

# METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

## Community Calendar

### Turkey Trot

Get ready for Thanksgiving dinner by joining the Oregon Road Runners Club on a four-mile run/walk through Washington Park and the Oregon Zoo. For more information, call or visit [www.oregonzoo.com](http://www.oregonzoo.com).

### Scholarship Help

The Women's Resource Center is holding a workshop on Scholarship Application ABCs from 3 to 4 p.m. Nov. 17 at PCC's Cascade Campus, 705 N. Killingsworth, Blvd. SSB Rm. 103.

### Home Fair

The African American Homebuyers Fair is from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 8 at the Legacy Emanuel Hospital and Health Center Atrium, 501 N. Graham St. For more information, call 503-285-5555.

### Ultimate Freedom

The 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Portland RV Show will roll through town from noon to 9 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 5 through Sunday, Nov. 9, at the Portland Metro Expo Center, 2060 N. Marine Drive. \$8.

### Samba Class

The World Dance Office presents an 8-week fall samba workshop with live music from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays through Nov. 25. Classes are at the Peter Stott Center, Rm. 207. \$6. For more information, call 503-725-5670.

### Orchid Love

Fall in love with gorgeous orchid blooms at the Fall Orchid Show and Sale from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Nov. 8 and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 9 at the Washington County Fair Complex in Hillsboro. \$3 for both days.

### Body, Mind & Spirit

A Body, Mind & Spirit Expo, the largest health and wellness expo of its kind, is at the Oregon Convention Center, 777 NE MLK Jr. Blvd., from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Nov. 8 and from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Nov. 9. Weekend admission is \$8. For more information, call 541-482-3722.

### Mirror Mirror

A discussion on skin care and body sculpting is the topic for the Providence Women's Wellness Series from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Nov. 12 at Providence Portland Medical Center Amphitheater, 4805 NE Glisan St. For reservations, call 503-574-6595.

### Chimps Gone Wild

Jane Goodall brings enthusiasts closer to nature with "Wild Chimpanzees," through May at the Omnimax Theater, 1945 S.E. Water Ave. Tickets are \$8.50. For more information, visit [www.wildchimpanzees.org](http://www.wildchimpanzees.org).

### Doors of Creativity

Northwest Medical Teams sponsors the multi-media exhibit "Windows of Need, Doors of Hope" from Nov. 12 through 18 at the Doubletree Inn, Lloyd Center. For more information, visit [www.nwmedicalteams.org](http://www.nwmedicalteams.org) or call 503-624-1000.

### Planting Neighborhoods

Friends of Trees announces neighborhood tree plantings beginning with the Rose City Park/Roseway neighborhood on Nov. 15. Those interested in leading volunteers should attend training at 8 a.m. Nov. 15 at St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church, 2727 NE 54<sup>th</sup> Ave. For more information, visit [www.friendsoftrees.org](http://www.friendsoftrees.org).



## Plantings to Make Interstate Max Route GREEN

Giant Sequoias are first of thousands of trees, shrubs due

TriMet kicked off a community tree planting event Thursday with four Giant Sequoias planted in Paul Bunyan Plaza in the Kenton neighborhood of north Portland. It's the first of 8,300 trees and shrubs that will be planted along the Interstate MAX line over the next six months.

The transportation agency picked trees and shrubs that will survive in an urban environment, using less water, fertilizers and pesticides. The four 20-foot tall Giant Sequoias each weighed about 900 pounds. The trees and shrubs are helping to make Interstate MAX one of the "greenest" projects in the nation, officials said.

More than 1,300 trees will be planted, including some northwest native species, such as Big Leaf Maple, Oregon Ash and Red Alder. More than 7,000 shrubs will be planted from among 16 different species, including common Snowberry, Evergreen Huckleberry, Salmonberry and Red Elderberry.

TriMet also announced that the Paul Bunyan statue, built over 40 years ago, will get a makeover. The 37-foot tall icon was scuffed up a bit when it was moved during Interstate MAX construction. It will get a new set of "clothes" painted on over the next 6 months.

The 5.8-mile Interstate MAX line from the Rose Quarter to the Expo Center is 85 percent complete and is scheduled to open May 1.

Students from Kenton Elementary join other area residents for the planting of a Giant Sequoia at the Paul Bunyan Plaza along the Interstate MAX line. Over the next six months, 8,300 trees and shrubs will be planted along the new light rail route from the Rose Quarter to the Expo Center.

## Meeting Teen Needs

Youth employment agency promotes better futures

BY JAYMEE R. CUTI  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

With Oregon's unemployment rate soaring above national averages, Portland's teens find themselves with few options for earning a livable wage. While many teens are supported by their parents, some are parents themselves and need to support a family.

The Youth Employment Institute in northeast Portland has been serving teens for 18 years, helping them with job training and getting the general education diplomas that have been standing in their way from joining the professional marketplace.

YEI is a nonprofit agency supported by Portland Public Schools, that teaches classes for general equivalency diploma exams, coaches teens on getting into college, walks

them through school and work applications, conducts mock interviews, instructs them on resumes writing and computer skills and offers special programs such as parenting and life skills classes.

"Teen parents have extra needs before they can commit to an education program, like securing stable housing and maybe rent vouchers, getting food stamps and learning parenting skills," said Dena Wilson, YEI's program assistant.

A case manager from the Adult and Family Services is on-site twice a week to connect teens to the programs they need, including mental health or drug and alcohol services. The institute offers unique programs suited for teen parents, including the only on-site childcare facility in the Portland Public School district.

"At-risk youth might have an apprehension to leaving their children in a childcare facility because of some of their experiences," said Wilson. "Here, they can look in on their children any time they want, get feedback on any developmental milestones reached and

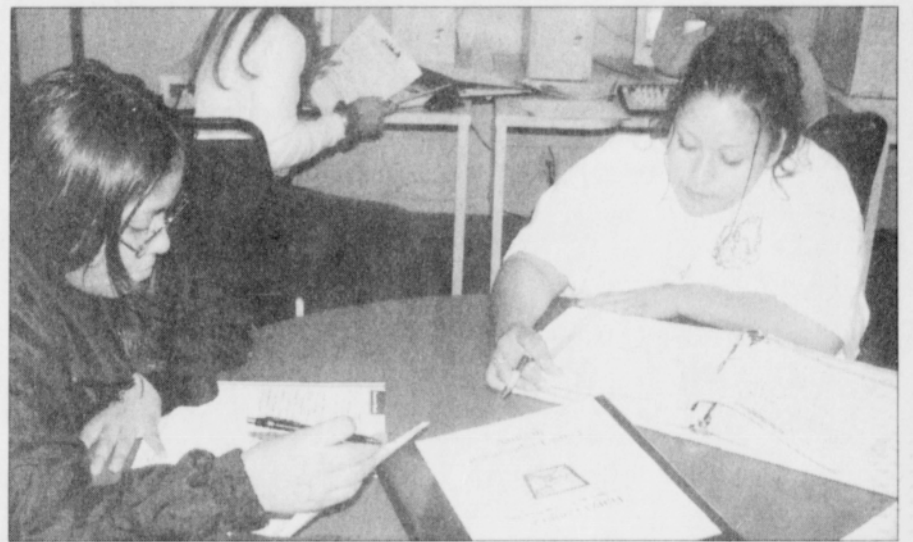


PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The Youth Employment Institute serves students such as Tonya (left) and Nicki, giving them education and employment training.

encouragement in keeping teens parent involved in the development of their children."

The institute pairs teens with case managers to ignite a life-long love of learning and to promote self-sufficiency.

"When a youth comes into our programs, they're hooked up with an adult to develop their goals and we get them on the right path

to meet those goals," said Wilson.

In the last year, 75 program participants have received GEDs. 425 youth were assisted in job placement, 300 youth participated in the Summer Start subsidized work experience program and new programs were developed to address the needs of youth offenders and teen parents.

## Dream Comes True at PCC Cascade

Beginnings of a premier urban campus take shape

BY MICHAEL LEIGHTON  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The realization of a dream is being celebrated at Portland Community College's Cascade Campus serving north and northeast Portland.

College officials and community leaders gathered last week to commemorate the completion of the first of several new buildings that will turn the school into a modern and comprehensive urban center of learning.

"A dream deferred, a dream realized," is the way former campus executive dean Mildred Ollee described the total \$54 million due in new investments at Cascade over the next two years.

An African-American leader, Ollee won big plati-

tudes by both college official and community leaders for her tireless effort to make Cascade a premier urban campus that will serve the diverse populations where it is located.

"It was Mildred's dream, Mildred's vision," said Nan Poppe, Cascade's current interim dean. Ollee left the campus in August to assume the job of president of Seattle Central Community College.

Thursday's opening of an expanded Jackson Hall brings needed new science laboratories and classrooms for math and science to the campus.

"With the right cooks you can make a wonderful dish. This is it," Ollee said, describing the state of the art building.

Up next is the completion of a new physical education building across North Killingsworth adjacent to Jefferson High School. Site preparation for a new technology education building is also underway.

A second phase of construction will include a new

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PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEIGHTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER  
Former Cascade Executive Dean Mildred Ollee (left) and Cascade Interim President Nan Poppe celebrate the opening of a new addition to Jackson Hall, the first in a line of new buildings slated to make the north Portland campus a comprehensive urban college.