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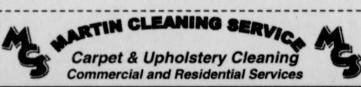
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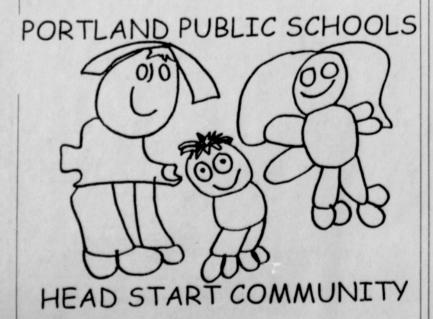
\* Children must be 31/2 or 4 years old BY SEPTEMBER 1ST

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# **Tutoring Center Celebrates Success**

The Hollywood Education and Literacy Project, located at 700 N. Killingsworth, held an informal graduation ceremony June 9 to acknowledge the success of the volunteer-based organization.

People of all ages and ethnic backgrounds came together for the celebration.

Johnnie A. Gage, former executive director of House of Umoja, who took a job with the Eisenhower Foundation in February, flew in from Washington, D.C. to act as Master of Ceremonies.

State Rep. Deborah Kafoury and Portland School Board Elect Lolenzo Poe arrived to speak in support of the project and its contributions to the community.

About 40 certificates were awarded to students who have completed courses and tutors who had completed their training.

"The HELP Center is a tremendous resource in helping community residents gain a level of independence that can only occur from obtaining a higher level of literacy," said Poe, who is also the director of Multnomah County Community and Family Services.

For some, the work started months ago merely learning the



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

HELP, a nonprofit literacy center located in N.E. Portland, held an informal graduation ceremony recently for students and trainers who had completed their programs. On hand were supporters of the organization's efforts to combat illiteracy and assist low academic achievers. From left: HELP Director Hillary Larson; Lolenzo Poe, Director of Multnomah County Human Services; Deborah Kafoury, State Rep. for District 18 and Johnny A. Gage of the Eisenhower Foundation.

alphabet and putting the sounds together that make up words. Rep. Kafoury stated that, "There are many organizations and institutions that take from our community. It is refreshing to see an organization like HELP which gives back." For more

consent - for an enclosed parking

lot on the northeast side of the

information on how you can become a tutor, or if you need help with tutoring, please call 503-247-3030

### **PCC Board Supports Property Condemnations**

STORY CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

Humboldt plans to host a discussion with legal experts of property owners and tenants' rights under condemnation at 7 p.m. July 10 at 330 N.

Killingsworth St., Erickson later told the Portland Observer.

The resolution authorizes the use of condemnation - the purchase of property without the owner's

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Cascade campus near Jackson Hall, a square block south of North Killingsworth Street and west of Jefferson High School, the Albina Christian Life Center building at 5522 N. Albina Ave., and a series of properties on the west side of North

Board member Daniel Moriarity told those present that the resolution is "not a directive, in every instance, to proceed to the next step." Voluntary sales agreements

Albina Avenue and west side of

Mississippi, north of Killingsworth

are always "our preferred procedure," he said.

Board chair Karen McKinney said the matter involved "difficult issues for you, and it's difficult for this board. I'd just say we hear what you're saying. We'll make our best efforts to respond to you in writing to the issues you have raised. But we've worked very, very hard to reach voluntary closure, and it has not worked out."

Several people who spoke at the meeting questioned how hard the school had pursued voluntary agreements. Two property owners said their only contact had been a letter from PCC expressing interest in buying their property, which they discarded because they weren't interested.

A third, Lindsay Jackson, said he received no prior purchase of-

fers. A fourth, Martin Gonzalez, says he has "played phone tag" with PCC officials.

Hazel Shipley told the board in tears that her house at 5635 N. Albina Ave. is "the only home I've ever owned, and you're going to make me move and it's not fair. Nobody's talked to me except Humboldt. No one's given me that respect."

David Uphoff, owner of Clarence Walker Flowers, said he has two properties he's willing to sell, but PCC did not make an offer. "And now you're invoking condemnation. It's not right!" he

Another owner, Wayne Doge of Argo Safety Railings, said that because of the resolution, the planned sale of his business has fallen through.

PCC vice president for administrative services Randy McEwan later told the Portland Observer that in one of several meetings with Humboldt, "One message we were given very clearly was, 'Don't be bothering residents by having real estate people walking around and knocking on doors."

McEwan said that he had talked to Uphoff three times, and had scheduled meetings with appraisers that Uphoffhad either cancelled or failed to show up. "No appraisals, no sales offers," McEwan says.

Uphoff says that a PCC appraiser did in fact visit his properties.

McEwan told the board that PCC provides relocation assistance to property owners and tenants of residential and commercial properties it acquires. These can include the payment of moving costs, and supplements if those displaced cannot find a comparable new location for the same costs they paid for their previous property, he said.

Sean Brown, co-owner of No Fish Go Fish restaurant, told the board, "We may find it difficult to relocate easily, and I hope it affects your decision."

Erickson told the board that it should formulate and circulate a detailed relocation plan for residents and businesses, and "demonstrate to the community that it has made 'substantial' efforts to contact and negotiate with the community. Then and only then should the PCC Board vote to use condemnation on a case by case basis."

The board, which had discussed the issue at its May meeting, passed the resolution without discussion.

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