

METRO

The Portland Observer

35
years of
community service

SECTION B

Community Calendar

African-Inspired Music, 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 information, see www.shiningstarschool.com.

Shining Star School

Openings for fall enrollment at Shining Star School, a Waldorf Initiative School near Northeast Sixth Avenue and Prescott Street, 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.

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. Art Camp Help Needed

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.

Creative Space For Dance

Aurora Dance Studio, 5433 N.E. 30th (at Killingsworth), offers an array of classes for children, teens and adults at all levels of ability. Call 503-249-0201 or visit online at www.hevanet.com/auroradance for additional information.

Bradley-Angle House

The Bradley-Angle House needs volunteers to help its outreach against domestic violence. Women of color and bilingual women are encouraged to call. For more information, call 503-282-9940.

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.

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.

Parenting Classes

Newborns don't come with instruction manuals but parents and parents-to-be can attend classes through Providence Health Systems to learn about a variety of topics from pain and childbirth to breastfeeding to infant CPR and much more. For a schedule of events, call 503-574-6595 or visit www.providence.org/classes.

King Facility Shelled by Budget Cuts

Neighborhood site loses school district support

BY LEE PERLMAN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The King Neighborhood Facility in northeast Portland could define the word "hybrid."

It is a city building for public and non-profit social agencies, but has been managed by the Portland School District, which owns the land, an annex to Martin Luther

King Jr. Elementary School, and collects rents.

Since the office was built in 1976, as many as eight such agencies have called it home. But with the imminent move of the Neighborhood Mediation Program to the Hollywood area, the building at 4815 N.E. Seventh Ave. will have just two tenants - the Portland Office of Neighborhood Associations and Multnomah County.

The center took a big hit when the school district decided it couldn't afford to pay an administrator to run the facility. Funding for the position

ended last Thursday.

According to school district officials, until recently the King Facility was the only one of their non-school facilities to have an on-site manager.

For the future, the district will provide custodial and maintenance services, but tenants will have to call district facilities managers at the Blanchard Education Center for special needs.

Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods Executive Director John Canda said the school budget cuts will mean a reduction in services for

his agency. Access to the coalition's community services will be re-routed through a side entrance on Northeast Seventh Avenue. Whether Multnomah County will have someone stationed at the front desk at the main entrance is "a security issue we're very concerned about," Canda said.

Another issue is meeting space. The King Facility has traditionally provided such space for a number of neighborhood groups, starting with the coalition of neighborhoods board.

But a spokesperson for the

school district said that henceforth, only community organizations with office space will have access to the site and must assume full responsibility for members of the public admitted to the building.

Canda thinks his board will still have use of a community meeting room on the building's west side.

Outgoing facility director Bob Boyer would like the city to take over operation of the center. He thinks the school district would be willing to allow this.

"Why not?" he says. "They claim they're losing money on it."

Community Advocate Retires After Job Loss

BY LEE PERLMAN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

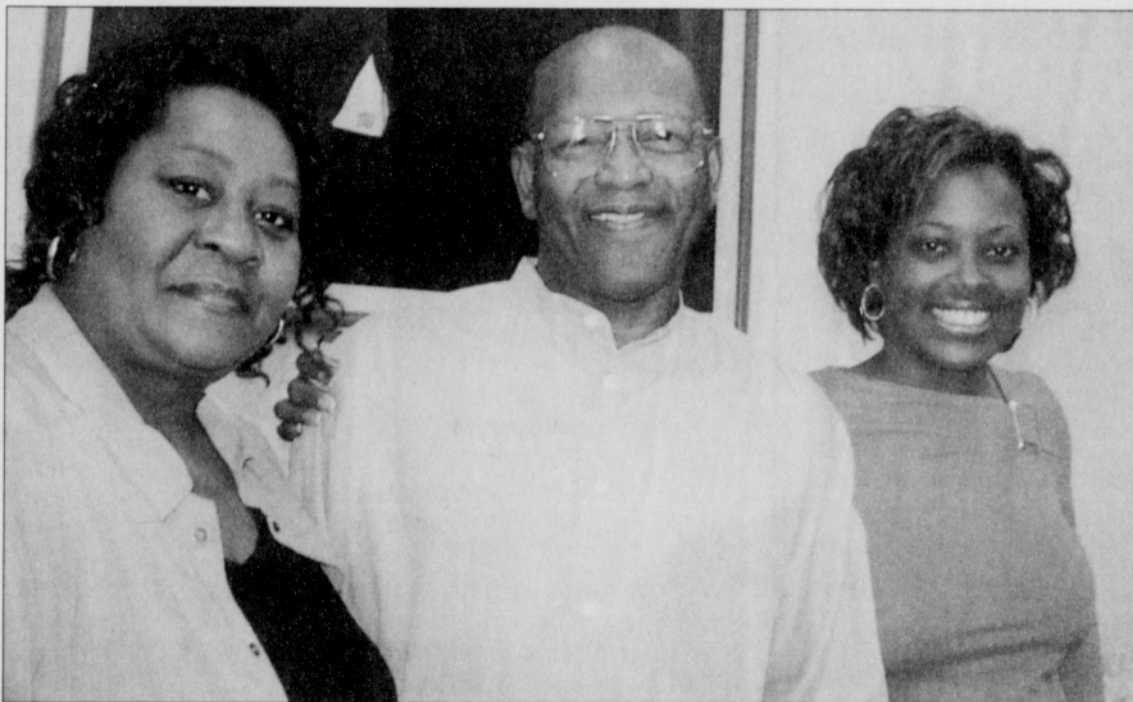
A long-time community advocate for Portland's African American community spent his last day on the job at the King Neighborhood Facility in northeast Portland.

Bob Boyer retired as the facility's executive director when the money for his position ran out, a decision by the Portland School District.

"I've had five jobs in the 44 years I've been in Portland and this has been the best," Boyer told a small gathering at a retirement party last week.

"I've always wanted to work in an environment where people cared about their jobs. This has been a place where youths and the public at large have always felt respected and cared about," Boyer said. "Often people have taken this old warrior's advice. It's been a pleasure."

Boyer came to Portland while serving in the Air Force in 1961.



Bob Boyer joins his wife Judy (left) and daughter Keylah on his last day as director of the King Neighborhood Facility in northeast Portland.

"I fell in love with Portland," he said. "And the people here have been so good to me."

Before his long record in public service, he worked locally as a painter, railroad worker and long-

shoreman. Meanwhile, he studied business administration, starting at Portland State University and

ultimately receiving a bachelor of science degree from Marylhurst College, the first African American male to do so.

His volunteer record includes posts on the Model Cities and Head Start boards, and the chairs of the Concordia Neighborhood Association and Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods.

He worked on the political campaigns of Rev. Jesse Jackson, State Treasurer Jim Hill and City Commissioner Margaret Strachan, and himself won election to the Oregon Senate.

"Mr. Boyer has a long history of community service which we at this facility have benefited from," Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods executive director John Canda told the Portland Observer. "He's not just a supervisor, but more like a community father. He's not just a supervisor, but also a confidant and motivator. If you're feeling down, just a few minutes talking to him will give you a whole new perspective."

Life Skills Learned at TLC Summer Camps

Program matches kids with older role models

BY NICOLE HOOPER
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

It's summertime and TLC (Tender Loving Care) Camp is celebrating their 20th season serving local youth.

Without a camp like TLC, many children in north and northeast Portland wouldn't have a resource to improve on their life skills during the summer.

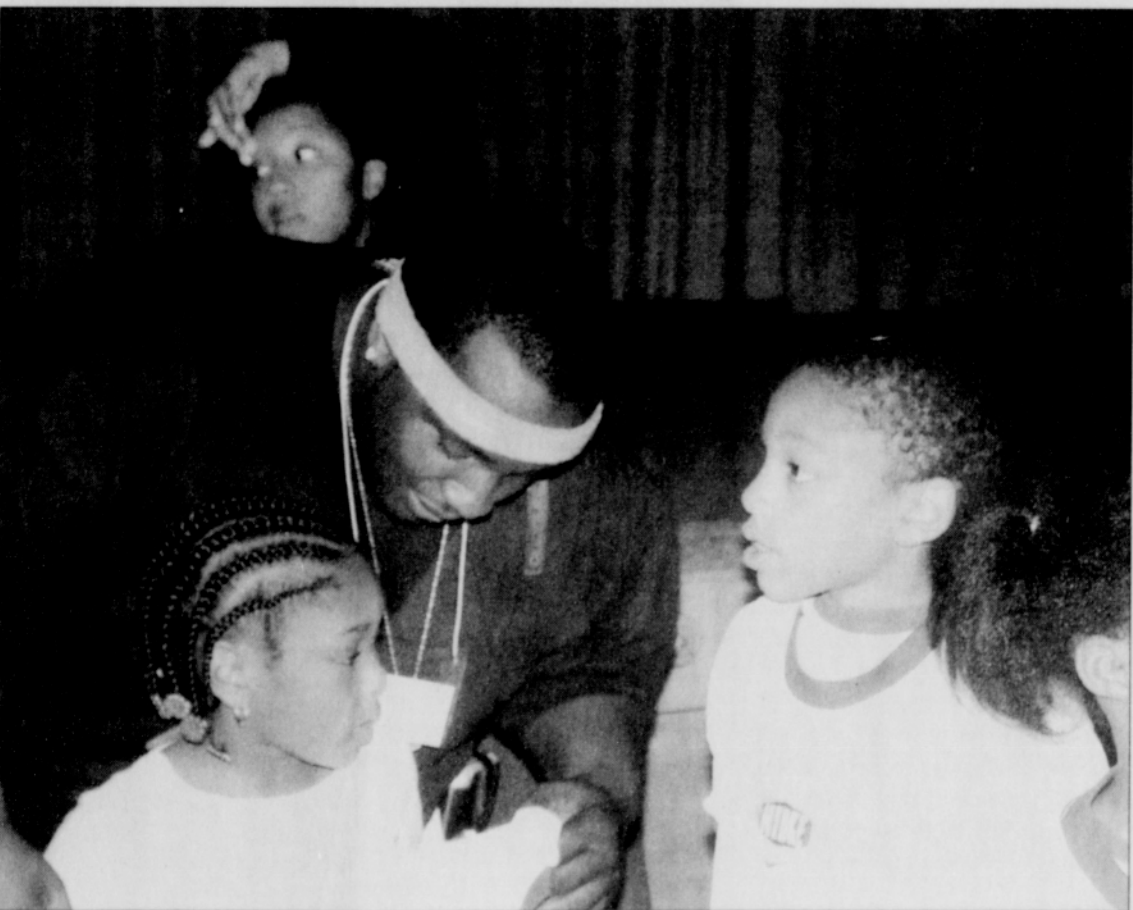
Camp Directors Faye Palmerton and Roy Pittman have strong ties to the local community and started the program because they saw the necessity. Palmerton is a retired teacher of Portsmouth Middle School and Pittman was a recreation director at Peninsula Park Community Center.

They had a vision of opening a summer camp to ease the transition from grade school to middle school for local youth. In addition, they also realized that some parents' were not able to pay for their child to attend a summer camp.

Through a variety of grants TLC camp has been a strong force in the right of passage for numerous inner-city youth, especially children of color. Questions of income are not a factor in the ability for a child to attend.

"We don't ask many income questions on the application because some people feel that the more personal we get the more they have to lie in order to get services. All we want is for the kids' to show up," said Pittman.

TLC Camp has been in full swing



Children from TLC (Tender Loving Care) summer camp get some gentle words of wisdom from camp counselor Cedia Jabbie.

"This may be the first time a young child gets to see and African-American or Hispanic person in charge as a counselor."

— Roy Pittman, Camp Director

even as many other public service agencies face harsh budget cuts or have their programs cut completely.

Pittman attributes the longevity to faith and sponsors that believe in the service TLC Camp provides.

Over half of the counselors were former campers. Camp counselor Cedia Jabbie first attended TLC Camp the summer before he started kindergarten and now will begin

college this fall at Texas Southern University.

"I have been taught many lessons about job readiness. If you show up to TLC Camp not wearing your uniform, then you don't get to work that day. They (Palmerton and Pittman) don't let you get away with things because at any job you are expected to be professional," said Jabbie.

Instead of "hanging out" all summer wasting their day at the mall or in front of the television, the TLC Camp counselors invest their time in being role models for younger children in their neighborhood.

The counselors at TLC Camp are learning the importance of giving back. During their first year, they are considered unpaid volunteers. Starting in February the counselors' train

once a month with Palmerton and Pittman to discuss the importance of being a role model and how to care for children.

"This may be the first time a young child gets to see and African-American or Hispanic person in charge as a counselor," said Pittman.

Campers range from kindergarten to ninth grade. The weekly camps are split to the specific needs of each age group. Each morning when the children arrive, the counselors along with Palmerton and Pittman are waiting to welcome the children in a hug line. For some children, TLC camp may be the only place where they receive a hug or praise for a job well done.

By venturing to different businesses in the local area, the youngest children learn lessons in etiquette. It's here that they learn how little words like please and thank you can make a difference in how they are perceived by others. The students in grades 4-6 learn these lessons as well, but also attend an overnight camp.

"This is a chance to expose children to a new environment," said Pittman. For many children this may be their first time away from home or outside of the city.

The 7th to 9th graders visit Portland State University to learn the importance of a college education.

"We have been tried, tested and adjusted to meet the needs of the kids and families of this area," said Pittman. It is evident that the counselors of TLC Camp provide more than a meal or a place for your child to go. They provide skills that can turn children into positive adults.

Camp sessions run until late August. Applications are available at Peninsula Park Community Center, Going Street Market and at King School. For more information call 503-916-6320.