

METRO

The Portland Observer

2005 CAREERS special edition

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35 years of community service

SECTION B

Community Calendar

Celebration of Students

The Portland Teacher's Program is holding its annual Celebration of Students event to honor 65 aspiring teachers, from college freshman to graduate students, as well as program alumni. The event will be held on Friday, May 20 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at the Portland Community College Cascade Campus. A reception will precede the program from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Black Museum of Oregon

The Black Museum of Oregon will hold its committee and membership meetings on May 19 at 2 p.m. at Slyvia's Corner at 1301 N.E. Dekum and June 11 at 3 p.m. at Reflections Coffee House at 446 N.E. Killingsworth. For more information, call King J. at 503-284-0617.

Lunch with the Grrls

Saturday May 21, DinnerGrrls will be hosting their spring potluck. The goal is build broaden professional horizons of women, network and to encourage other women in their career aspirations. For information please RSVP at Portland@dinnergrrls.org.

Great Strides Walk-a-Thon

Join the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation on May 21 at 10 a.m. for their annual walk-a-thon. The group welcomes walkers, volunteers and donations for more information or to register contact Oregon Chapter Cystic Fibrosis Foundation at 503-226-3435.

Be a Hospice Volunteer

Providence Hospital offers free training for volunteers at least 18 years old who can commit four hours a week for a year. Pre-registration is required. For more information or to get an application packet please call Cynthia Cohen, volunteer coordinator at 503-215-5774.

Women Mentors

Women in Community Service is seeking volunteer mentors for female offenders at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility. Mentors provide support and encouragement to women transitioning from prison back into the community. Mentors must be female, 24 or older. Training is provided. Call 503-570-6614 for more information.

Portland Children's Museum Activities

Portland Children's Museum will hold a variety of art activities for children throughout the month, including mediums using mosaic, African arts and culture and garden stepping stones. For info, call 503-223-6500 or visit portlandchildrensmuseum.org.

Get Fit, Stay Healthy!

Sankofa 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.

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 N.E. 12th St. The group will meet every second and fourth Thursday of the month. For more information, call Elnathan Hudson at 503-285-0493 ext. 217.

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 or call 503-574-6595.

Hip Hop Summit Moves to PSU

The first annual Hip Hop summit is set to take place at Portland State University's Shattuck Hall (changed from the original location of Portland Community College's Cascade campus) on Saturday, May 28.

The aim is to bridge the gap between the young and the old in the community by exposing positive hip-hop that is socially conscious and empowering. In addition, organizers want to bring about change in the horrific conditions many African American and other people of color face in their daily lives.

Local artists Urban Truth, Soul Plasma, LifeSavas and many more are scheduled to perform at the event.

Panel discussions are scheduled to include a look at what negative and positive ways hip hop influences young people; bridging the gap between the hip hop generation and the Civil Rights movement; and where does hip hop go from here?

The entire summit is free and open to the public. The day will begin with the discussions at 2 p.m. with hip-hop performances beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Organizers prepare the first annual Hip Hop Summit at Portland State University. Karanja Crews (from left) is joined by panelist Rev. René Ward, moderator Jared Spencer, panelist Deshawn Williams, PSU Black Cultural Affairs Board Vice President Nicole Dvorshak, and BCAB President Emebet Hallve.

PHOTO BY
KATHERINE KOVACICH/
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER



Higher Power and Politics

Local minister has international appeal

BY NICOLE HOOPER
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

No matter if you are in Poland or Portland, once a week, you can hear the local message of Rev. John Pearce. Based in his home studio, he and Robert Phillips discuss issues ranging from police brutality to religion.

Pearce has been in the radio industry for many years and believes that it was his calling to branch his love of the Lord with his interest in radio. He plans to co-host the show until "the Lord takes him home."



Rev. John Pearce

His radio show "Politics, Power and The People" is a forum to praise and inspire.

"There are 40 million black people in the world, how come we only hear about the 2 million that aren't living godly? Main stream media makes us as a people look bad," said Pearce.

Last year, he hosted a show with the family of James Jahar Perez, the young unarmed man that was killed by Portland Police in the St. Johns neighborhood of north Portland. Pearce believed that the facts of the case were "twisted" by mainstream media and felt this would be a chance for the victim's family to voice concerns.

"The more black people know I am here for them, the better," said Pearce.

In addition to the political subject matter, Pearce and Phillips also use the show to

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An artist's rendering shows the future Heritage Building with its storefronts and offices coming to 3934 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard.

PDC Makes 'Heritage Building' Real

Reverses succession of failed MLK projects

BY LEE PERLMAN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

While the giant Vanport Square project on Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard remains stymied, the small, community-created Heritage Building project has secured funding and is about to break ground.

The Portland Development Commission has approved \$2.45 million in loans for the renovation and enlargement of a long vacant building at 3934 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. They also agreed to reduce the property's sale price from \$400,000 to zero.

The heavy subsidies are attempts to reverse a succession of failed economic projects on Martin Luther King Boulevard.

Now that financing is in place, Jeana Woolley, a member of the team behind the Heritage project, said ground breaking could begin in July.

The development team also includes Stephen Foust, Dennis S. Hadley, Howard Loucks, Barry Pappenheim and Eric Wentland, all long involved in development activity and community affairs in

inner northeast Portland.

Albina Community Bank is making a \$1.9 million loan to the total \$4.7 million project.

A big stumbling block for the developers was removed when PDC allowed the project to proceed without signed leases from prospective tenants, a dispute that has been on going for two years.

Real estate broker Michele Reeves told the commission that to insist on advance leases from office tenants in any neighbor-

There are not too many private developers willing to spend almost four years on a project and get almost nothing in return.

— Jeana Woolley, Heritage Project team member

hood is unrealistic because people are looking for office space that's currently available. Potential tenants want to "stand in it, feel it, like it they way they would a house," Reeves said.

She described a commercial project on North Mississippi Avenue that people wouldn't rent until they could see the coffee shop on the ground floor.

Woolley said developing the large lots on MLK bring price tags that don't compare to

nearby commercial centers, such as those on Northeast Alberta Street and Mississippi, which have upgraded through "small developments, one at a time."

"The costs are the same to develop on Martin Luther King as it does in the Pearl," Woolley said. "That means you're carrying more of the risk than the private market is willing to. There are not too many private developers willing to spend almost four years on a project and get almost nothing in return."

Richard Levy, a commercial realtor and vice-chair of the Oregon Convention Center Urban Renewal Advisory Committee, said that something was needed to "kick-start" development on the avenue between Northeast Fremont and Alberta streets. He said other businesses, such as Hannah Bee's, were struggling due to a lack of nearby activity.

James Posey, a local African American business leader, told the PDC that the lack of economic development on MLK over the past few years reminded him of the poor investment in some foreign countries.

"It's a little embarrassing," he said. "Your charter doesn't say anything about being safe. It's about investing in people, investing in hope."

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