

METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

"Bridging Portland's Communities"

Community Calendar

Water Conservation Workshop

Learn how to take control of your water and sewer bills. Workshop provides information on how to detect and repair leaks; water conservation ideas in and around your home, plus details on Portland's incredible water system. The next workshop will be on Wednesday, Sept. 12, from 1 - 2:30 p.m. at the YWCA North Center, located at 8010 N. Charleston. Call 503-284-6827.

Elders in Action Commission

The Elders in Action Commission invited interested citizens to join them at their monthly meeting. Hot topics on the agenda include: Senior Forum hosted by Elders in Action and Multnomah County Commissioner Maria Rojo de Steffey. The event will be on Wednesday, Sept. 19, from 12:30 p.m. - 3 p.m. For more information, call 503-823-5269.

Women of Achievement

The Annual Women of Achievement Award is a semi-formal gala attended by politicians, corporate principles and citizens who support women's rights. Their dinner reception and silent auction will be held on Saturday, Oct. 13, starting at 5:30 p.m. at the DoubleTree Hotel Lloyd Center in the Lloyd Center Ballroom, located at 1000 N.E. Multnomah. Call 503-725-5889.

Gardening with Native Plants

The Oregon Berry and the Berry Botanic Garden offer jointly a day-long educational program called "Gardening with Native Plants" on Saturday, Sept. 15, from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. There will also be a workshop by native plant experts. Call 503-636-4112, extension 22.

Memory Walk

The Oregon-Greater Idaho Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association will be having their Tenth Annual Memory Walk - a 5K plege-driven walk and run starting at the World Trade Center, located at S.W. Salmon and First on Oct. 7. The Competitive Run starts at 8:25 a.m. and the walk at 8:30 a.m. Call 503-413-6471.

Homeschooling vs. Public Education

Radical Women hosts a discussion on whether homeschooling is a viable answer to the problems of inadequately funded public schools and the subsequent compromised quality of education. The free meeting will be on Wednesday, Sept. 12, 7 p.m. at the Bread and Roses Center, 819 N. Killingsworth. Buffet will be served with a donation. Call 503-240-4462.

Leach Botanical Garden Plant Sale

Prepare now for a lovely garden next spring. Our Northwest fall rains present optimum conditions for the planting of perennial specimens that produce blooms in early spring and the seasons beyond. The Leach Garden Plant Sale will be on Saturday, Sept. 22, from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. at Floyd Light Middle School, 10800 S.E. Washington.

Creating a Great Waterfront Park

Twenty-five years after its creation, Portland's front porch - Waterfront Park is undergoing a thorough review, giving Portland citizens an opportunity to step back and take a careful look at one of our city's most cherished civic treasures. The public conversation will be on Wednesday, Sept. 12, at McCall's Waterfront Café, from 6-8 p.m.

Students Finish Summer Healthcare Course



(Left) Jefferson High School graduate Ahquoya Brooks works the day surgery unit at Legacy Emanuel Hospital through the Youth Employment in Summers Program. In addition to learning about health career opportunities, Ahquoya will receive a \$2,400 scholarship from Legacy to attend the University of Washington in Seattle. (Right) Jerry Martinez gives a helping hand to Youth Employment in Summers student Heydet Patricia Muros-Soto.



PHOTOS BY ACKROYD PHOTOGRAPHY

A paid 10-week internship to encourage Latino and African-American students to graduate from high school, pursue post-secondary education, and acquaint them to healthcare as a career has finished a successful year.

The Youth Employment in Summers program at Legacy Emanuel was initiated last year at Legacy Meridian Park Hospital.

"The primary goal is to encourage students to graduate from high school and go on to post-secondary education," says Kari Stanley, director of community rela-

tions at Legacy Health Systems. "The secondary goal is to expose more students to healthcare careers as an option. Healthcare professions generally have a low diversity rate."

Eligible students must have completed their sophomore year in high school and be younger than 21 years old. Upon completion of the summer internship, students entering post-secondary education programs that fall receive a \$2,400 scholarship toward their education.

Seven students participated in YES

this summer at Legacy Emanuel Hospital, in addition to another nine students at both Legacy Meridian Park Hospital and Legacy Mount Hood Medical Center. Below are profiles of just a few of the participants at Emanuel and some of the advantages the program has provided:

Melissa Garcia, recently completed her GED on an alternative high school, and will attend Portland Community College in the fall. She hopes to become a nurse, and has benefited from her experience working in the imaging and human re-

source departments at Emanuel Hospital.

Hakim Hasan, a graduate of Benson High School, worked in pediatric rehabilitation at Legacy Emanuel Children's Hospital and the Sleep Lab at Good Samaritan Hospital. Hasan is a sophomore at Howard University.

Ahquoya Brooks, a recent graduate of Jefferson High School, works in short stay unit and human resources department at Legacy Emanuel Hospital. She will attend the University of Washington to study dentistry.

Safety in the Nail Salon



Clara Littleton of Classy Nails, 1439 N.E. Alberta, with customer Dorothy Randall, help demonstrate the detail to sanitation and safety that's required in the nail salon business.

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/
THE PORTLAND
OBSERVER

BY KEVIN WEEKS
OREGON HEALTH LICENSING OFFICE

You shouldn't have to face a lifetime of pain and disfigurement in the name of having beautiful fingernails or toenails.

But disease and infection can be a very real threat if your nail salon is not following state standards for disinfecting tools and sanitary operations.

For example, over 100 clients of a Watsonville, Calif. salon were infected last year with *Mycobacterium fortuitum* (M-fort).

The bacteria, linked to skin tuberculosis, was spread from client to client because of the failure of nail technicians to remove infected foreign matter from footbath screens and failure to properly disinfect the footbath in between uses on clients.

The infection is controlled through aggressive use of antibiotics, however once the initial boils and skin ulcers are gone, victims are left with deep, brightly colored scars that do not heal. Removal of the scars ultimately requires skin grafting or laser surgery, or adjusting to a lifetime of disfigured skin.

There have been no reports of *Mycobacterium fortuitum* infection spread from a manicure or pedicure service in Oregon.

But the nightmare surrounding this highly communicable disease is one the Health Licensing Office does not want to have cross the border into Oregon. It will take the hard work of every nail technician in the state, and the educated eyes of consumers to make sure it doesn't happen here.

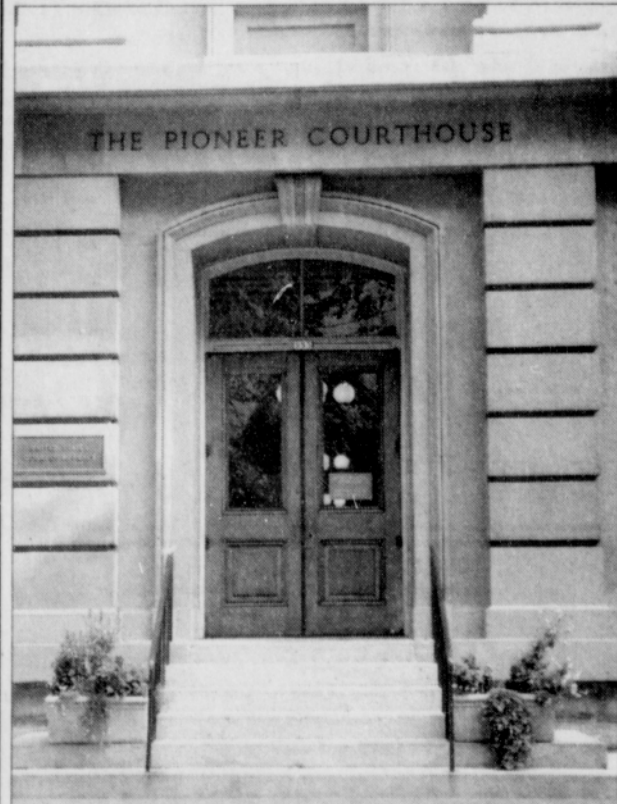
The Oregon Health Licensing Office and the Oregon Board of Cosmetology set high professional safety standards to ensure that Oregon's consumers are protected from disease transmission when they enter a state-licensed nail or cosmetology facility. Facilities are inspected annually to ensure compliance with state regulations for cosmetology safety and sanitation rules.

"We frequently hear 'I'm very busy' as an excuse why salon owners aren't following safety standards," says Bob Gruchalla, Chief Enforcement Officer for the Health Licensing Office. "What they're really saying is the safety of my customers comes second to making money."

The Health Licensing Office investigated 176 complaints involving hair salons, nail salons or facial salons during 2000, with many of the complaints

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Earthquake Upgrade Sought for Pioneer Courthouse



Federal legislation calling for \$16 million for seismic retrofitting and upgrading of the Pioneer Courthouse building in downtown Portland was approved this summer in a House Treasury Postal Appropriations bill. Pioneer Courthouse is the second oldest federal courthouse west of the Mississippi. But in its present state, it's not up to fire and safety standards and is unprotected from serious damage or destruction potentially resulting from an earthquake.

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER