

SPORTS



PHOTO BY STEVE DIPAOLO

Strong Young Women

Boise-Eliot fifth graders Sasha Perez (from left), Jennifer Clarkson, Desiree Henderson, Dominique Farlow and Raven Hayes try their hardest at tug-of-war during a NikeGo Field Day on the Nike campus in Beaverton. Nike volunteers taught physical education at the north Portland school this year and Friday hosted the entire student body to sports festivities to celebrate.

Pistons to Face Spurs in NBA Finals

Best of seven games begin Thursday

(AP) — It'll be a much anticipated first game, with shouts and screams hurled toward television sets across the nation on Thursday night. Defending champions the Detroit Pistons beat the Miami Heat 88-82 Monday night in Game 7 of the Eastern Conference finals, advancing to face the San Antonio Spurs in the NBA Finals.



Detroit Pistons' Ben Wallace lifts the Eastern Conference Trophy Monday after defeating the Miami Heat during game seven of the Eastern Conference finals in Miami. (AP photo)

San Antonio, which won the title in 1999 and 2003, has been resting and practicing since eliminating Phoenix in Game 5 of the Western Conference finals on June 1. "They have won two championships with Gregg (Popovich) and not many people talk about it," Pistons coach Larry Brown said of his counterpart. "And we're the defending champs, and not many people talk about that."

Game 1 is Thursday night in San Antonio and Game 2 is there Sunday before the series shifts to suburban

Detroit for Games 3 and 4, and if necessary, 5. The best-of-seven series would wrap up back in San Antonio with two more games.

The Pistons and Spurs split their season series, each winning at home.

Portland Gets Lacrosse Team

The National Lacrosse League has awarded a professional lacrosse franchise to Portland.

The team will begin competing in the 12-team league in January and play its home games at the Rose Garden.

The team name will be chosen by the fans.

Entrepreneur Angela Batinovich is the majority shareholder and will serve

as managing partner of the new franchise. Batinovich founded and successfully operated her own line of women's clothing Bat's Daughter in Los Angeles.

"I know the fans in Portland are going to love coming to see their newest team play," Batinovich said. "Our goal is to provide the ultimate fan experience featuring affordable entertainment."

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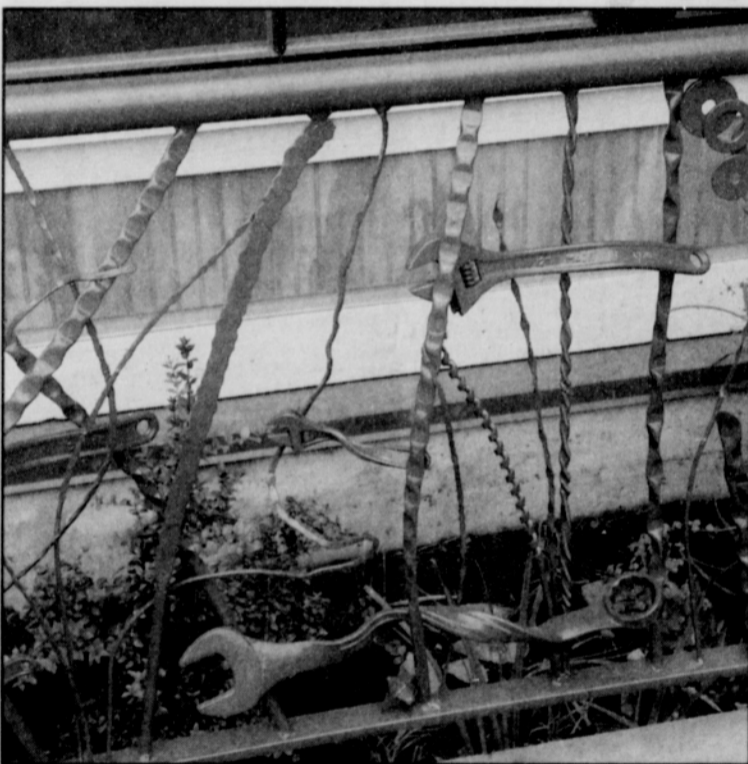
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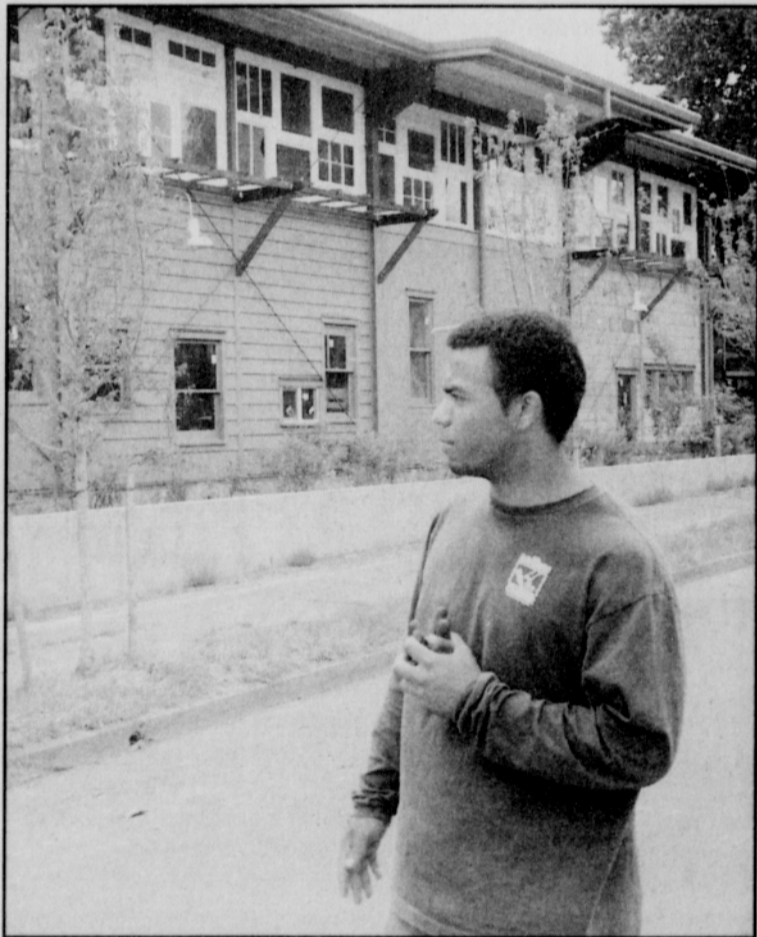
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PHOTOS BY ISAAH BOUIE/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A fence made of re-used tools and scraps decorates the front of the ReBuilding Center.



ReBuilding Center employee Alex Higlen shows how re-used windows and other materials were used in an expanded and remolded ReBuilding Center on North Mississippi Avenue near Fremont Street.

continued ▲ from Metro recycling and reusing things."

In a commercial world where the idea of always having new goods is pushed, the ReBuilding Center is part of a refreshing ecological revolution.

Beyond its green philosophy, the center keeps down the costs of

remodeling Portland's many fixer-uppers, with prices at 50 to 90 percent off the market equivalent.

Donations of material come from all over. When an old house goes through "deconstruction," which is different from a simple demolition because it actually saves the scraps, the center takes these pieces and organizes them

into easy-to-find sections around the warehouse.

It also helps builders get out of paying a landfill to take the materials, as anything given to the ReBuilding Center can be written off as a tax-deductible donation.

Alex Higlen, one of several African-American employees at the center, noted that its unique pieces are perfect fodder for the architectural artist who doesn't want to have their dwelling look like every other house on the block.

A multi-tasker, Higlen's done everything from deconstruction of

houses to taking donations to driving the scraps to and from locations. He not only enjoys working with the environmentally friendly materials, but the people around him who care.

"This brings people together," Higlen said. "It's a staple of something positive on Mississippi. In 10 to 15 years, we're going to need these trees for our kids. We're just keeping the earth green."

For more information on donating items or what you can find at the ReBuilding Center, visit www.rebuildingcenter.org.

Chase & Weil, LLP

Attorneys at Law

Gerald M. Chase
Richard L. Weil

722 S.W. 2nd Avenue
Suite 240
Portland, OR 97204

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