

METRO

The Portland Observer



Neville Brothers
Big Easy sound coming to
Chinook Winds
See Focus, page B3

SECTION B

Community Calendar

Coffee Talk

City Commissioner Jim Francesconi will talk about hit support for minority, women and emerging small businesses at OAME Cascade's "Coffee and Issues" forum from 7 to 8:30 a.m. March 26 at 4134 N. Vancouver Ave. For more information, call 503-249-7744. Bert Kile, interim director of Red Cross will also talk about disaster preparation.

Valuable Discussion

A talk about Values, Cultures and Conflict is at 6 p.m. April 6 at WomanTree Resource Center, 2641 N.E. Alberta St. Tickets, ranging from \$1 to \$5, are on a sliding scale. For more information, visit www.womantree.org.

Benefit Laughter

ComedySportz hosts a benefit show for the Portland Tillamook Cooperative Preschool at 5 p.m. Saturday, April 17 at 1963 N.W. Kearney Street. Tickets are \$10. For more information, call 503-236-8888.

Bunny Love

The Oregon Human Society is open Easter Sunday, April 11, for Easter bunny adoptions from and a lesson on how bunnies make great pets. The Easter Bunny will be there from 1 to 4 p.m. For more information, call 503-285-7722 or visit www.oregonhumanes.org.

Wellness Workshops

New Seasons Market offers a workshop called Allergies: Nothing to Sneeze At, from 7 to 9 p.m. Monday, March 29 at the Concordia store, 5320 N.E. 33 Ave. To register, call 503-288-3838.

Hospice Training

Kaiser Permanente is offering free training to adults interested in providing physical and emotional support to terminally ill patients. The trainings are on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6 to 9:30 p.m., from April 27 through May 13. For more information, call 503-499-5285.

Bloomfest

Easter Seals Oregon announces BloomFest from April 6-10, asking volunteers to coordinate and sell fresh-cut tulip bunches for \$5. For more information, call 503-228-5108 ext. 317.

Heart Walk

Raise funds and save lives with a 5K/1K Heart Walk beginning at 8 a.m. Saturday, May 22 at the Eastbank Esplanade, Main Street Festival Plaza. To register, call 503-233-0100 or visit www.walk.americanheart.org.

Interest in Adoption?

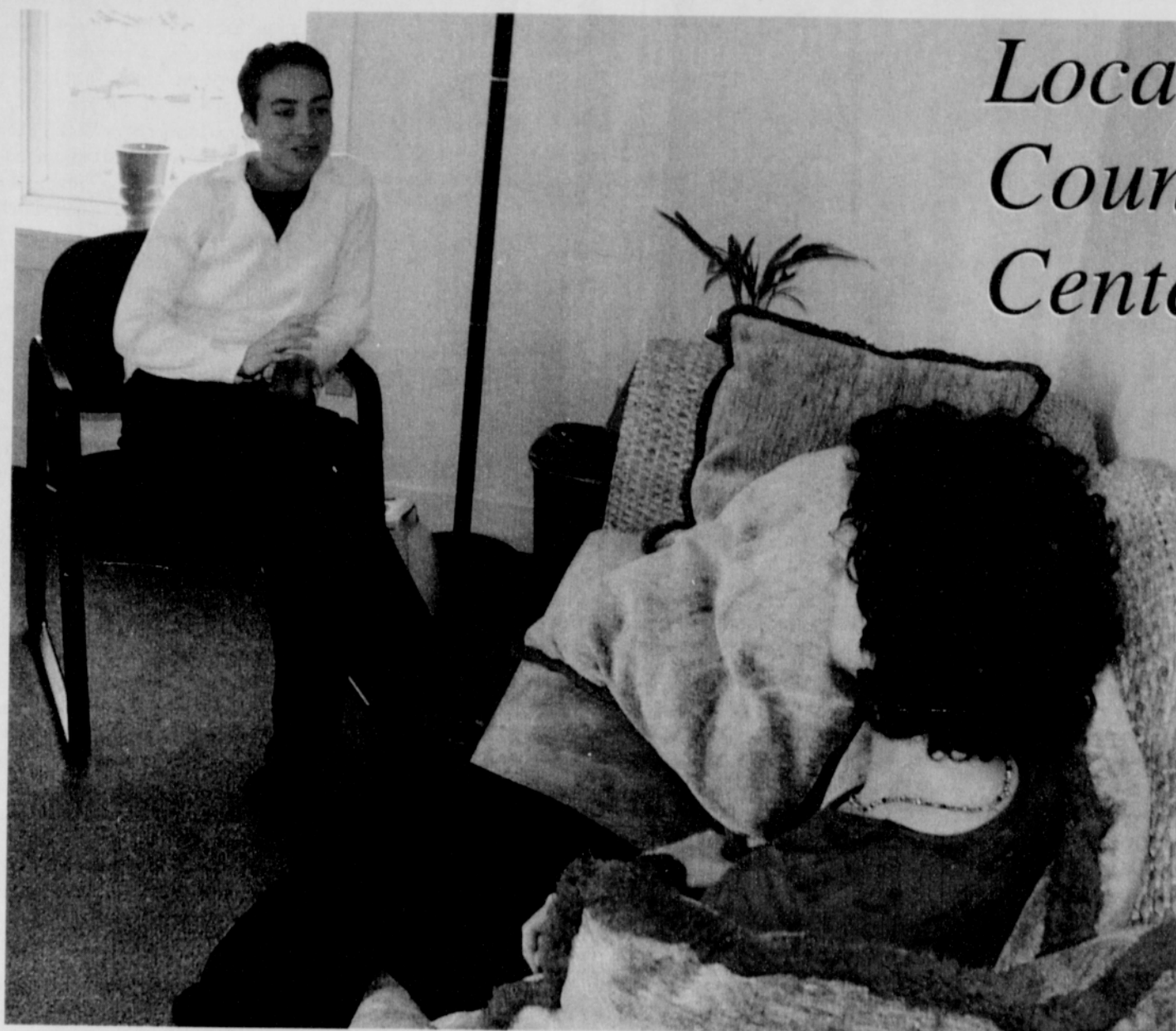
A free information meeting for prospective adoptive parents held the third Wednesday of every month from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Belmont Public Library, 1038 S.E. 39th Ave. For more information, call 503-226-4870 or visit www.openadopt.com.

Reunion Watch

Former students and faculty of Girls Polytechnic, James Monroe and Washington-Monroe high schools have the 66th annual all-school dinner at 5 p.m. Monday, April 12 at Our Lady of Sorrows School, 5239 S.E. Woodstock Blvd. Tickets are \$15. For more information, call 503-236-6557.

Stick Up for Seniors

Elders in Action is sticking up for seniors with a Web Evaluator Training from 9:30 a.m. to noon on Wednesday, March 31 at the PCC Southeast Center, 2305 S.E. 82 Ave., Room 119 and an Ombudsman Training from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. March 29 through April 1. For more information, call 503-823-5269 or visit www.eldersaction.org.



Dr. Adrienne Wolmark (right), director of the new YWCA Counseling Center on Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., talks with intern Amy Carroll.

Local YWCA Counseling Center Opens

The YWCA of Greater Portland is expanding its reach by opening the YWCA Counseling Center on Northeast Martin Luther King Boulevard at Russell Street.

The site will complement existing programs and services offered at the YWCA facility downtown, with a new convenient and welcoming location in the northeast community.

The YWCA first established counseling services in the early '70s. Today, the services include guidance and support to individuals and families seeking couple counseling, anger management, child and sexual abuse survivor help and transgender counseling and group support.

For more information, call 503-294-7400.

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER



Jocelyn Guiltor leaves the Multicultural Senior Center with his tax returns thanks to Danh and Kimhong Nguyen, husband and wife Tax-Aide volunteers.

FREE Tax Help Offered

Tax return services available at local sites

Volunteers are now offering free tax return preparation for seniors and people with lower incomes at several sites, including the Multicultural Senior Center, the Matt Dishman Community Center and the Miracles Club in northeast Portland.

The effort is part of the Tax-Aide program, sponsored by the Internal Revenue Service, the Oregon Department of Revenue and AARP.

Most Tax-Aide sites provide service on Saturdays with some locations offering weekday service and by appointment. The Multicultural Senior Center, 5325 N.E. Martin Luther King, Jr. has Tax-Aide volunteers available each Monday

morning and Saturdays. The exact times for all locations in the Portland area are available by calling AARP Tax-Aide at 888-227-7669 or 800-829-1040.

"The Tax-Aide program reaches out to seniors and to people with low-to-moder-

The Tax-Aide program reaches out to seniors and to people with low-to-moderate incomes who could use some help preparing their tax returns.

—Shawn George, IRS spokesperson

ate incomes who could use some help preparing their tax returns," said Shawn George, IRS spokesperson. "Our volunteers are the heart of this program. Many have been volunteering for years."

The volunteers are trained by the IRS,

Oregon Department of Revenue, and AARP. They prepare basic Form 1040 tax returns, including Schedule A for itemized deductions, claims for the Earned Income Tax and other tax credits, and the comparable state tax forms

for seniors, the disabled, and people with lower incomes or limited English proficiency. Volunteers do not prepare complex or business returns.

continued ▼ on page B8

Diversity Summit Looks to New Frontiers



Mark Williams



Jehan Sadat



Judy Shepard

Three respected authorities on human rights and strengthening understanding between diverse viewpoints are keynote speakers for a Portland conference on diversity.

New Frontiers in Diversity: Diversity Summit, presented by Portland General Electric, will be held, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday, April 28 at the Oregon Convention Center.

The featured speakers include Jehan Sadat, the widow of the late Egyptian president Anwar Sadat; Judy Shepard, the mother of anti-gay hate crime victim Matthew Shepard; and Mark Williams of Thought 21, a consulting and technology firm that helps solve human interaction programs.

The Diversity Summit is designed for people interested in learning about fostering workplace diversity, including business owners and managers, human resources personnel and community leaders.

Registration information is available on the Internet at PortlandGeneral.com/DiversitySummit.