



# Giving Back

NBA All Star and Portland native Terrell Brandon meets area kids at the Matt Dishman Community Center on Northeast Knott. Brandon was at the Portland Parks and Recreation facility Thursday to donate \$25,000 to the center. He said he literally grew up at Matt Dishman between 1975 and 1984.

PHOTO BY DAVID PLECHL / THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

## Local Students Win Showcase

Diane Littlejohn and Bobby Bridges of the Youth Opportunity Center on Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, traveled to Los Angeles recently to compete in the YO West Coast Talent Showcase. The event drew over 500 Youth Opportunity students from the West Coast, as well as members of the Ruff Riders record label. Littlejohn and Bridges flew home with top honors. Bridges, 22, won first place for lyrics, and Littlejohn, 20 won third place for vocals. In addition to winning cash and prizes, they have been invited back by the City of Los Angeles to perform at the Anniversary Tribute to Sept. 11. For more information, contact La Shanda E. Hurst, Youth Opportunity Center 503-528-7520



Diane Littlejohn and Bobby Bridges compete in a talent competition in Los Angeles.

## U.S. Attacked, One Year Later

continued ▲ from Front

Still, surviving the event was hard on Meaux. He saw people sucked from windows and bodies strewn like matchsticks. AON Financial lost 203 employees. Meaux lost some very good friends, "some of the most beautiful people I knew," he said. Dee described the impact it had on her son, "All my children are grown, I've never heard them cry, he cried."

Since Sept. 11, Meaux said almost everyone in his office has experienced "episodes of fear." For a while the sound of the planes crossing over his apartment were hard to bear. It was the last noise he heard before the first jet slammed into Tower 1.

Despite the trauma and shock of the event, Meaux returned to work just three weeks later on the 32nd floor of an office in lower Manhattan. He worked diligently up to Jan. 25 when his mother Dee says stress became too great. Meaux couldn't concentrate at work. Like others who experienced the tragedy first

hand, Meaux needed time away. Relief did not come easy. He had tremendous difficulty collecting temporary disability and

*"Tell people how much you love them, focus on the things that are important, the people that are important."*

—Meaux Craig, World Trade Center survivor and former Portland resident

receive all his workers comp checks directly before he returned to full time employment.

Now back at work, Meaux is beginning to heal. He says it is therapeutic to talk about the event that changed his life. His physical symptoms have improved. Life is beginning to return to normal. He is focusing on his emotions and tying it all together.

He now sees the tragedy as a new beginning.

"The whole experience has been an awakening for me," Meaux said recently from his apartment in Brooklyn. "Tell people how much you love them, focus on the things that are important, the people that are important."

Meaux said the whole experience has changed his relationship with his family. "We've gotten closer," he said.

Dee also said she and her husband have reevaluated how they feel about life, their son, and each other.

"That person you love," said Dee, "could be gone in a flash."

## City Considers PGE Takeover

continued ▲ from Front

"This is primarily to place the city at the table, period, end of story," Katz said.

City Commissioner Erik Sten said the city had to act to protect its interest and Portland ratepayers.

"We won't know what our final approach will be until we have some

discussions with creditors directly," Sten said.

"As it says in our resolution, we have the power of condemnation - not that we're going to use it, but we might," Sten said. "I hope it will materially affect discussions on how the company (PGE) will be auctioned off."

Enron said last Tuesday it planned to auction PGE and the rest of its main assets, possibly signaling it has abandoned its alternate plan of reorganizing as a new company tentatively called "OpCo Energy" with PGE, Enron natural gas pipelines and a Brazilian utility as its main assets.



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