

METRO

The Portland Observer



Exhibit Celebrates
Hispanic Heritage

See El Observador, page B3

SECTION B

Community Calendar

Stay Warm

The Community Energy Project holds a free workshop on water conservation from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 29 and a lead poisoning prevention workshop from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 5 at 422 N. E. Alberta St. Call 503-284-6827 for more workshop times and locations.

Sickle Cell Telethon

Area residents are encouraged to join in the fight against Sickle Cell Anemia disease by calling in your pledge of support during a Saturday, Sept. 25 telethon from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Multnomah County Cable TV.

Aquatic Fitness

Providence has a full schedule of fitness classes including water exercising at the Providence Aquatic Center, 4805 N.E. Glisan. For a schedule, call 503-215-6301.

AIDS Walk 2004

Help save lives by participating in AIDS Walk 04 on Sunday, Sept. 26, presented by Nike. This 5k event starts at 8:30 a.m. at Pioneer Courthouse Square and ends at the same location. Activities run through noon. For more information, call 503-223-9255.

Women in NAACP

Women in NAACP, a new women's group, meets 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.

Children's Healthy Growth Clinic

A free 40-minute session on Rolfling, a holistic system of soft tissue manipulation and movement to insure health growth and movement patterns, is available for children ages zero to 10 on Saturday, Oct. 23, from 1-5 p.m. at Wild Oats Market, 2nd floor, 3535 N.E. 15th. For questions about this clinic, call 503-753-7653 or email rolfer@earthlink.net.

Multicultural Health Fair

Wild Oats Natural Marketplace at 3535 N.E. 15 Ave. hosts a Multicultural Health Fair on Saturday, Oct. 2 from 1 to 5 p.m.

In Charge

The American Red Cross Oregon Trail Chapter offers When I'm in Charge, a 2.5 hour course that prepares children ages eight to 11 how to respond to and be safe in situations. The next class is held Wednesday, Oct. 20 from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at Mt. Hood Medical Center, 24800 S.E. Stark St., Gresham. The fee is \$18. To register, call 503-280-1440.

Forces of Nature

OMSI presents Forces of Nature, National Geographic Chases Mother Nature's Dark Side, at Omnimax from Oct. 8 through March. For more information, call 503-797-4000.

Fox Chase Artwalk

The businesses of Fox Chase Corners, at Northeast 30 Avenue and Killingsworth Street, sponsor Artwalk for the entire family, beginning Nov. 14 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, e-mail milagros@milagrosboutique.com.

Run Cheetah

The cheetah's race for survival is on exhibit at the Central Library's Collins Gallery, 801 S. W. 10 Ave., through Oct. 24. An artist's reception is at 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 9 in the gallery. For more information, visit www.cheetah.org.

Mailman is Postal Service Ambassador



Portland Letter Carrier Karl Keeton, a new national spokesperson for the U.S. Postal Service, delivers the mail on his downtown route.

PHOTO COURTESY OF U.S. POSTAL SERVICE

Dedication to customer service earns honor

A Portland letter carrier with a stellar record for 34 years of service is now a national postal ambassador.

African-American U.S. Postal Service employee Earl Keeton is one of only nine letter carriers

from the country that are appearing in a new USPS "Working for You" advertising campaign.

Keeton will demonstrate the postal service's commitment to customer service in national television, radio and print advertisements and also make personal appearances to promote postal services.

He was selected from among 800 postal employees who auditioned for the honor.

"There is no one better qualified to explain the products and services offered by the U.S. Postal Service than our own employees," said Postmaster General John E. Potter. "The same letter carriers who are so well regarded by many of our customers will now officially represent us in our advertising, showing that there are many ways to access postal services without ever having to leave your home or office."

Madison Teen on School Board

Suleima Cortez sticks up for student needs

BY JAYMEE R. CUTI

THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The Portland Public School Board's newest member has the student's best interests in mind. After all, she's a student herself.

Suleima Cortez, 17, a Madison High School senior, was selected to represent the needs of the students by making presentations to the board, establishing a student summit at all area high schools, attending all board meetings, and even voting on crucial matters affecting students.

Cortez's leadership style is democratic. She meets with student summit leaders to take the needs of all students into consideration.

"My opinion is only my personal opinion, but I have to represent all students in the district so I have to find out what their needs are," she says.

Cortez says her job is to inform every student, so they can participate in changes that affect them most.

"One of the things I want to focus on this year is getting information from high school to high school and getting information from the district to all the students because students are the ones that are affected."

Cortez says she loves what she does. Besides her involvement with the school board and attendance at the Superintendent Student Advisory Committee, Cortez runs track, tosses javelin, throws shot put, holds the position of multicultural director for Madison's student body and participates in Las Hermanas, a community group promoting Latino health.

"I've always been involved with things related to business or politics," Cortez said.

Next year, Cortez plans to attend the University of Oregon and study international relations. She says her experience with the school board will likely have an affect on the direction her career takes.

"I've thought about education for a career, but maybe I want to minor in something related to helping students," said Cortez.

Suleima Cortez participates in a government class at Madison High School in northeast Portland. The multicultural director of her student body, Cortez is the newest student member of the Portland School Board.

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER



Urban League puts Focus on Education

Annual dinner to feature schools chief

Portland Schools Superintendent Vicki Phillips will be the Urban League of Portland's keynote speaker at its 2004 Equal Opportunity Day Dinner.

The recently hired administrator has been asked to talk about "Educational Opportunity and Equality," the theme of this year's event, reflecting the Urban League's commitment to building a community that provides opportunity to all.

Phillips arrived in Portland in August after serving as Pennsylvania's Secretary of Education since January 2003. She is a strong advocate for education reform and has worked to improve schools as a teacher, as leader of a non-profit education foundation, and as superintendent of a mid-sized

urban school district.

She has consistently worked to reduce the achievement gap between students of different income levels and ethnic groups.

A highlight of the Wednesday, Oct. 13 dinner will be the presentation of the Urban League's Equal Opportunity Award to Brian Rohter, president and co-founder of New Seasons Market. The award is given in appreciation for and in recognition of his important contributions to equal opportunity.

A no-host reception begins at 5:45 p.m., followed by dinner and the program at 6:45 p.m. at the Portland Hilton Hotel. The dinner's emcee is KGW news anchor Brenda Braxton.



Portland School District Superintendent Vicki Phillips

"We are very excited about this year's event and the opportunity to honor Brian Rohter," said Charles Wilhoite, chair of the Urban League of Portland's board of directors and principal with Willamette Management Associates.

The local company that Rohter leads began five years ago and now includes five stores and more than 800 employees. New

Seasons Market has a proven track record of building a diverse work force, investing in underserved communities and promoting sustainable and strong local agriculture.

"This year's honoree and theme also help remind us of our local Urban League's longtime efforts to build equality through

education and economic opportunity," Wilhoite said.

The dinner is strongly supported by Portland's business community. Sponsors of this year's dinner include: Intel, Kaiser Permanente, NW Natural, OHSU, Portland General Electric, Portland Trail Blazers, Providence Health System, The Standard, Thomason Auto and Wells Fargo.

Proceeds from the dinner will directly benefit Urban League of Portland programs. For ticket information, call the Urban League of Portland at 503 280-2611.

The nonprofit, community-based organization headquartered in north and northeast Portland. The League helps empower African Americans and others to achieve equality in education, employment and economic security through a combination of direct services, outreach and advocacy.