engineer and anti-nuclear activist, Saturday, Oct. 29, at 7 p.m. at the Friends Meeting House, 4312 S.E. Stark.

Both major party presidential candidates have pledged to go forward with research and possible deployment of a national missile defense system. Learn about the inherent weakness in such a system - its lack of effectiveness and potential to damage true national security. National missile defense offers mythical security and distracts us from seeking real protection from real threats, organizers said.

Don Whitmore has extensive experience in weapons system engineering and national defense projects. The event is co-sponsored by PSR/Oregon, The Red Rose School, Oregon Peaceworks, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom/Portland and Peace and Justice Works/Portland.

Beware of Tax Refund Scams

The Internal Revenue Service is cautioning African-Americans not to be misled by anyone offering to help them file for tax credits or refunds related to reparations for slavery. There is no such provision in the tax law.

Those who pay to have reparations-related tax claims prepared are being deceived.

IRS centers nationwide have received a growing number of such slavery reparations claims this year, repeating similar experiences in 1994 and 1996.

"We regret that people may be circulating misleading information to the African American community," said IRS Commissioner Charles O. Rossotti. "It is despicable that some are stealing from innocent people by charging fees to prepare what they know to be baseless claims."

For example, the Florida Attorney General obtained an injunction late last month against a Miami-based promoter who charged victims \$100 to handle their "claims." This promoter even warned consumers not to contact the IRS on the pretext that the IRS did not want the general public to know about the tax credit.

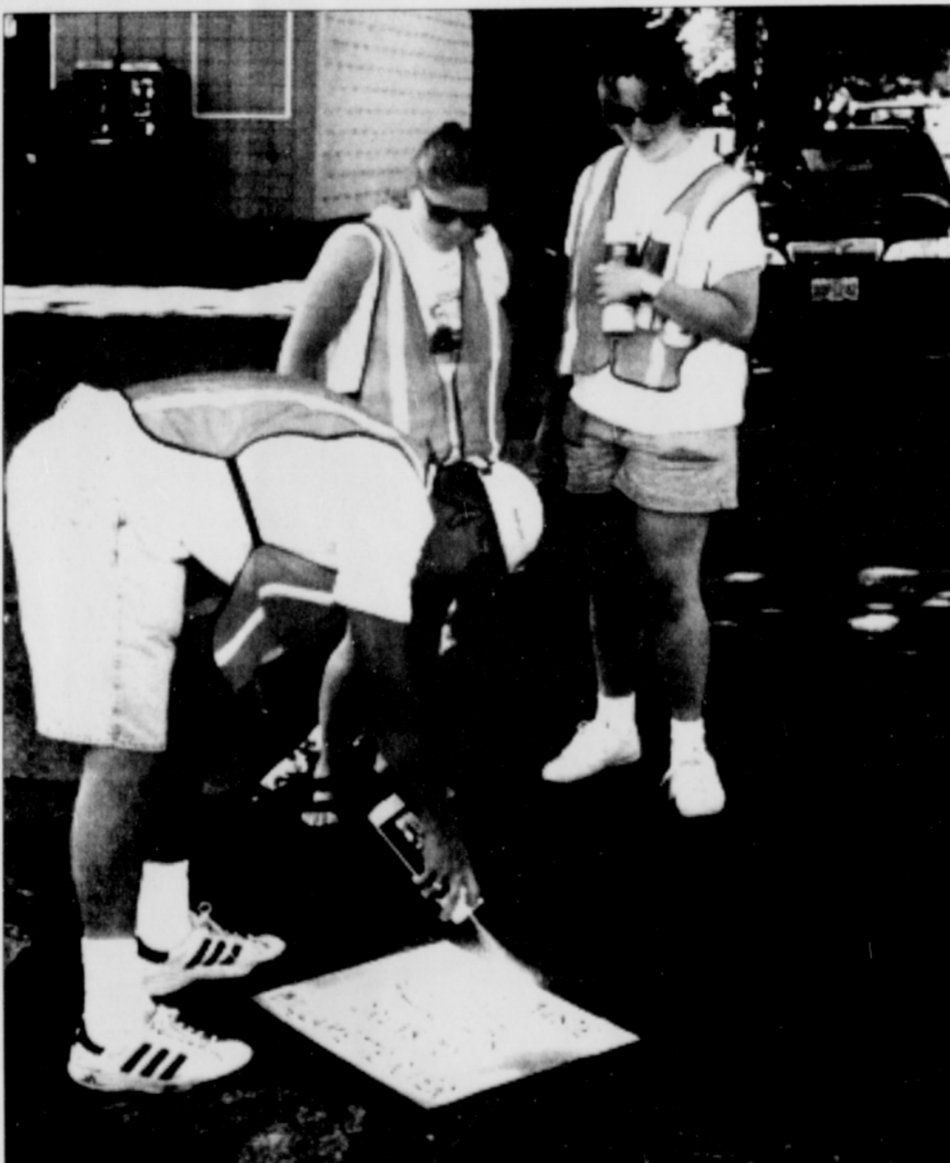
"Promoters do not want potential victims to learn the truth about this hoax," Rossotti said.

The IRS has seen two principal reparations schemes. In one, the person claims a credit for "black investment taxes" or "reparations for African Americans." In the other, the person attaches a form listing thousands of dollars in tax withholding that, in fact, never occurred.

Because there is no law providing for such reparations, the IRS rejects these claims.



A big cast of characters house-sit in preparation for Halloween at Sunlan Lighting, Inc. at 3901 N. Mississippi. (Photo by Ron Washington/Portland Observer)



Painting the Streets and Helping Our Rivers

Chris Morris, Susan Williams and Jennifer Gilben paint a stencil advising people not to dump waste down storm drains. Several organizations and individuals are involved in the project sponsored by Headwaters to Ocean, a group that fosters stewardship of the Columbia/Willamette river systems. To make the stakes interesting, H2O is offering a free two-hour boat tour to the group that stencils the most storm drains.

City Considers Homeless, Housing Issues

Reaffirming their commitment to providing safe, affordable housing while standing firm against homeless camping in the city, Mayor Vera Katz and Commissioner Erik Sten held a news conference to announce their holistic approach to address homeless and housing issues.

The two focused on the city's ongoing efforts to preserve and create more affordable housing, the current tools available to continue enforcing anti-camping laws, and announced an expanded partnership with JOIN - a private organization that does outreach to homeless people.

"While I am still a firm believer in the need for anti-camping ordinance to prevent unsafe and unsanitary campgrounds, this has given us the opportunity to take a closer look at what we in the City are doing to provide housing and shelter opportunities for everyone," said Katz.

Katz and Sten said they plan to spend \$3.5 million of a \$5 million fund allocated for affordable housing this coming year for those in the 0-30 percent median income range.

Both officials also noted recent successes in meeting affordable housing needs, including the Portland Development Commission's just-completed purchase of the Fountain Place apartment building and the recent opening of Ritzdorf Court which completed the Shelter Reconfiguration Plan.

The Fountain Place acquisition means the city will save the building's affordable housing rates, and serve as potential replacement housing for nearby low-income units soon to be lost.