

# BUSINESS



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Reggie Brown (right) greets a former employee at Reggie's Barber Shop on Martin Luther King Boulevard.

## Old School Barbershop African-American business, boon to community

Clients tend to notice Reggie's Barbershop on Martin Luther King Boulevard, between Cook and Fargo streets, by its colorful mural of the owner and his son.

Reggie Brown, owner and barber, says that while his shop has only been open since September of 2003, they have the clientele of a much more established shop.

Reggie and his team of barbers, Tarrance Atkins, Herman Owens and Jamaal Lane, cut all hair types and use classic and modern straight razor techniques for shaves and eyebrow styling.

Brown says his customers enjoy the original barbershop atmosphere without the smell and buzz of chemicals and treatments of beauty salons.

Reggie's Barbershop, 3213 N.E. Martin Luther King Blvd., is open from Tuesdays through Saturdays and accepts appointments and walk-ins. For more information, call 503-280-0222.

## Meeting for Small Business Success

Small businesses are in the spotlight with the region's largest trade show for minority- and women-owned small businesses.

The Oregon Association of Minority Entrepreneurs presents the 16th annual Entrepreneurship Luncheon and Trade Show on May 6 at the Oregon Convention Cen-

ter. Mayor Vera Katz is the keynote speaker at the show, which is hosting more than 150 businesses and government agencies.

A workshop on "Insure Your



Business Future!" is from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

"The OAME Trade Show is a personal, face-to-face forum to make sales, network and obtain resources among businesses large and small, new

entrepreneurs, business development and coaching resources," said Sam Brooks, OAME found and president.

Trade show admission is free and exhibitor booth space is still available. For more information, visit [www.oame.org](http://www.oame.org) or call 503-249-7744.

## Year-Round Jobs Lead to Higher Earnings

### Income varies greatly by labor industry

A recent analysis of Oregon's labor market recently revealed that seasonal and part-time workers are earning less than full-time year-round workers.

The report is available on-line in the "What's New" section of [www.QualityInfo.org](http://www.QualityInfo.org). The study found that the degree of labor force attachment, and consequently earnings, also varies by industry. The study suggests that regardless of

the industry, a full-time, year-round employment is key to obtaining a higher-wage job.

According to the study, two-thirds of Oregon's workforce earned wages in all four quarters of 2002. Of these 1.3 million workers, less than one-third were employed an average of 35 hours or more per week in all four quarters. Twenty-one percent of all workers were employed full time, year-round.

For all workers employed in Oregon at some time during 2002, the average annual wage was \$26,250. For those working all four quarters, the average wage was nearly \$36,000. For those working full time (an aver-

age of 35 hours or more per week) all four quarters, average wages were nearly \$50,000.

Hourly wages also vary by degree of labor force attachment. For all jobs, the average hourly wage in 2002 was \$17.56. For those employed all four quarters, the average hourly wage was nearly \$21 and for those employed full time in all four quarters, the average wage was a little more than \$22 per hour.

Nearly two-thirds of all jobs in manufacturing lasted all four quarters compared with less than one-in-three in the natural resources and mining industry. Manufacturing also had the largest fraction

of full time, year-round jobs at about 30 percent. While 38 percent of all jobs in the leisure and hospitality industry lasted all four quarters, only six percent worked full time, year-round.

For those working full time, year-round, average annual wages varied from a high of close to \$60,000 in the information industry to a low of a little more than \$32,000 in leisure and hospitality. For the latter, the average annual wage of those working full time, year-round was nearly double the average for all those working year-round, but not necessarily full time.

## Diversity Highlighted at Business Forum

The Oregon Economic and Business Forum, with a focus on diversity, is on May 4 and 5 at the Oregon Convention Center.

Business executives and gov-

ernment leaders will interact with top companies from technology, healthcare, financial services, manufacturing, professional services and nonprofit. Exhibitors will come face

to face with government and corporate decision makers on a massive scale with thousands of business leaders expected to attend the forum.

A highlighted event at the conference is a lecture called, The Minority Diversity Conference, Opportunities for a Growing Market on Tuesday, May 4 at 1:30 p.m.

## Help for Homebuyers

### Record low rates benefit local buyers

The Oregon Housing and Community Services announced some good news for homebuyers.

The organization increased the county purchase price and household income limits for its Residential Loan program. The state-sponsored home loan program, also known as the Oregon Bond Loan program, is offering qualified homebuyers a record low interest rate of 4.5 percent for a thirty year fixed rate loan.

"More homes and households than ever before qualify for our program's record low rate putting home ownership within reach for more low and moderate income households," said Bob Repine, director of the Oregon Housing and Community Services.

The Residential Loan program helps eligible homebuyers increase their purchasing power by offering below-market interest rates and closing cost assistance when financing a home purchase.

To qualify, the price of the home must be below the program's appli-

cable purchase price limits. Recently, the program's existing home purchase price limits were increased dramatically in every county. The increases were made possible by new limits published by the Internal Revenue Service. The IRS also simplified the purchase price limits by no longer

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requiring separate limits for newly constructed and existing homes.

New maximum income limits were also adopted by the housing organization. In Multnomah county, as well as other surrounding counties, the household income limit increased by \$2,100 to a new maximum of \$67,900.

## Liquor Licenses Expire

Approximately half of all liquor licenses in the city of Portland are up for expiration on July 1. For businesses South of Burnside, owners are asked to review licenses. As a part of the renewal process, the City of Portland reviews current licensees to make a recommendation to the Oregon Liquor Control Commission (OLCC). The role of neighbors, Neighborhood Associations and Business Associations is very important in the licensing process.

The annual renewal provides an opportunity for neighborhoods and community members to identify problem locations before the City makes its recommendation to the OLCC.

If there are concerns regarding any liquor location but neighbors do not wish to formally oppose the outlet's renewal, this is the time to bring the issues to the City's attention. Letters of opposition should be mailed to Liquor License Program, 1900 S.W. 4th Ave., #40, Liquor Renewal, Portland, OR 97201 or fax to 503-823-7961.



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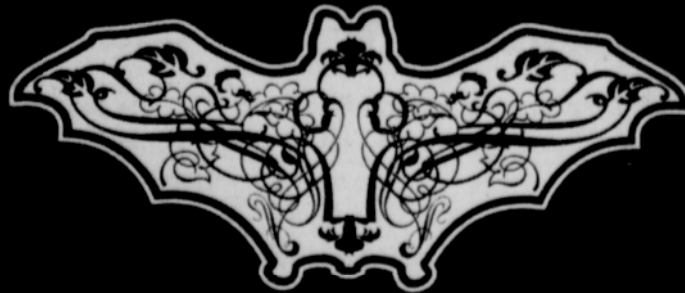
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