

METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

"Bridging Portland's Communities"

Community Calendar

Raising Student Achievement

The Love and Logic Institute is hosting a new seminar on "Raising Student Achievement Through Discipline and Responsibility." The talks will address some of the most frustrating aspects of teaching and raising today's kids. The event will be on Monday, March 11, 2:30 p.m. at the Portland Conference Center, 300 NE Multnomah St. Call 1-800-LUV-LOGIC or visit www.loveandlogic.com.

History of the Columbia Slough

Interested in learning about the Columbia Slough? An overview that covers the watershed history, hydrology, land use, fish and more will be given at the Pacific Power Metro Operations Center, 7544 NE 33rd Drive on Saturday, March 2, from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Call 281-1132 to pre-register.

Celebrating Women of Color

Meet the cast members from the play, "for colored girls who have considered suicide when the rainbow was enuf" at Billy Reed's Restaurant in the Sky Room on Saturday, March 2, at 3 p.m. This is a fundraiser that offers an intimate setting for women to celebrate the beauty of African American women laureates. For more info. or to purchase tickets, call 493-8623 or reserve your tickets via email at africanamerican1@qwest.net.

Walking Tour of Old Town

The Old Town History Project will present a 45-minute walking tour of Old Town's historic architecture. The host will be Bing Sheldon from SERA Architects. Tours are limited to 15 people. To reserve a place on the tour and a lunch table, call 225-0198.

Cultural & Community Appreciation Night

The Muslim Community Center of Portland will be having a cultural and community appreciation night on Saturday, March 2, from 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. at the Lutheran Inner-City Ministries, 4219 NE MLK and Skidmore. The event will have live jazz music with appearances by KBOO's Shaheed Haamid. For tickets, call 281-7691.

Matt Dishman Community Center

Offering a low cost solution to a night out with the family, the Matt Dishman Community Center will get everyone involved with activities for all ages. The evening will conclude with a performance by Portland Taiko, from 8 - 8:30 p.m. Call 823-3186.

Cancer Society's Daffodil Days

Volunteers are needed for the American Cancer Society's Daffodil Days, which is held in Mid-March. This is an opportunity to serve for several hours a week to take orders and payments for bouquets of daffodils from co-workers, friends and family. Anyone wishing to participate, call 1-800-577-6552.

Power Wheelchairs Available

Miracle on Wheels makes available power wheelchairs to non-ambulatory senior citizens, usually at no out-of-pocket expense if they qualify. No deposit is required. This service is available to the permanently disabled of any age. Call 1-800-749-8778 or go online to www.durablemedical.com.

Franklin Students Earn Foundry Awards



Metal shop students Ilya Grigoryev (left) and Randy Flowers of Franklin High School show off their award winning techniques to create sand molds for aluminum casting. Franklin recently won first and fifth place awards in a design and die-casting contest sponsored by the Northwest Chapter of the American Foundry Society.

'Peninsula Crossing' Brought to Life



Two volunteers plant native trees and shrubs along a new section of the Peninsula Crossing Trail off Columbia Boulevard in north Portland. PHOTO BY MARKELLE SMITH

A group of 65 volunteers has helped make north Portland more livable by planting native trees and shrubs along a new section of the Peninsula Crossing Trail.

The planting was held Feb. 9 as part of the 2,500-foot section of trail under construction on the east side of the Columbia Boulevard Wastewater Treatment Plant at 5001 N. Columbia Blvd.

"When construction is finished, trail users will enjoy the native trees and shrubs and the plants will help control erosion and improve water quality," said Portland City Commissioner Dan Saltzman.

A team from the city's Environmental Services Bureau first cleared the site of non-native vegetation and planted native grass seed to control erosion.

The land now contains Oregon ash, black cottonwood, red osier dogwood, Pacific ninebark, snowberry and other native plants.

The planting was a successful partnership between the city bureau's Community Watershed Stewardship Program, Columbia Slough Watershed Council, Friends of the Peninsula Crossing Trail, AmeriCorps and SOLV.

Boys & Girls Club Welcomes New Director

Willie Fuller is a role model for young kids in his community

Willie J. Fuller, a local coach and resident, has been named Club Director at the Blazers Boys & Girls Club at 5250 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

Fuller is moving from his position as a teacher and head coach of the boys JV Sophomore basketball team at Jesuit High School to join the Blazers Club.

He has 12 years experience working in the youth development field, including working with the Catholic Youth Organization as a sports director and administrator. Fuller attended the University of Texas at El Paso, where he played football and earned his B.A. in Business Administration/Marketing.

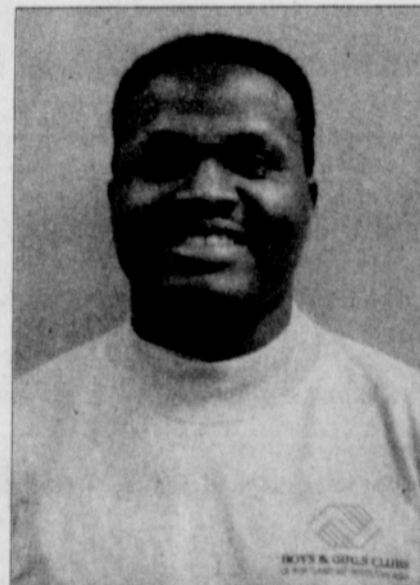
In addition to his experience working with young people, Fuller brings considerable management skills to his new job.

He spent several years in the insurance industry, working as an agent owner and sales representative for Allstate and Liberty Mutual.

He and his wife, Traci, and four children live in Northeast Portland 10-15 minutes from the Blazers Club.

Fuller's new duties will include overseeing the Blazers Club facility, programs and staff, as well as working with the Blazers Club Advisory Committee, which is made up of Northeast Portland businesspeople and parents of Club members.

The professional appeal of the Club



Willie J. Fuller

is important to him and says he loves being able to use his business and athletic experience to be a role model for young kids in his community.

The Blazers Boys & Girls Club serves over 1,000 young people between the ages of 6-18 annually with after-school education and recreation programs designed to help kids reach their full potential.

For more information about the Boys & Girls Clubs of Portland or volunteer opportunities at the Blazers Club, call 503-282-8480.

Oregon Department of Human Services Program Helps Pregnant Smokers Quit

A new grant will help the Oregon Department of Human Services assist pregnant smokers in their efforts to quit.

The funding is from The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Smoke-Free Families program and amounts to \$200,000 for the first year of a three-year smoking cessation project for a potential maximum of \$600,000.

"Tobacco has serious health consequences for moms and babies," says

Donalda Dodson, administrator for DHS family health programs. "Many pregnant women want to stop smoking, but they don't have the support they need. Now they will get help."

Dodson says DHS will work primarily with health providers who serve women enrolled in the Oregon Health Plan, where data show women have higher smoking rates.

In 1999, almost 15 percent of Oregon

women who delivered babies reported they had smoked during pregnancy. Pregnant women enrolled in Medicaid had much higher rates, with about 28 percent reporting they smoked while pregnant, according to Dodson.

The program will be incorporated into cessation counseling offered by maternity case managers, prenatal care providers and the toll free Oregon Tobacco Quit Line.

"A strength of this program is that it builds on other state and local systems and it will coordinate efforts," Dodson says.

According to the U.S. Surgeon General, 20 percent of low birth weight births, eight percent of premature births and five percent of all infant deaths are linked to smoking during pregnancy. Risks include tubal pregnancy, miscarriage, pre-term delivery and other life threatening com-

plications.

"Women who smoke also face long-term health risks including lung cancer and cardiovascular disease," Dodson says. "Their children, who breathe secondhand smoke, are vulnerable to a host of health problems and particularly respiratory illnesses. Studies show that every dollar spent on preventing a mother from smoking saves \$3 in medical costs."