

# METRO

The Portland Observer

## Shaq Wants Out

Trade to Blazers doubtful

See story, Sports page B2



SECTION B

### Community Calendar

#### Good in the Neighborhood

The 12<sup>th</sup> annual Good in the Neighborhood multicultural music and food festival is Saturday and Sunday, June 26 and 27 at King School Park on Northeast Seventh Avenue just south of Alberta Street.

#### Leisure Hour

The Leisure Hour Junior Golf Program holds picture day and sponsor appreciation day with a thank you barbecue from 3 to 7 p.m. on Sunday, June 27 at the Mayfield's House, 9216 N.E. 25<sup>th</sup> Ave., Vancouver, Wash. RSVP to Debbie Scott at 503-936-8568.

#### Fireworks at Blue Lake

Pack a picnic lunch and loved ones for a Fourth of July celebration of music and fireworks at Blue Lake Regional Park, between Northeast Marine Drive and Sandy Boulevard off 207th Avenue. Live music begins at 4 p.m. and continues through 10 p.m. Parking is \$7 per vehicle.

#### Arts Scholarship Extended

The African American Visual Arts Scholarship at Portland State University application deadline has been extended to July 31. The committee is seeking young African-American artists and offering to pay \$3,000 per year. For information, call 503-725-3397 or 503-725-5560.

#### Wellness Within Reach

The African American Health Coalition announces several classes throughout the month of June at Matt Dishman Community Center, Columbia Pool, and Salvation Army. The activities include Walk to Run, Chicago Step and Water Exercise. For more information, visit [www.aahc-portland.org](http://www.aahc-portland.org).

#### Birth Ready

Whether you need childbirth preparation classes, or just a refresher, Providence Health Systems has a workshop for you. Prepare for pain, take a weekend seminar or prepare big sisters and brothers-to-be throughout the summer by visiting [www.providence.org/classes](http://www.providence.org/classes) or call 503-574-6595.

#### Canine 101

The Oregon Humane Society explains problem pooches at Canine 101 classes on Saturday, July 17 at 11 a.m. A \$10 donation is suggested. For more information, call 503-285-7722 or visit [www.oregonhumane.org](http://www.oregonhumane.org).

#### Women Speak

Women have a voice at Women in NAACP, a new women's group, meeting from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. the first Saturday of each month at the American Red Cross Building, 3131 N. Vancouver. For questions, call 503-249-6263.

#### Interest in Adoption?

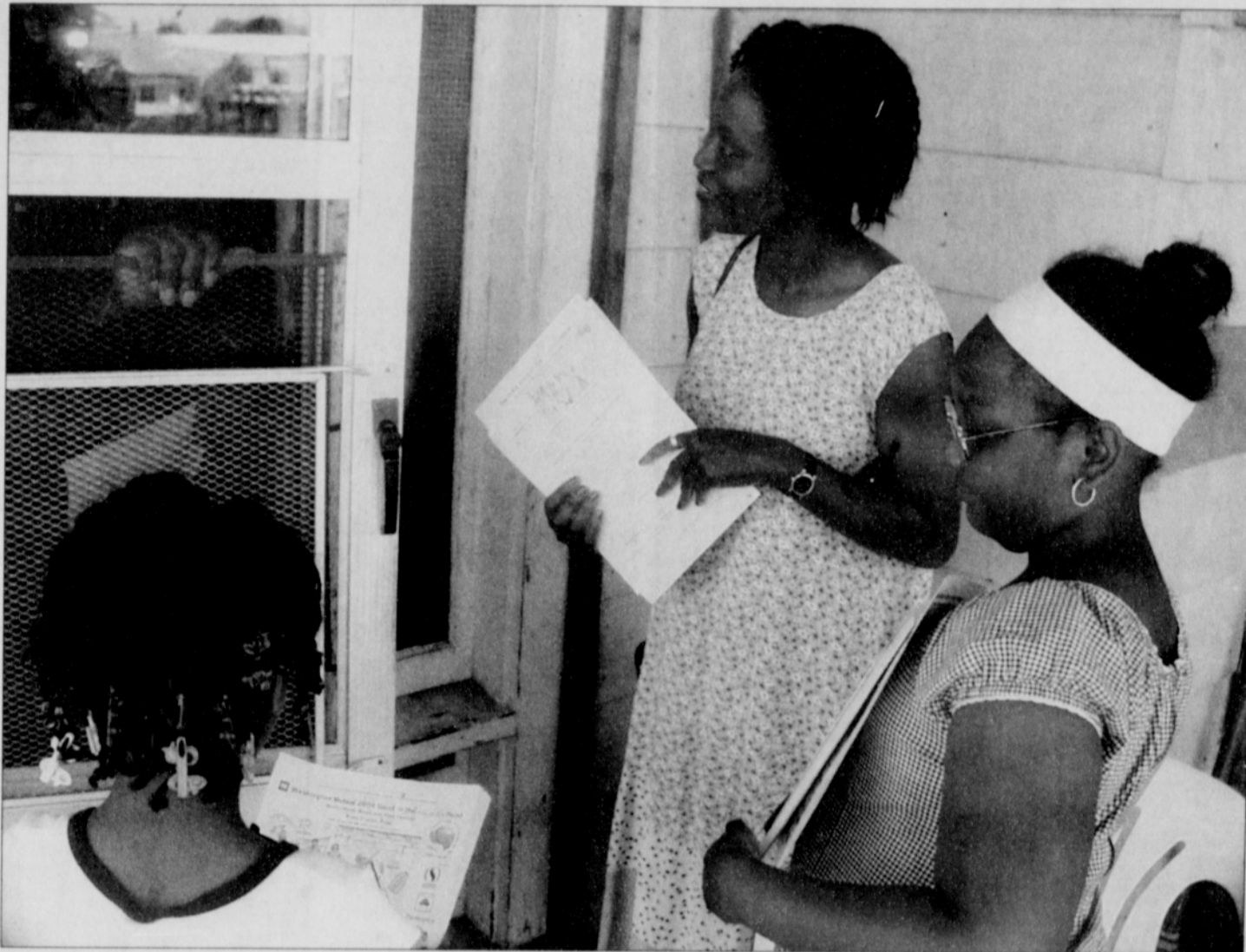
A free information meeting for prospective adoptive parents is held the third Wednesday of every month from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Belmont Public Library, 1038 S.E. 39<sup>th</sup> Ave. For more information, call 503-226-4870 or visit [www.openadopt.com](http://www.openadopt.com).

#### A Healing Song

Sankofaa Health Institute offers a free diabetes support group from 6 to 7:30 p.m. every third Thursday at Alberta Simmons Plaza, 6707 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. For more information, call 503-285-2484.

#### Work For Change

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



## SPREADING THE WORD

Llyndyn Elliott, 7, (from left) Deone Peoples and Tatyana McDonald, 10, canvass door-to-door in their neighborhood with leaflets about this weekend's multicultural Good in the Neighborhood festival. The two-day music and food celebration of north and northeast Portland's diverse populations takes place Saturday and Sunday at King School Park on Northeast Seventh Avenue, south of Alberta.

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

## Diversity Insured in Huge Waterfront Development

### Workforce objectives added to plans

BY LEE PERLMAN  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The Portland City Council has adopted a workforce diversity strategy by amending plans to build a gigantic new waterfront community on the southwest edge of downtown Portland.

It means that the developers of 31 acres of formerly industrial land east of Southwest Macadam Avenue — the Portland Development Commission, Oregon Health and Sciences University and North Macadam Investors — agree to seek benchmarks of having 35 percent of the project's workforce be women and minorities.

The agreement also calls for reducing the dropout rate for women and minority apprentices seeking journeyman status, which is now 85 percent compared to 50 percent for

white males.

"What this boils down to is good business," said PDC Commissioner Noelle Webb, an African American. A single parent who has the opportunity to go through this program and earn \$31 an

hour, that's a significant impact. They can purchase a home, provide medical coverage for their children."

*The workforce now is not diversified and this lays the groundwork for correcting that.*

—Andre Baugh, a spokesperson for a coalition seeking minority participation in the South Waterfront Development

Operating Engineers Local 701.

Portland City Commissioner Jim Francesconi even called for the agreement to be extended to other construction projects in other parts of town.

The Community Coalition, an ad hoc fed-

eration of chambers of commerce, minority contractors, Trades Union Women and others first raised the diversity workforce issues in 2002.

"Women and minorities consume a lot of social resources if they're unemployed. With this approach, we can see income coming

back to our communities. It's a hand up," said Andre Baugh, a spokesman for the coalition.

"The workforce now is not diversified and this lays the groundwork for correcting that," Baugh later told the Portland Observer. "In the next generation a majority of the workforce will be minorities and women. They won't have to be pioneers, they will have mentors, their participation will be normal."

He noted that there was early resistance by trade unions to change workforce diversity goals.

"What I heard this week was that the unions are embracing this, which is a mindset change," he said. "Some of the issues have been addressed, not all, but at least the framework's changed. We can move forward without having to argue the basic points. We heard a lot of excuses, a lot of posturing, but at the end of the day they embraced it."

## Fish Advisory Issued for Willamette River

### Chemicals found in catfish and other species

Fish caught from the Willamette River in Portland may be toxic, according to an advisory from the Oregon Dept. of Human Services.

Due to the high levels of chemicals found in fish sampled within Portland Harbor, DHS has developed special recommendations for the Willamette between the Fremont Bridge, downtown and the mouth of the river at Sauvie Island.

High levels of polychlorinated biphenyls, called PCBs, are found especially in carp, bass and catfish. The chemicals are known to cause cancer and liver, thyroid, immune system and developmental problems.

Those who should avoid eating resident fish from the harbor include women of childbearing age, particularly those who are pregnant or breastfeeding, children, and those with weak immune systems or with liver or thyroid problems.

Others should limit their consumption of resident fish from the harbor to no more than 8-ounces of fish per meal, per month.

The health concerns do not apply to non-resident and migratory fish, such as salmon and steelhead, which are considered an excellent high-protein, low-fat food source.

Health Department officials will host a public meeting on Tuesday, June 29 at 6:30 p.m. at St. Johns Community Center, 8427 N. Central, to discuss recent fish data and public health implications.



Warnings about dangers on the Willamette River stand the test of time. Now health department officials have issued a new advisory that fish caught in the river between downtown Portland and the mouth of the Columbia River may be toxic.

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER