

METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

Community Calendar

Volunteer Training

Train to be a Providence Hospice volunteer to help those facing terminal illness, from 9:30 a.m. to noon Tuesdays and Thursdays through March. 2. To register, call 503-574-9498.

Especially For Lovers

A Valentine's Day love poem reading by Bonny P. Lee is at Reflections Coffee Shop, 446 N.E. Killingsworth St., at 6 p.m. Friday, Feb. 6.

Control Rage

Learn to control your anger in positive ways in Kaiser Permanente's Dealing with Anger class from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesdays through March 24 at Kaiser Permanente's Town Hall, 3704 N. Interstate Ave. Cost is \$140. To register, call 503-286-6816.

Work For Change

Community Advocates invites those interested in protecting children from abuse to become an event volunteer, event outreach, technology expert, graphic artist or office support team member. For more information, call 503-280-1388.

Uptown Readers

Barnes and Noble hosts a reading of "Black Renaissance Harlem: Uptown" at 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 28 at 1317 Lloyd Center.

Fish Advisory

Students of the Mount Hood Community College Fisheries Technology program are about to release 200 large rainbow trout into the MHCC pond. If you catch a fish that is tagged with a fluorescent numbered tag, the students want you to provide them with information about the length and weight of the fish. Tags and information can be returned to the Horticulture/Fisheries building, Room HF13 or mailed to Todd Hanna, Fisheries Instructor, Science Division, Mt. Hood Community College, 26000 SE Stark St., Gresham, OR 97030

Chinese New Year Growing

Bring a part of the Portland Classical Garden to your landscape at a Chinese New Year plant sale through Feb. 7 with special Year of the Monkey celebrations are on weekends. The garden is at Northwest Third Avenue and Everett Street. For more information, call 503-228-8131 or visit www.portlandchinesegarden.org.

Be Heart Healthy

The YWCA of Clark County hosts a Heart Health forum on reducing risk from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 4 in the Community Room, 3609 Main Street. For more information, call 503-696-0167.

Radial Curious?

Radical Women is holding a general meeting for those wanting to learn more about the organization at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 11 at the Bread and Roses Center, 819 N. Killingsworth. For more information, call 503-240-4462.

OWLS Hoot for Healthcare

The Portland Chapter of the Older Women's League invites interested women to a discussion about the future of health care for seniors from 9:45 a.m. to noon Feb. 14 at the Portland Impact Center, 4707 S.E. Hawthorne. For more information, call 503-721-0848.



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Portland Community College has opened a new Southeast Center at 82nd Avenue and Division Street, serving 11,500 students.

PCC Southeast Center Opens

New campus adds educational opportunities

One more option for higher education opened up with Portland Community College's new Southeast Center, at 2305 S.E. 82nd Ave. at Division Street.

PCC transformed a site that contained a vacant builders supply store and supermarket to create the new facility. Funds to build the new site came from a \$144 million bond measure that voters approved in

November 2000 for college construction, repairs and technology upgrades. The new center costs \$26.3 million, which includes purchase of the land, construction, permits, furniture and equipment.

The new location replaces a college facility that was several blocks to the south, giving students the ability to compete the first year of a transfer degree.

The courses will range from art, history and writing to math, business administration, economics and general science. Several of the classrooms hold brand new flat-screened computers. Students will also be able to study several professional-technical training programs, such as computer applications

and office systems, management and supervisory development, and industrial occupations.

The center also houses the college's alternative high school program and English as a second language, plus a variety of non-credit courses through Community Education.

A special benefit is the addition of expanded art facilities, with the construction of dance, painting and ceramics studios, and a photography darkroom. A fitness center is also located on the campus.

The headquarters for the college's Extended

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PCC Meets Diversity Goals

College serves more women and minorities

Women and minorities are represented in Portland Community College's student population proportionately in greater numbers than the metro area as a

whole, according to a report gauging the school's effectiveness serving the community.

Women now compose 56.8 percent of PCC students and 26.6 percent of the PCC student body are minorities.

The institutional effectiveness report, released in January, summarized data on college goals and student outcomes as established by the Board of Directors in 2001. The study was conducted by the Institutional Research Department at PCC.

Other notable achievements of the college include increased retention among degree-seeking students, a continued strive to keep tuition and fees affordable,

access to financial aid, and transfer students' ability to perform as well as or better than other state community college students in the Oregon University system.

"These indicators help the college look at its progress toward institutional goals and are part of our overall assessment plan," said Susan Bach, PCC Institutional Research director. "Most of the indicators focus on student outcomes such as what happens to students as a result of their educational experiences here. The results are used for the continuous improvement of college programs and services."

School Report Cards Improve

But many local high schools still struggle

Some of the same schools that received "Fs" in federal government report cards are getting "As" in report cards issued by the State Department of Education.

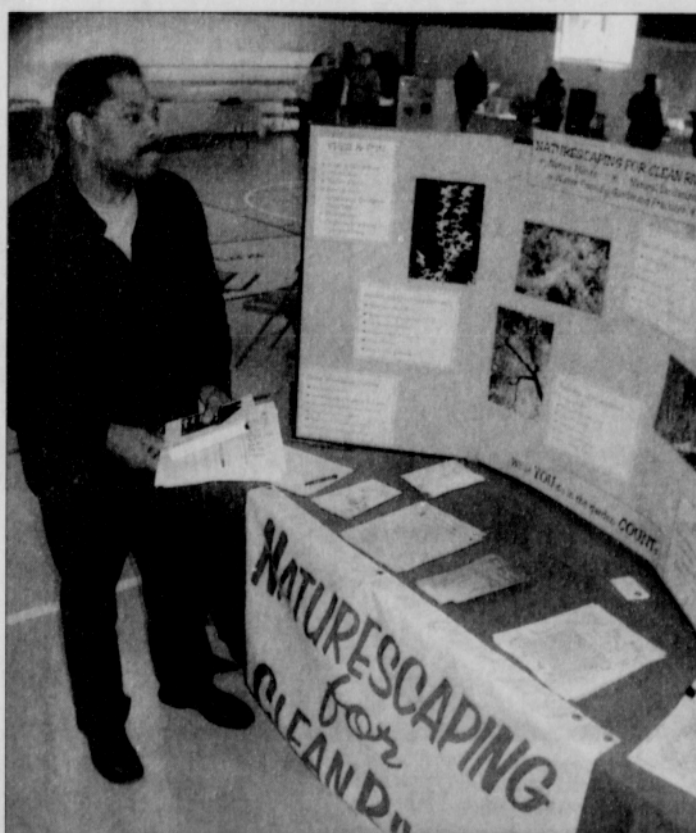
With the federal evaluation, a single low-performing group, such as non-English speakers, can bring down the rating for the entire school, whereas the state looks at the school overall, education leaders said.

In the Portland School District, 16 schools were rated "exceptional," 34 earned a "strong" rating, and 36 received a "satisfactory" rating. Five schools rated "low" were Franklin,

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Resolutions Northwest volunteer Marcus Branch collects pamphlets from the Naturescaping display at the Fix-It-Fair at the Blazers Boys and Girls Club on Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard.

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER



Fix-It-Fair Puts Focus on Homes

Area homeowners seeking help with improvements to their homes and gardens were drawn to a recent Fix-It-Fair at the Blazers Boys and Girls Club in northeast Portland.

Fair visitors learned a variety of new skills, including money-saving ways to conserve resources, save on energy costs, prevent lead-poisoning and manage debt.

Fair sponsors included the city of Portland, public utilities and the Community Energy Project on Northeast Alberta Street. For information about continuing workshops on weatherization and other home resources, call the Energy Project at 503-284-6827.