

METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

Community Calendar

Auction for Woodmont School for Dyslexics

"New Beginnings" is the theme of the dinner auction to benefit Woodmont School for Dyslexics. The event will be held on May 11 at 7 p.m. at McMenamin's Edgefield Manor, located at 2126 S.W. Halsey in Troutdale. Auction will commence at 7 p.m. Call 503/771-0002 for tickets.

Build-A-Bear Workshop

On Friday, May 4, the Build-A-Bear Workshop, the "high-tech, high-touch" interactive retail store for kids of all ages, is opening its first store in Oregon at Washington Square Mall. You will find "bear guests" making their own customized stuffed teddy bears and other animals.

"Green" Gifts for Mother's Day

Gear up for the gardening season and find something special for a Mom you dig at the Portland Farmers Market's annual Garden Party on Saturday, May 12 from 8 a.m. - 1 p.m., located downtown on the South Park Blocks, between Market and Montgomery Streets. For more information, call 503/241-0032.

Providence Health Support Groups

The three Providence Health System hospitals in Portland—Providence Portland Medical Center, Providence St. Vincent Medical Center, and Providence Milwaukie Hospital—host regular support group meetings for cancer patients and their families. All support groups are free. For a schedule and more information, call Cancer Counseling Services at 503/216-2917, 503/216-2280 or 503/215-6015.

Legal and Financial Planning

A class on legal and financial planning for families of the frail and elderly or chronically ill will be given at the Good Samaritan Hospital campus on Tuesday, May 8, from 1:30-4 p.m. Pre-registration is required by calling 503/335-3500. The class will be taught by Tim Nay, M.S.W., J.D., an elderlaw attorney in Portland.

Chinese Art of Feng Shui

The principles of the Chinese Art of Feng Shui can help you achieve greater balance, harmony and prosperity in your life. In this seminar, learn the specific life aspects represented in each area of your home. The workshop, "Feng Shui Room by Room" will be held on May 16, from 6:30-8 p.m. at 5758 S.W. 39th Ave. To register, call 503/704-7018.

Loaves & Fishes Fundraiser

Loaves & Fishes, The Meals-On-Wheels People, invites the community to dine at Mazzi's on Tuesday, May 8 from 4 p.m. to closing time. During this special evening, Mazzi's will contribute half of the proceeds of all sales to Loaves & Fishes. To place a reservation, call Mazzi's at 503/227-3382.

Mother's Day Weekend Plant Sale

The annual Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden Mother's Day Weekend Plant Sale, Plant Show and celebration is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, May 12 and 13. The Garden is located at S.E. 28th and Woodstock Blvd., between Reed College and the Eastmoreland Golf Course.

YMCA Day Camp

The YMCA of Columbia-Willamette is currently holding open registration for Day Camps for youth entering 1st - 8th grades. Weekly camps begin June 18th and run through August 31st. Programs run from 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. and are conveniently located at over 30 sites. For Eastside Camp locations, contact 503/287-4069. For Westside locations, call 503/641-3345, ext. 105.

WalkSport Walking Program

Sign up today for WalkSport, Lloyd Center's premier mall walking program! WalkSport's sponsor, New Balance is offering complimentary memberships for new members that sign up before June 30. Get fit. Get prizes. Get going! And sign up today! Call Customer Service at 503/528-8515.

University of Portland Students Build Bridges

Tutoring Program Designed to Increase Opportunities for Young African American Males

By JOHN FUREY

FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Sarah Ireland and Piankhi Skia-Imhotep are building bridges together.

Ireland, a University of Portland junior, is working to become a teacher. Skia-Imhotep, a Benson High School junior, hopes to someday study architectural drawing.

Both are helping the other to achieve their goals.

Ireland tutors Skia-Imhotep weekly in The Bridge Builders, a program designed to increase opportunities for young African-American males. She is one of 19 students at U of P participating in the program. He is among this year's 68 participating high school students.

The need for role models for young African Americans males was at the heart of the start of The Bridge Builders in 1996, according to founder and executive director Kevin Fuller.

"It is a sad fact, but true, many African-Americans children are in trouble," says Fuller. "They are not achieving in the classroom to the scholarly levels of which they are capable."

The Bridge Builders was also created to strengthen the African-American community, by administering African-centered rites of passage programs built on spirituality, scholarship, entrepreneurship and community building. Students enter the program midway through their freshman year and must go through an extensive application process. They stay in the program until midway through their senior year. The young men visit area churches, meet with local executives, tour schools in the West and have days when they wear ties to school and eat lunch together.

The rites of passage include college admissions tutoring and counseling, aca-



Sarah Ireland (left) of the University of Portland works with Benson High School student Piankhi Skia-Imhotep as part of a program to increase opportunities for young African-American males. PHOTO BY MARY SCROGGINS

ademic support, pairing with adult mentors, opportunities for each participant to be a big brother to an elementary school student and leadership skill development, all of which are provided by University of Portland students.

Staci Magdlen, a secondary education major from Milwaukie, recalled a night recently when one of her students needed to talk about a stabbing that had occurred at his high school.

"It's real life stuff," Magdlen said. "The mentoring program is a great idea."

Graduates of the program have gone on to such schools as Harvard University, Stanford University, Santa Clara University, University of Alabama, Tuskegee University, Oregon State University, University of Oregon, as well as the University of Portland.

Eric Mashia, a junior at the University of Portland, completed the Bridge Builders program three years ago and says he still is reaping benefits.

"It was a great learning experience," Mashia said. "It helps African-American males in many, many ways socially and academically."

Drew Dukeshire, a junior at Benson and standout on the school's football and basketball teams, said the program has given him a good foundation, encouraging him to get involved with a wide variety of community service.

"It helps us set our mind on positive things," said Dukeshire, who plans to study architectural drafting at Arizona State University.

Troy Campbell, a junior at Grant High School, also gives the program high marks.

"It teaches you a lot about responsibilities," Campbell said. "It's teaching us about the future and how we can become independent and successful."

Waterfront Set for Cinco de Mayo

Four Days of Fiesta to Lure People of All Ages Downtown

The Cinco de Mayo Fiesta will invade the riverbanks of Portland for its 17th consecutive year beginning Thursday

through Sunday.

Gates at Tom McCall Waterfront Park open at 11 a.m. daily and close at 11 p.m. The fiesta ends at 9 p.m. on Sunday.

Tickets are \$6 for adults and \$2 for students (ages 6-12) and seniors (over 65). The Cinco de Mayo Fiesta is an opportunity for celebration and immersion in the culture of Mexico and Mexican-American music, art, and dancing, and food.

Acts will range from the Ballet Folclórico Guadalajara to the New Mexi-

can singer Angel Espinoza, performing with a Mariachi band. The night of Saturday, May 5th will feature a dance with one of Northwest Mexico's most popular band ensembles, Banda La Movida, providing the dance music.

There will be a Low-Rider parade on Thursday, May 3rd, downtown at 11:30

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New Affordable Homes Coming to St. Johns



Andrea Debnam (left) of HOST Development and Mindy Sullivan of Oregon Title Insurance, were part of an open house Sunday at a new housing development for working families and individuals in the St. Johns neighborhood.

(PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER.)

HOST Development, Inc. is building 100 homes priced from \$114,950 to low \$140,000s in Charleston Place, a new neighborhood in the historic St. Johns area of north Portland.

Most individuals earning \$25,000 or families earning up to \$53,000 may qualify for mortgages in the housing development, in addition to \$5,000 in down payment assistance, reduced property taxes and special loan programs. Qualified buyers can put down a little as \$1,500.

HOST, which stands for Home Ownership a Street at a Time, is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping working families and individuals become homeowners.

The new neighborhood is located off Columbia Boulevard near Pier Park, Smith and Bybee Lakes, and several other parks. The entrance to the neighborhood is through two acres of open space with large trees, and there will be a community garden for residents to enjoy. It is near grocery stores and other shopping and accessible to mass transit.

The homes are available in two- or three bedroom models, with four interior floor plans and 11 unique exteriors. Each home includes a spacious kitchen with range, refrigerator and dishwasher; living and dining area; an alarm system; and plenty of closet space. The homes sit on 4,000 square foot lots, with fully landscaped front yards, fenced backyards and a car pad, with an optional garage

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