

METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

"Bridging Portland's Communities"

Community Calendar

Easter Egg Hunt

Jantzen Beach SuperCenter will be holding their first annual indoor Easter egg hunt featuring Mother Goose on Saturday, March 30, from 1-4 p.m. near Shoe Pavilion for all children ages 10 and younger. There will be different egg hunts based on children's ages. For ages 1-3, hunt begins at 1 p.m.; for ages 4-6, hunt begins at 2 p.m.; for ages 7-10, hunt begins at 3 p.m.

Portland Farmer's Market

Portland Farmer's Market will teach anyone interested in how to grow like a professional gardener. Gardening speakers will offer free talks each hour and kids' activities will keep little sprouts busy with take-home projects inspired by nature. For more market information, go online to www.portlandfarmersmarket.org.

Friends of Trees

Friends of Trees' Branching Out program will give away 6 to 12 foot tall yard trees, including a variety of fruit and nut trees and native deciduous trees, in addition to native conifer seedlings. The giveaway will be on Saturday, March 30, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Friends of Trees, 3117 NE. MLK, Jr. Blvd. and on April 20, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. at Environmental Middle School. Call 282-8846, ext. 17 or go online to www.friendsoftrees.org.

OMSI's Star Party

Spring, or known as vernal equinox is here. On Saturday evening, March 23, OMSI and Rose City Astronomers will celebrate with a free star party. Come and view celestial sights like the planets, Orion Nebula and the Beehive star cluster. Telescopes will be set up and binoculars provided. Call 797-4610 on March 23 after 3 p.m. to get the latest information on weather cancellation. Other information can be found online at www.oms.edu.

Police Activities League

The Police Activities League which serves youth in Portland and Gresham is sponsoring the 6th annual PAL "Cel-

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Ministry Plans New Urban School

Miracle Village Ministries aims to nurture children and their families



Esther Hinson (center) of Miracle Village Ministries enjoys the musical "Then and Now" with Pat Dixon, Bietra Wilson and Gregory Wilson.

Miracle Village Ministries plans to open a private Christian elementary school in the fall in northeast Portland to nurture children and their families.

The ministry is a nonprofit group founded by Portland Community College GED instructor Esther Hinson.

A core group has formed to launch the new school. They are looking for a site to begin classes next fall and for help from the community.

The ministry envisions a school that will give each student, from

kindergarten to eighth grade, the individual attention they need, offering a holistic and multicultural education with a strong emphasis on math, reading and writing.

Hinson has helped shape the school's concept for the past 18 years and plans to later include a Health and Wellness Center and Residential Homes for young women, between the ages of 17-24.

The Health and Wellness Center will be for seniors and their families. The

residential homes element will be for young women needing skills in safety, personal care, home economics, career preparation, job search assistance and Christian counseling.

Miracle Village celebrated their second public fund-raiser earlier this month at Mallory Christian Church with a musical called "Then and Now," a presentation of the history of gospel music, from Biblical times to the present.

The group's co-founder Shrenna

Torrence served as the emcee. Special guests included sister Lorraine Wilder, Rev. Franklin Brown, a mime group called "JC Construction Crew," the "N'touch" band and the "Concrete Evangelists" - a rap group.

Miracle Village was "birthed out of compassion for students who need to be loved, nurtured, taught academically and discover who they are culturally and spiritually," organizers said.

For more information, call 503-703-0609.

Diverse Group Honored for Excellence at BPA

The Bonneville Power Administration in Portland has made its commitment to hiring a diverse workforce plain with the honoring of several people of color.

The group of African American employees and women at BPA were celebrated for exceptional contributions during a March 7 ceremony at the federal agency's headquarters in northeast Portland.

The individuals included Susanne Cooper, an industry economist; John Hairston, a public utilities specialist; and Ruth Hiraki, a power business line manager; all honored for exceptional service to the electric utility industry and the community.

Hiraki also was honored for achievement in equal employment opportunity. In that category she was joined by Gloria Carter, a public utilities specialist supervisor in Vancouver, for awards that recognizes the promotion of EEO goals and the creation of a diverse group of team members.

Byron Kelly, Harrison McMillan Jr. and Clara Tyson, property management specialists, were honored for contributions to environmental protection and workplace energy savings.



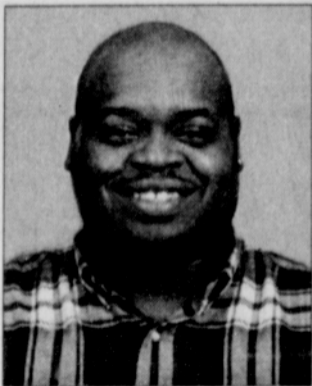
Clara Tyson



Gloria Carter



Ruth Hiraki



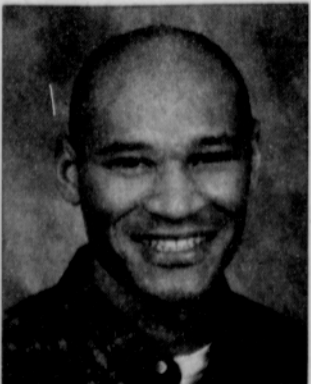
Byron Kelly



Suzanne Cooper



Harrison McMillan Jr.



John Hairston

Drug Abuse Treatment Efforts Supported

County program to help young people in trouble with the law

A \$241,613 grant to improve substance abuse treatment and other services for young people in trouble with the law has been awarded to Multnomah County by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

The foundation's "Reclaiming Futures" grant is one of 11 nationwide, totaling \$2.59 million, to communities who plan new drug abuse treatment options and other services for delinquent youth.

Multnomah County plans to use its share of the money to fund a project called Multnomah Embrace that proposes to serve about 240 young offenders annually with substance abuse problems beginning in 2003.

"The need for Multnomah Embrace is clear," says Joanne Fuller, director of the Multnomah County Department of Community Justice.

"We know that kids who abuse alcohol and drugs are more likely to behave violently, break the law, or end up in court. We also know that alcohol and drug abuse is a major health problem among juvenile of-

fenders in Multnomah County," Fuller said.

An annual study by the National Institute of Justice found that a number of people who had tested positive for drugs quadrupled from 12 percent in 1992 to a record level of 53 percent in 2000.

A 1999 survey of youth on probation in Multnomah County revealed that 34 percent used alcohol or drugs three or more times per week, and 23 percent used them daily.

"Kids in Multnomah County's juvenile justice system with substance abuse problems don't always have the services needed," said Dianne Linn, chair of the Multnomah County Commission. "As a result, many find themselves in trouble with the law again and again."

"This grant will help Multnomah County mitigate the costly cycle of substance abuse and delinquency," says Linn. "We need to invest in the lives of these young people. We are thrilled to have the support of The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to help us accomplish this."