

BUSINESS

Cajun Flavor

Staff Members from Tualatin Valley Treatment Center enjoy the culinary delights of Cool Runnings, a new Caribbean and Cajun restaurant. Try a bite at 4110 NE Fremont St.



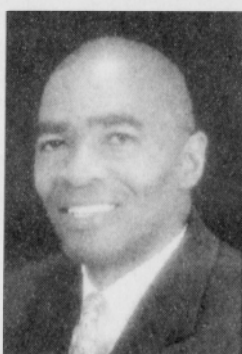
Nonprofit Names New Development Director

Ted Salter's credentials stem from a long background of nonprofit service

HOST Development has appointed Ted Salter as its new development director. Salter is responsible for planning, managing, and implementing all development and fundraising activities for HOST, a

provider of affordable home ownership opportunities in the Portland area. He also supervises HOST's new program, Good Deeds-Sharing the Dream of Homeownership, and reports to the executive director. Salter most recently comes from St. Vincent de Paul staffing services where he consulted with local employers to help solve their staffing issues.

Salter's background includes ra-



Ted Salter

dio advertising sales, entrepreneurship, and 17 years of business sales experience. This work experience has given him a solid understanding of how to build relationships and how to create win/win situations for businesses. New to the home owner-

ship arena, Salter believes in the American dream, and believes that everyone deserves the counseling,

education and assistance to own a home. HOST Development, Inc. is a Portland-based non-profit organization that creates home ownership opportunities to strengthen communities. HOST believes home ownership creates individual, family and community prosperity and vitality, targeting underserved buyers, those earning below median family income, "single heads of households" and people of color. For more information, visit www.hostdevelopment.com.

Constructing Communities



Vernell West of VWESTCO checks the level of a back porch that has begun leaning over time, a common problem in many older homes where porches were converted to living quarters.

Local entrepreneur/businessman, Vernell West, is extending services to include construction and remodeling. For the past 9 years he has run a successful small business consulting firm specializing in minority businesses and workforce diversity for the construction industry. Mr. West, who lives and maintains an office in northeast, says that upon buying and remodeling a house to serve as his office he received numerous inquiries from homeowners regarding repairs and improvements. "I decided if the need is there, why not provide the service," he says. Mr. West and his wife obtained the required construction contractors license and began offering home repair and remodeling services through VWESTCO, INC. The firm is licensed, bonded, insured, and a member of the Better Business Bureau serving Oregon and Southwest Washington.

VWESTCO, established in October 2002, is slowly building its clientele. The company's clients have included in addition to individual homeowners, one property

management firm (Leigh Properties) and PDC (Portland Development Commission). Services to date have included porch remodeling, installation of doors and windows, framing, sheet rocking, bath and kitchen remodeling, painting and fencing. Mr. West says that his company will focus on doing work in areas near his home and office. "I would like the majority of our clients to be the neighbor up the street. We want to earn and keep the trust of clients by providing a good product and service free of any problems."

VWESTCO is endeavoring to not only meet the needs of homeowners, but would like to get enough work on the books to start an employee-training program. Mr. West says that his company can help make a small difference by employing and training interested individuals. "I figure that given our background in construction workforce diversity consulting coupled with the right kinds of projects, we can certainly help prepare someone for beginning a career in construction."

CARCORNER

BY DAVID REEDER

Information Required for a Car Loan

Applying for any financial product is a hassle, car loans included. You can make the whole process easier by applying before you go and you can speed it up even more by having all of your required information with you.

- Most lenders will want about five years of employment and residence information.
- You'll need to be able to verify your income with pay stubs, tax returns, or other legal documentation. Self-employed applicants need the same. If you're applying for a joint loan, you'll need this information from both parties.
- Residence information refers to your housing costs. Lenders simply want to know if you own your home or rent it, and what your

monthly rent or mortgage payments are. A phone or utility bill can be used to verify your address.

■ Personal references with addresses and phone numbers may be required. Usually two to five will be sufficient.

■ Your driver's license and full coverage insurance information will also be required. In addition, you'll need your company's name, address and phone number.

In addition, bad credit auto loans can be a great way for borrowers with a checkered past to improve their credit.

Making timely payments on a credit account is about the single best way to improve your credit.

Bad credit auto loans are best secured on moderately priced used cars. These vehicles deliver the most bang for your buck, and you won't be paying a premium just for credit-repair work.

You can reach David Reeder by e-mail at reederdavid@yahoo.com.

TriMet Internal Auditor Department Restructured

TriMet General Manager Fred Hansen has restructured the agency's Internal Auditor Department to make it independent from other departments and elevated it to report directly to the general manager.

Internal Audit Manager, Devon Pearce of North Portland, will start reporting directly to the general



TriMet Auditor Devon Pearce

manager on July 1. Hansen said the restructuring will ensure appropriate and timely attention is given to the auditor's recommendations for improved efficiency and management excellence.

"The revisions aim at strengthening our commitment to ongoing improvement and sustained management excellence," Hansen said.

"The change ensures recommendations by the internal auditor are fully addressed."

In addition to raising the profile of the auditor's department, TriMet developed more comprehensive procedures for departments to respond to the auditor's recommendations and implement them.

Directory Assistance Changes Rejected

(AP) — The Oregon Public Utility Commission refused to give Qwest Communications the authority to set new prices for directory assistance calls.

The commission decided to retain its regulatory oversight of the service, saying prices would have almost certainly gone up without benefiting customers.

Qwest customers get two in-state directory assistance calls per month for free and then pay 50 cents per call. The commission found that in states where Qwest has been allowed to deregulate directory assistance services, Qwest eliminated the free call allowance and raised the price to \$1.25 per call.

Qwest said the service should be deregulated because the public has alternatives to find phone numbers, such as print and wireless directories and the Internet.

Upgrade for Union Station Coming

Portland has been awarded a \$1 million grant from the Oregon Department of Transportation to make significant improvements at Union Station in downtown Portland.

Union Station has been in continuous service as a passenger rail terminal since its completion in 1896. It plays an important role in

passenger rail service, connecting rail travelers to downtown Portland and to the Tri-met and Greyhound bus systems.

"Even as the area around it undergoes major transition, Union Station will continue to play a key role in our transportation system well into the future. This grant will help us make great strides toward pre-

serving it as the historic facility that it is, maintaining its beauty and reminding us of the progress we've made," said Mayor Vera Katz.

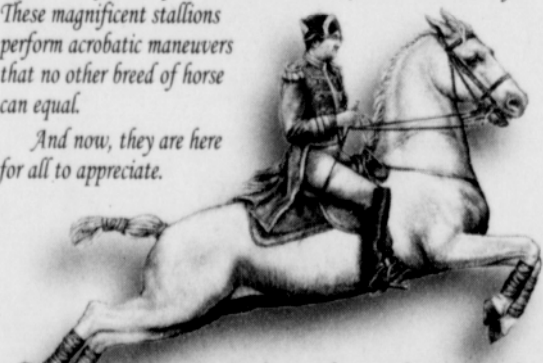
The goal of the project is to stop water infiltration in order to preserve the historic character of the building. The money will go to various tasks throughout the facility.

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