

METRO

The Portland Observer

Medical Pot Crackdown

Calif. suspects accused of trafficking street drugs



35
years of
community service

SECTION B

Community Calendar

Humboldt Celebration

Our United Villages hosts a Humboldt Neighborhood party with entertainment and fun for all ages, Wednesday, June 29 starting at 5 p.m. at the North Star Ballroom, 635 N Killingsworth Court. Local businesses like Vinnie's Pizza and Cullen's Corner Market along Odwalla Juice have donated food for this free event. For more information contact Corinna Buchholz at 503-546-7499 or corinna@ourunitedvillages.org

Poetry Reading

Bold Sky Café, 3943 N. Mississippi St., will feature acclaimed writers Dan Raphael, Christy Sisk and Lyssa Tall Anolik on Wednesday, June 29 at 7:30 p.m. For more information, call 503-287-0154 or visit www.boldsky.com.

Irvington Covenant Renaissance Academy

The summer session for Irvington Covenant Renaissance Academy starts on July 5 and goes through Aug. 12. Children in grades 4-8 can study musical art ranging from gospel singing to African dance. The cost for the six-week session is \$300 and scholarships are available. For more information contact Greg McKelvy at 503-329-2483 or Ada Tellis at 503-515-8961.

Shining Star School

Openings for fall enrollment at Shining Star School are now available for kids going into grade 1 and 2. Twelve children will be accepted for this small community based school. For more information visit www.shiningstarschool.com or call 503-753-4459.

Art Camp Help Needed

Higher Stages Arts Academy, a summer school that teaches drama, computer graphics and video arts, are seeking volunteers that have experience working with youth. Contact Suzanne Marsh at 503-288-5320 or email at whitakerhigherstages@hotmail.com

AIDS Camp Support Sought

Camp Starlight is a program of Cascade AIDS that provides children affected by HIV/AIDS the opportunity to enjoy a caring, safe, recreational camping experience. The camp starts at the end of August, but volunteer camp counselors and donations are needed now. Call 503-223-5907 or visit www.cascadeaids.org

African-Inspired Music and Dance

The North Star Ballroom, 635 N. Killingsworth Court, hosts beginning drumming and Ghanaian rhythm classes on Tuesdays at 6 p.m. On Wednesdays, an intermediate level of the drumming is offered in addition to an African aerobics/dance class. All classes are taught by Chata Addy. For more information call 503-632-0411.

Summer Play Days

All summer long come join other families in Irving Park every Wednesday at 10 a.m. to gather with Waldorf School oriented and inspired families who wish to play, snack and get wet in the new water play area. For more information, contact www.shiningstarschool.com.

Women Mentors

Women in Community Service are 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.

New Use Considered for Old Morgue

Could become a theater, housing or social service agency

BY LEE PERLMAN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The Multnomah County Commission is about to decide what living use to give their old morgue at 301 N.E. Knott Street. The current choices are a social service agency, a theater and housing.

A hearing and vote on the issue was scheduled for Thursday, July 7 at 8 a.m. However, because bids for the property are lower than what was expected, the commission may postpone a decision until July 21.

The Multnomah County Medical Examiner's office moved to a new location several months ago.

One of the applicants for the 12,632 square foot building and 37,500 square foot lot is the Native American Youth Association, which needs to relocate from their current headquarters at 4000 N. Mississippi St.

The association requires space for its 35 person staff and programs that include educational support, tutoring, childcare and case management.

Another bidder is Chaos Theatre. According to group spokespeople, they would convert the building into a theater of 45 to 75 seats and convert some of the property into housing for condominiums.

Housing was also the choice of a third suitor that has since withdrawn its application, according to county officials. Unlimited Choices wanted the building as headquarters for their non-profit agency that retrofits private homes for people who are physically challenged.

The Eliot Neighborhood Association gave letters of endorsement to the Native American group and Unlimited Choices because they met the association's primary criteria of preserving the 1926 historic building.

Neighborhood chair Gary Hampton said there was opposition to Chaos Theatre out of concerns theater events will bring traffic and parking congestion and because they had too many unanswered questions from the group.



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
A theater, new housing or a social service agency are options being considered for the abandoned Multnomah County Medical Examiner's office on Northeast Knott Street.

Staying True to Commitment



The High Steppers Drill and Dance Team perform during a community open house at the NIKE Factory Store on Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard.

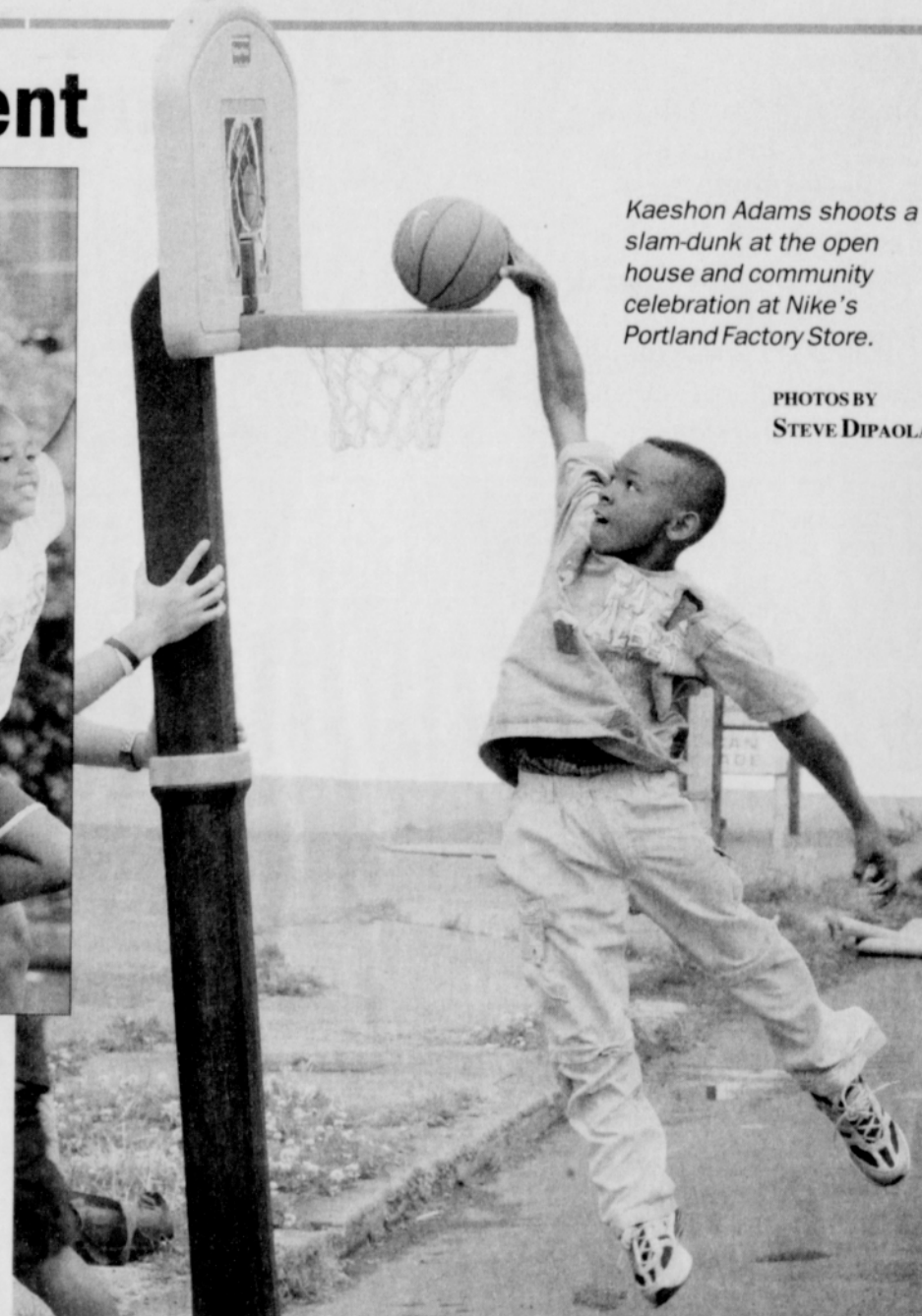
Nike awards \$100,000 to community

When Nike came to northeast Portland more than 20 years ago, the corporation made a promise to the local community to invest in the betterment of its residents. This year, the Oregon-based company continued an expansion of its grant program to area non-profits by awarding \$5,000 each to 20 local programs for an annual total of \$100,000.

The beneficiaries included such as Albina

Head Start, Friends of the Children and the Portland Youth Builders. Over the past two decades, NIKE has donated more than \$1.1 million to north and northeast neighborhood organizations.

"This program has helped many non-profits continue to serve people in need," said Vanessa Gaston, President and CEO of the Urban League of Portland, another program to benefit from Nike's efforts.



Kaeshon Adams shoots a slam-dunk at the open house and community celebration at Nike's Portland Factory Store.

PHOTOS BY
STEVE DIPAOLO

The Nike Portland Factory Store hosted an open house June 22, with more than 1,000 community members in attendance and more than 40 booths from area organizations. Residents, business members and youth

came by after the award ceremony. The event featured a free outdoor picnic, games and activities, music by ETHOS musicians and entertainment by the High Steppers Drill and Dance Team.

Program Keeps Young Bellies Full For Summer

Low-income students given free meals

Who says you can't get a free lunch? The Summer Food Service Program provides thousands of free meals to children and youth during the summer months.

Families who live in low and moderate-

income neighborhoods will be able to find Summer Food Service Program sites in community schools and public parks near their homes.

"The Summer Food Service Program is our most effective way of tackling child and youth hunger during the summer months," said Wendy Lebow, Director of Multnomah County's Commission on Children, Families

& Community. "The program served nearly 174,000 lunch meals last summer. We know that children and youth benefit from free, nutritious meals. And we've heard from parents that this program provides needed support to their family's food budget."

Children and youth under 18 years can participate with no paperwork required. Program flyers are being distributed in all

eligible schools in Multnomah County, Portland Public, Parkrose, Reynolds, David Douglas, and Centennial School Districts are all hosting sites. Portland Parks and Recreation will be serving lunch in North, Northeast, and Southeast Portland parks.

Families can call 800-723-3638 or visit the CCFC website at www.ourcommission.org/projects/summer for a full map of sites.