



Associate Trainer Max Murphy works with Demetria Ford, a graduate of an apprenticeship training program, with a hands-on lesson.

Training for a Livable Wage

Housing Authority sponsors minority apprenticeships

The Housing Authority of Portland pledges to not only help residents of public housing, but also to improve the local community.

Making good on its word, a trade apprenticeship program prepares a diverse pool of minorities and women for careers with the Associated General Contractors, giving participants a direct pipeline to open shop apprenticeships.

The demand is great for women and minorities in the construction field, according to Housing Authority specialists.

"Trade in this area is historically a white male profession. It's a non-traditional trade for ethnic minorities and women," said Michael Burch, coordinator for Evening Trades Apprenticeship Program.

The program allows the Housing Authority to connect program graduates with contracts on the New Columbia project and other local construction jobs.

"Ultimately, we believe this will expand our diverse pool of job-ready apprentices," said Steve Rudman, executive director of the Housing Authority.

Rudman's aspirations for a diverse workforce on the New Columbia project keeps with the City of Portland's Workforce Hiring and Training Program. To bring more workforce diversity to public projects, the program requires that 20 percent of all labor hours in trades that have apprentices be worked by apprentices from state-registered apprenticeship programs.

The apprenticeship opportunity also has great benefits to its graduates.

"Anyone who is successful in this program, upon graduating, is given an opportunity to enter into carpentry, which is a career, not a job. It has great benefits, a great retirement plan and good, living wages. It's an opportunity to

change the course of your life," Burch said.

Part of the success of the program lies with the hands-on training, in addition to classroom lessons on life skills and financial planning.

The current group of participants is working on the restoration of the American Heritage Museum in southeast Portland.

"It was something that needed to get done, and we found an opportunity to get some hands on experience there," Burch said of the 100-year-old building.

The apprenticeship program is available to public housing residents and was recently expanded to low-income residents throughout north and northeast Portland. More than 80 percent of the program's 85 graduates since 1998 have been minorities and women. In the current class, 20 or 31 participants are not public housing residents.



Pygmy goats and polar bears will be featured in tropical paradise-themed events during Spring Break, March 21-28 at the Oregon Zoo.

Zoo Goes Wild for Spring Break

Can't take a trip to Fort Lauderdale, Palm Springs or Hawaii for spring break? Why not "go wild" with pygmy goats or party with a pachyderm or polar bear. It's all happening at the zoo during the first annual Zoo's Gone Wild celebration, March 21-28.

The zoo animals will enjoy tropical-themed enrichment activities and treats several times throughout each

day, such as polar bears breaking open ice treats, meerkats digging bugs out of coconut shells and orangutans trying on Hawaiian shirts.

The zoo is internationally renowned for its environmental enrichment programs. Enrichment is designed to mentally stimulate animals by changing their environment. The activities also challenge animals with complex tasks that

require problem solving.

The zoo opens at 9 a.m. daily and is located five minutes from downtown Portland, just off Highway 26. The zoo is also accessible by MAX light rail line. General admission is \$9, with seniors \$7.50 and children \$6; kids under 3 are free. Additional information is available on the zoo's Web site at www.oregonzoo.org or by calling 503-226-1561.

Madrid Bombings Linked to Extremists

Leaders debate root cause of violence

(AP) - Police in Madrid, Spain have identified five new Moroccan suspects in the city's train bombings, a newspaper reported Tuesday, and the death toll rose to 201.

A French investigator, meanwhile, said he had found a direct link between prime suspect Jamal Zougam and the spiritual leader of a clandestine extremist group believed involved in last May's deadly attacks in Casablanca, Mo-



Hundreds of thousands of people fill Cibeles Square in Madrid on Friday during a demonstration to protest train bombings in the Spanish capital. (AP photo)

rocco.

Police believe the five new Moroccan suspects took part in the bombings, the newspaper El Pais reported, without identifying them by name.

Since the attacks, investigators have focused on Zougam, a Moroccan immigrant who was arrested Saturday with two other Moroccans and two Indians.

Incoming Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero, who was swept into power during elections Sunday, three days after the Madrid attacks, harshly criticized the Iraq war, which was supported by his predecessor, Jose Maria Aznar.

EXTRAVAGANZA

New Zion Revival Full Gospel Church

Pastor-Willie X Hurst

Multi-Cultural Fashion Show & Dinner

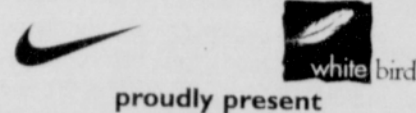


North Star Ballroom
635 N. Killingworth Ct.
Portland, Oregon 97217
March 27, 2004
5:00 pm - until 9:00 pm
(Dinner at 6:00 pm)

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parents to the AIDS crisis—
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Special
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