

# METRO

The Portland Observer



## Super Bowl Kicks Off Sunday

Patriots picked for repeat, but Eagles aren't acting like underdogs  
See story, page B6

SECTION B

### Community Calendar

#### Getting Rid of Stress

"Breaking the Cycle of Stress," a free seminar, will be held on Thursday, Feb. 3 from 7 to 8:15 p.m. at Ananda, 4855 SW Watson, Beaverton. No registration required.

#### Get Fit, Stay Healthy!

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.

#### Love the Pooch

Problem pooch classes are a must take for anyone who may be new to the world of pet parenthood or is interested in considering adopting a new friend. Come to the Oregon Humane Society to find out why your dog does those silly little things. Meetings are every first and third Saturday of the month at 11 a.m. For more information, call 503-285-7722.

#### Women in NAACP

Women in NAACP 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.

#### PCC Skills

Learn how to build a Web-based business in a three-week class from 6 to 9 p.m. Tuesdays through Feb. 8 in Room 130 of Mt. Tabor Hall at Portland Community College's Southeast Center, 2305 S.E. 82 Ave. Cost is \$49. For more information, call 503-788-6265.

#### African American Read-In

The Ninth Annual African American Read-In will be held on Sunday, Feb. 6 from 2:30 to 4 p.m. at the North Portland Branch Library. Guest readers will share works by African American authors. For more information, call 503-988-6280.

#### AIDS Awareness

Albina Ministerial Alliance sponsors a bi-monthly Support and Education group for African Americans living with HIV/AIDS at Maranatha Church at 4222 NE 12th Street. The first group will meet Thursday, Feb. 10 at 7 p.m. and will continue every second and fourth Thursday of the month. For more information, call Elnathan Hudson at 503-285-0493 ext. 217.

#### Sustainable Food

A workshop to explore ways to make foods affordable, nutritious and culturally appropriate is from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 19 at St. Andrew Community Center, 4940 N.E. 8th Ave. Cost is a \$10 donation and lunch will be provided. Call 503-221-1054 ext. 203 to register.

#### Business Meeting

Join North/Northeast Business Association meetings on the first Monday of each month from 6 to 8 p.m. at Albina Community Bank, 2002 N.E. Martin Luther King Blvd. Morning networking meetings are the third Wednesday of each month from 7:30 to 9 a.m. at the Blazers Boys and Girls Club, 5250 N.E. Martin Luther King Blvd. For more information, call 503-249-0487 or visit [www.nneba.org](http://www.nneba.org).

#### Preschool Open House

Tillamook Cooperative Preschools holds its open house on Saturday, March 5 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 935 N.E. 33 Ave. Financial aid is available. For more information, call 503-234-1691.

#### 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.

## Promoting HIV/AIDS Awareness

### 'Get educated' event Monday at SEI

BY NEIL HEILPERN

THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A small army of Portland's health practitioners, social service agencies, support groups, and faith community members are gearing up for a new phase in the war against HIV/AIDS.

An informational battlefield known as National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness and Information Day will be open to the public on Monday, Feb. 7, from 5 to 8 p.m. at Self Enhancement Inc., 3920 N. Kerby Ave. The event's theme is "Get educated. Get involved. Get tested."

Kathleen Saadat, manager for the communities of color initiative for the Cascade Aids Project, said discussions during the session might help overcome fears associated with the disease.

"People need to be made aware of the virus itself, how it is spread, how to take preventive measures against getting the virus and the importance of getting tested to determine whether they have the virus and whether treatment is needed," Saadat said.

According to Larry Hill, an HIV community development specialist with the Oregon Department of Human Services, the HIV rate in Oregon is more prevalent in African-Americans than other groups.

"One of the biggest keys in this work is people don't have all the information they need. Either they have pieces or they are misinformed about what puts them at risk and how they can spread the risk of HIV," Hill said. "A lot of people walk

African Americans made up 6.8 percent of the county population in 2002, yet comprised 11 percent of the county's total new AIDS cases.

around with HIV or AIDS, not aware they are spreading the disease to people they care about."

Many people of color think of HIV/AIDS as a gay white man's disease, but "That is denial," according to Saadat, who notes that in Africa it is a "black heterosexual disease — an equal opportunity disease."

"People of color have always been represented in the numbers," added Hill, both in the gay community and the straight community.

He said African-American men on "the down low" — men who have sex with other men but don't necessarily identify as being gay or bisexual — are in denial.

"They may be putting themselves and their partners at risk," he said. "They may be married and present themselves as heterosexuals. Their female partners are not aware of the risks they face."

"Homophobic fears in the African-American community place a stigma on gays," he added, "and that drives people underground about honesty and their sexual orientation."

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, African Americans make up about 12 percent of the U.S. population while accounting for half of the new HIV cases reported in 2001.

AIDS is the leading cause of death among African American women ages 25-34 and African American men, ages 35-44. Estimates project the majority of new HIV infections in teenagers and young adults 25 and younger, will be in African-Americans.

A similar trend exists in Multnomah County. DHS officials note that African Americans made up 6.8 percent of

continued on page B5



County health department workers Dita Rhodes (from left), David Zambrano and Stephan Herrera of the Brother-to-Brother program, push for greater African-American awareness of HIV/AIDS.

### HIV/AIDS Testing, Resources

HIV and AIDS are impacting more people of color, encouraging a wide variety of people and organizations to join the fight against the disease. People wanting more information, counseling or confidential testing, can contact any of the following organizations:

**For HIV testing** call Multnomah County Health Department at 503-988-3775 or the Oregon AIDS Hotline at 1-800-777-AIDS.

**For HIV/AIDS services** call CareLink at 503-223-5907, Partnership Project at 503-230-1202 or the Albina Ministerial Alliance at 503-285-0493.

**For volunteer opportunities** call the Cascade AIDS Project at 503-223-5907, the Multnomah County Health Department at 503-988-3030 or the African American Health Coalition at 503-413-1850.

## Diversifying City Hall

### Adams turns to multicultural team

BY JAYMEE R. CUTI

THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Portland's newest City Commissioner is combating perceptions that he is a City Hall insider who adds little diversity to the current all-white, male panel.

Sam Adams turned those criticisms upside down when he announced new hires to staff his office.

The group is rich in ages, ethnicities, sexual orientations and professional experiences. Among them are Native Americans, Latinos, Asian Americans and a biracial man who is African American and Caucasian. The youngest staffer is in his 20s and another is coming out of retirement. The group boasts 60 years of public sector work, 50 years of private sector work and 10 years of nonprofit experience.

"The first factor was the ability to get the job done. Among those qualified to do the work, choosing those who reflected the broad constituency of Portland was a factor," said Tom Miller, Adams' new chief of staff.

Finding City Hall "outsiders" was also a priority for Adams, who is the ultimate "insider" as former Mayor Vera Katz's chief of staff.

"These are get-it-done people who



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A multicultural team drives the office of new Portland City Councilman Sam Adams (right), the former chief of staff to Mayor Vera Katz. Pictured (standing, from left) are Tom Miller, David Gonzalez and Maria Thi Mai; (seated from left) are Greg Leihar, Maria Lim, Jesse Beason, Warren Jimenez and Mary Jo Markle.

share my passion for Portland and for shaking up City Hall," said Adams. "I am the City Hall insider so I was looking for hard working outsiders: I found them."

The employees include Jane Ames, staff representative; Jesse Beason, staff representative; Mary Jo Markle, staff fellow; David Gonzalez, office manager; Warren Jimenez, staff representative; Maria Lim, receptionist; Tom Miller, chief of staff; Maria Thi Mai, staff representa-

ive; Greg Leihar, public advocate liaison; Terry Richardson and Gordon Johnston.

Beason, who is half African American, is a Lewis and Clark College graduate who has worked as the public outreach specialist for Metro regional government and was campaign manager for former mayoral candidate Phil Busse.

Beason joins the talents of a former executive director of an economic development agency, a lawyer, a schools ad-

vocate, a nurse, a retailer, a state parks planner, and a retired labor leader.

"One of the strengths of this staff is its diversity," said Adams. "It includes a range of political outlooks, and English, Spanish and Tagalog speakers. It includes people of African-American, Asian-American, European-American, Latino and Native American ethnicity. They reside in north, northeast, southeast and southwest Portland."