

METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

Community Calendar

River City Celebration

Harbor jet-boat tours, interactive trade exhibits, historical displays, lantern-making workshops, food booths, entertainment and an evening illuminated procession along the city's Eastbank Esplanade await visitors to Portland's "River City Celebration & Illuminata Parade of Light" on Saturday, Sept. 21, from noon - 10:30 p.m. The daylong festival will be at the east end of Portland's Hawthorne Bridge, where S.E. Madison St. meets the Willamette River bank.

Radical Women

Radical Women hosts an evening of thought provoking commentary, poetry and music to celebrate the international resistance of women and workers to the new war order. The meeting is free and open to the public. The event will be on Wednesday, Sept. 11, 7:30 p.m. at the Bread and Roses Center, 819 N. Killingsworth. To arrange childcare, rides, work exchanges or for more information, call 503-240-4462.

Fun for the Whole Family

Area residents are invited to attend the St. Luke Memorial Church of God in Christ's 3rd annual block party in memory of Brenda J. Pearson on Saturday, Aug. 31 at 2700 N.E. Sumner, from 11:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. There will be food, fun, music and games for all ages. An adult must accompany children under 12.

Street of Dreams

The 27th annual NW Natural Street of Dreams will continue to build on its reputation for showcasing uniquely designed homes, unveiling its 2002 houses daily through Monday, Sept. 2, followed by an "encore weekend" Sept. 6, 7 and 8. Each home's design incorporates the latest trends in electronic technology, energy-efficiency, landscaping, consumer products, furnishings and décor. The tour begins in Atherton Heights in Lake Oswego on the corner of Rosemont and Stafford, from 10 a.m. - 10 p.m.

Tomato Fest

Tomato lovers unite to sample 50 varieties of tomatoes, learn the difference between a plum and a pear tomato, discover hybrid and heirloom varieties, and gain instructions on canning and freezing tomatoes. Plus, kids can meet farm animals in the 4H petting zoo. The festival will be at the Portland Farmers Market on Saturday, Sept. 7, at PSU's South Park Blocks, between S.W. Montgomery and Harrison St.

Summer Cycle and Walks

The Portland Office of Transportation is offering neighborhood walking tours. Take a walk around northeast Portland. It will be on Aug. 31, from 9 - 11 a.m. Meeting area will be at the Lloyd Center Nordstrom Plaza at N.E. 9th and Multnomah. Participants will visit Broadway/Weidler and Lloyd neighborhoods and explore several recent transportation/livability projects. Call 503-823-5266 or go online to www.portlandtransportation.org.

Race for the Cure

Safeway and Yoplait yogurt just launched the Safeway Salutes Portland Survivors program, an in-store fundraising effort for breast cancer research. Their goal is to raise \$10,000. From Sept. 1 through race day, Sept. 15, Yoplait and Safeway will donate \$1 for every 10, and \$1.50 for every 15 Yoplait yogurt cups purchased with a Safeway Club Card. The race will be held at Gov. Tom McCall Waterfront Park.

Exploring Careers After High School

PGE summer jobs put local students on career



Jamika Johnson dreams of a career in business after exploring a choice of careers at Portland General Electric.

BY JANET COLWELL

FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Jamika Johnson was certain about one thing when she graduated from high school: She would go to college and have a career. But just how that career path would unfold was a mystery, and the last place she expected to solve it was at a utility company. "At first I was very worried about my career direction," says Johnson, a "summer hire" in Portland General Electric's Federal Affairs division, where she helps maintain legal files connected with major court cases. "But working at PGE gave me a taste of the business world - I was surprised at how many different departments there are at a utility and the extent of PGE's role in the community."

Johnson now dreams of a career in business. After another year at Portland Community College, she plans to transfer to the

University of Nevada at Las Vegas to complete a business degree.

Johnson is one of 57 students working in PGE's Summer Hire Program, which helps attract talented young people to trade and professional careers at the company.

Unlike many traditional internship programs, PGE summer jobs pay competitive wages and place students in real, hands-on positions.

This year, more than half of the students hired were minorities or women, says Joe Hutchins, program director.

A major focus of the program is recruiting minorities and women into non-traditional jobs, such as hydro-maintenance or engineering. That's in keeping with PGE's top-down commitment to creating a diverse workforce - the company has eight employee diversity groups as well as an advisory committee that regularly makes rec-

ommendations to management on policy and enhancing diversity across departments.

Many students spend multiple summers at PGE, gaining valuable experience and defraying college expenses. Some even go on to full-time jobs at the utility.

PGE's School-to-Work Program is another way the company reaches out to minority students, says Hutchins. The program targets six high schools - Jefferson, Benson, Roosevelt, Hillsboro, Woodburn and North Salem.

Hutchins helps students apply for jobs, organizes field trips to PGE facilities, arranges for students to job-shadow PGE employees and links students with employee mentors.

This year, a total of 448 high school and college students vied for 57 summer positions, says Hutchins. It's competitive, but everyone has a shot at a job, he says - the

chief requirements are a willingness to learn and the ability to be a good team player.

Ultimately, the program is a win-win for everyone, he says. PGE builds a pipeline of talented potential employees while students get summer jobs that give them a first-hand look at the utility industry.

"We're willing to give them an opportunity," says Hutchins, "and if they do a great job, there'll likely be another job waiting for them next year."

PGE starts accepting applications for summer positions in mid-March. Applicants must be 18 as of June 1 and undergo a drug test and background check. To apply, download an application from PGE's web site, www.portlandgeneral.com or call the company's human resources department at 503-464-7250 to have an application mailed to you.

Mental Health Group Names Directors

Area centers for mental health strengthen, diversify board

Tualatin Valley Centers, a group of clinics that recently merged with a longtime provider of mental health services for African Americans in Portland, has named four new officers to strengthen and diversify the organization.

Ed Washington and Vernon Baker, longtime leaders in the black community, make up two of the appointments to the group's board of directors, announced Mary Monnat, TVC president and chief executive officer.

Both men served on the board of directors for Center for Community Mental Health, the group that merged with TVC in March.

Baker serves as developmental disabilities manager for Multnomah County. He



Ed Washington (left) and Vernon Baker



is an ordained minister and has 15 years experiences as a trainer and consultant in the fields of social services and education. He is currently writing a book on the "Village Experience and the role of the Afro-American man."

Washington serves in the community relations program at Portland State University where he is adjunct professor. He also serves on the board of directors at Self-Enhancement, Inc., a member of Portland's Urban Forestry Board, is a former Metro Councilor, and is a past president of the Portland chapter of the NAACP.

Also new to the TVC board are Gilberto T. Lusero and Paul Zadoff. Lusero is affiliated with the Latino Network, Oregon Council for Hispanic Advancement, and several graduate and medical schools in Washington and California.

Zadoff has held various positions for Nike. He has 12 years of experience in the non-profit arts world, working with a variety of theatre, opera and ballet companies.

Hands to Span the I-5 Bridge

People in recovery and those who support treatment for drug and alcohol abuse will join hands "across the I-5 Bridge" between Portland and Vancouver on Sunday, Sept. 1, from 7 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.

The event is planned in recognition of National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month.

Oregonians who have overcome substance abuse are also joining leaders from the state's treatment field in a show of support for greater treatment and services during a Friday rally at the Hooper Detoxification Center.

Invited speakers include Mayor Vera Katz, Sen. Margaret Carter, and Rep. Deborah Kafoury.

The rally will include petitions calling on all public officials to increase funding for addictions treatment and support services. Oregon Partnership will be calling for an increase in Oregon's beer and wine tax. The Recovery Association Project, the Addiction Counselor Board of Oregon, the Clark County Alcohol and Drug Program, and the Oregon Partnership support both events.

Extreme Heat Brings Energy Help from Oregon Housing Department

The federal government has awarded Oregon \$1.6 million in emergency funds to help low-income residents pay their energy bills.

The Oregon Housing and Community

Services department distributed the monies to local community action agencies, service programs and partners.

Persons seeking energy assistance can apply through their local community ac-

tion agency.

"Our Congressional delegates have really worked hard to obtain these funds. Though there remains a much greater need for energy assistance funds, these

dollars will be very much in our efforts to assist low-income households deal with energy cost related to extreme heat and cold," said Bob Repine, OHCS director.