

# METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

"Bridging Portland's Communities"

## Community Calendar

### Turkey Trot

Join the Oregon Road Runner's Club on Nov. 22, from 8 a.m. - 11 a.m. in their annual Thanksgiving fun run through the zoo. For registration information, call the Oregon Zoo at 503-646-7867.

### The Juvenile Rights Project

Parents and guardians of school-age children can receive training to educate their own and their children's rights in Suspension and Expulsion procedures and in Special Education issues at the Matt Dishman Community Center, located at 77 NE. Knott on Tuesday, Nov. 27, from 6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m. Call 503-823-3179.

### Decorating the Oregon Way

Using fresh materials from the garden can add fragrance and ambiance to the holiday season. Calling on the talents of one of Oregon's very best floral designers, the Oregon Garden is announcing a special class called "Home for the Holidays: Decorating the Oregon Way" by Jack Richards. The class will be on Tuesday, Nov. 27, from 5-8:30 p.m. Call 503-874-8100.

### Tree Farm Guide

A free Choose & Cut Guide to U-Cut Christmas tree plantations in Oregon and Washington has been prepared by the Pacific Northwest Christmas Tree Association. The 2001 guide lists 41 Oregon U-Cut tree farms and 40 U-Cut tree farms in Washington. For additional information regarding the Pacific Northwest Christmas Tree Association, visit our website at [www.nwtrees.com](http://www.nwtrees.com) or call 503-364-2942.

### Classical Chinese Garden

Portland Chinese Garden will host a discussion and tour on the cultural, practical and aesthetic assets of bamboo on Dec. 1, from 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. The lecture and tour includes admission to the Garden and refreshment during the lecture. To register, contact the Garden office at 503-228-8131, ext. 0 or go online to [www.portlandchinesegarden.com](http://www.portlandchinesegarden.com).

### Empower the Immune System

Now is the time to know the natural antidote that empowers the immune system and does not cause dangerous side effects. A slow moving exercise for self-healing from China called Pan Gu Shengong will be taught from Wednesday, Nov. 28 - Friday, Nov. 30 at the Davis Business Center, located at 4370 NE. Halsey, from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Call 503-691-1915 or go online to [www.pangushengong.org](http://www.pangushengong.org)

### Community Energy Project

Learn how to take control of your water and sewer bills. The Community Energy Project will be having a free workshop on Water Conservation on Tuesday, Dec. 4 at the Multicultural Senior Center, located at 5325 NE. MLK Blvd., from 10:45 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. Each Portland household receives an instructional workbook and a free kit of materials worth \$25. To register, call 503-284-6827.

### Marian Wright Edelman to Speak

Y Child Care, a division of YMCA of the Columbia-Willamette, and Stand for Children, America's only nationwide grassroots voice for children will present the "Strong Kids, Strong Families, Strong Communities Speakers Forum." Marian Wright Edelman, president and founder of the Children's Defense Fund will be speaking on Monday, Dec. 3 at the Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, located at 147 NW. 19th St., from 7-8 p.m. Call 503-946-5437.

### Providence Festival of Trees

This year, the Providence Festival of Trees features over 50 beautifully decorated Christmas trees and holiday displays. The display will be at the Oregon Convention Center, Exhibit Hall A from Friday, Dec. 7 - Sunday, Dec. 9. Call 503-215-6070.

## Kids are Upward Bound at PSU



Students attend a symposium to explore careers in math and science at Portland State University.

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A large group of inner-city kids have a better understanding of careers in the fields of mathematics and science thanks to a day-long series of speakers, workshops and activities at Portland State University.

The students attended a Nov. 12 science and math careers symposium, sponsored by the college's Upward Bound and Educational Talent Search program.

Guest speakers met in small student groups to describe their jobs, explain what

was needed to prepare for their occupation and to share personal stories on how they went about creating a career path.

Anything of interest about science, math and careers was discussed.

A number of special activities and demonstrations gave students a glimpse of the kind of satisfaction that math and science jobs can bring to the people in these fields.

PSU's Upward Bound and Education Talent Search program serves young

people who are from low-income families or who are the first members of their family's generation to attend college.

The college regularly provides tutoring, after school and Saturday classes and workshops, an extensive summer camp and a summer education program.

The programs also assist students through the college and financial-aid application process, provide help on studying for college entrance exams, and otherwise monitor the kids' progress and success.

## Children's Center Builds on Success

A child care center serving primarily low and limited-income families in north and northeast Portland will grow to serve more children and families thanks to valuable financial support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

The foundation has given the Peninsula Children's Center, 4720 N. Maryland, a \$250,000 grant to help retire the center's mortgage and free up funds for programs and services.

"The foundation's support, combined with a 3-year capacity building grant from the Meyer Memorial Trust, provides us with the resources necessary to undergo significant capacity building and organizational development," said Marcia Mulvey, Peninsula executive director.

Mulvey said the ultimate goal is for the center to increase and enhance its programs and services and "in turn strengthening our 30 year commitment to the community."

Founded in 1970 and certified by the Oregon Child Care Division, Peninsula provides a full range of childcare services for children ages six weeks to 12-years-old.

An infant, toddler, preschool and before and after school programs serve more



Zach (left) and Ty'zhaun are all smiles under the care of Marcia Mulvey, executive director of the Peninsula Children's Center.

than 350 children a year.

By charging sliding-scale tuition based on family income and providing transpor-

tation for before and after school programs, the center meets a vital need for working families.

## WSU Vancouver Hosts Forum on Afghanistan

Since the Sept. 11 East Coast attacks, Americans have been struck by the importance of a part of the world they know little about. The stakes are high. The central and south Asia region includes hundreds of ethnic groups, four nuclear weapons states and a history of intense conflict.

Washington State University Vancouver plans a forum Dec. 6 titled "Afghanistan and Its Neighbors: Under-

standing the Region," that will discuss the political, social and cultural complexities of Central and South Asia.

The forum is set for 7 p.m. in the Student Services lecture hall and is free and open to the public. Featured speakers include Anita Weiss and Lynn Renken.

Weiss is a professor of international studies at University of Oregon. She is an expert on Pakistan and South Asia and was conducting research in Pakistan on

Sept. 11. Her most recent book, "Power and Civil Society in Pakistan," links politics and culture in the world's sixth largest nation and only Islamic nuclear state.

Renken is the program director for Mercy Corps, a poverty relief organization based in Portland. As the director of Mercy Corps' ongoing project in Afghanistan, she will explain the dynamics of Afghani people and politics before, during and after U.S. military operations there.

## Portsmouth is Neighborhood of the Year

Residents cited for seeing diversity as strength and building an inclusive agenda

In 1990, the Portsmouth district of north Portland was more known for drive-by shootings and gang violence associated with Columbia Villa, the public housing complex within its borders.

But Thursday, Mayor Vera Katz acknowledged a major turnaround by naming Portsmouth the Spirit of Portland Neighborhood of the Year.

What a difference 10 years can make!

Since the peak of gang violence, countless volunteer activists, non-profit groups and government agencies have worked to turn this neighborhood around.

The late County Commission Chair Gladys McCoy was an important early leader in changing the area with her much-heralded efforts in the Villa. Now Columbia Villa is in the midst of a \$135 million federally funded revitalization effort.

Other major efforts are under way.

The neighbors lobbied hard for Portsmouth's inclusion in the Interstate Max Urban Renewal District. Portsmouth residents also prodded the city into getting a major planning effort for Lombard Street started.

But most residents believe the Spirit of Portland award recognizes the neighborhood for the smaller and more meaningful community-based work done more recently.

"The neighbors worked together to recognize that this is a multi-lingual, multi-ethnic neighborhood that is very low income," said Cornelius Swart, Grant Director of the neighborhood revitalization program Portsmouth Vision 20/20. "The neighbors saw that as a strength instead of a liability, and built an inclusive agenda based on that."

The achievements of neighborhood residents include building playground equipment in Columbia Park, a community newsletter in four languages mailed to every resident, and street banners in five languages.

Residents have worked tirelessly with groups like Friends of Trees and area public schools for years to help enhance the neighborhood and include children in the experience.

"It's been a lot of hard work," says Susan Landauer, chair of the Community Association of Portsmouth. "But it all pays off when people take pride in where they live."