

METRO

The Portland Observer

Lowery Takes Reigns at Pacific

Portland native comes home to coach basketball
See story in Sports, page B6



35
years of
community service

SECTION B

Community Calendar

Johnson Family Reunion

The Johnson Family Reunion Picnic will be held on Saturday, July 30 from noon to 5 p.m. at Robin's Island at Bonneville Dam, approximately 40 minutes from Portland. For more information, call 503-753-7107.

Summer School Jam

Vernon Elementary School in northeast Portland hosts the 5th annual Back to School Summer Jam with games, prizes, a basketball tournament and free school supplies on Saturday, Aug. 6 from noon to 5 p.m. Lunch will be served from noon to 2 p.m. The sponsors are Providence Health Systems and the International Fellowship Family.

National Night Out

"National Night Out," a community celebration focusing on crime prevention, will include festivities on Tuesday, Aug. 2 at Peninsula Park, 705 N. Portland Blvd. from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. The local event will include live music, food, free swimming, a basketball tournament, a tennis mixer and giveaways for bikes. The African American Health Coalition will be on hand with health tips.

Light a Lantern

A variety of materials at the Portland Children's Museum this month will inspire children to create a beautiful hanging electric lantern to decorate your home. The event goes until July 30 and is intended for children over five years old. Workshop cost is \$25. To register, visit www.PortlandChildrensMuseum.org.

Family Camperoo

You can bring the whole family to set up camp for a night's stay on zoo grounds on Saturday, July 30. Special events and activities like games and the private showing of the Discover Birds exhibit are planned. For registration information, call 503-220-2781 or visit www.oregonzoo.org.

Oxbow Campfire Program

On Saturday, July 30 come to Oxbow Regional Park to learn how plants have been used for thousands of years for food and medicine with naturalist Natalie Norman and Miriam Burk from Portland Parks and Recreation. The event starts at 8:30 a.m. and lasts until 9:30 p.m. For more information, call Metro at 503-797-1850.

Wine Tasting

A day of entertainment, wine tasting and silent auction will benefit Portland's Homeless and Transitional Youth. Pear works year round to serve more than 350 youth through education, art and recreation. The event will be held at Vino Paradiso, which is located at 417 N.W. 10th Ave. For more information contact Andreea Tofan at 503-330-2467 or visit www.pearmentor.org.

Learn Safety

The American Red Cross offers a range of classes for learning how to baby sit children to performing CPR. The techniques learned in the courses may prove necessary for crisis situations. Courses are intended for children aged 8 through adult. For more information visit www.redcross-pdx.org

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.



PHOTO BY KATHERINE BLACKMORE/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Sisters in Action Ashley Jones (from left), Cassie Holloway, Courtney Jones, Camille Kent, Elisha Williams, Terenie Faison and Patti Hayes.

Powerful Advocates

Sisters in Action celebrate 10 years

BY NANA OPOKU

THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Sisters in Action for Power, a group of young African-American girls fighting for the rights of all youth in the Portland community, is celebrating 10 years of excellence.

These powerful young women stand up for what they believe in and most importantly, what is right.

For example, when they saw that

many students from Portland Public Schools were missing classes due to lack of transportation and finances, they took action to lessen the burden of transportation costs.

Because of their perseverance and strength, they were able to reduce the TriMet youth bus passes from \$32 to \$16.

"This was a big victory for us. It benefited 200,000 students," said 15

year-old Cassie Holloway.

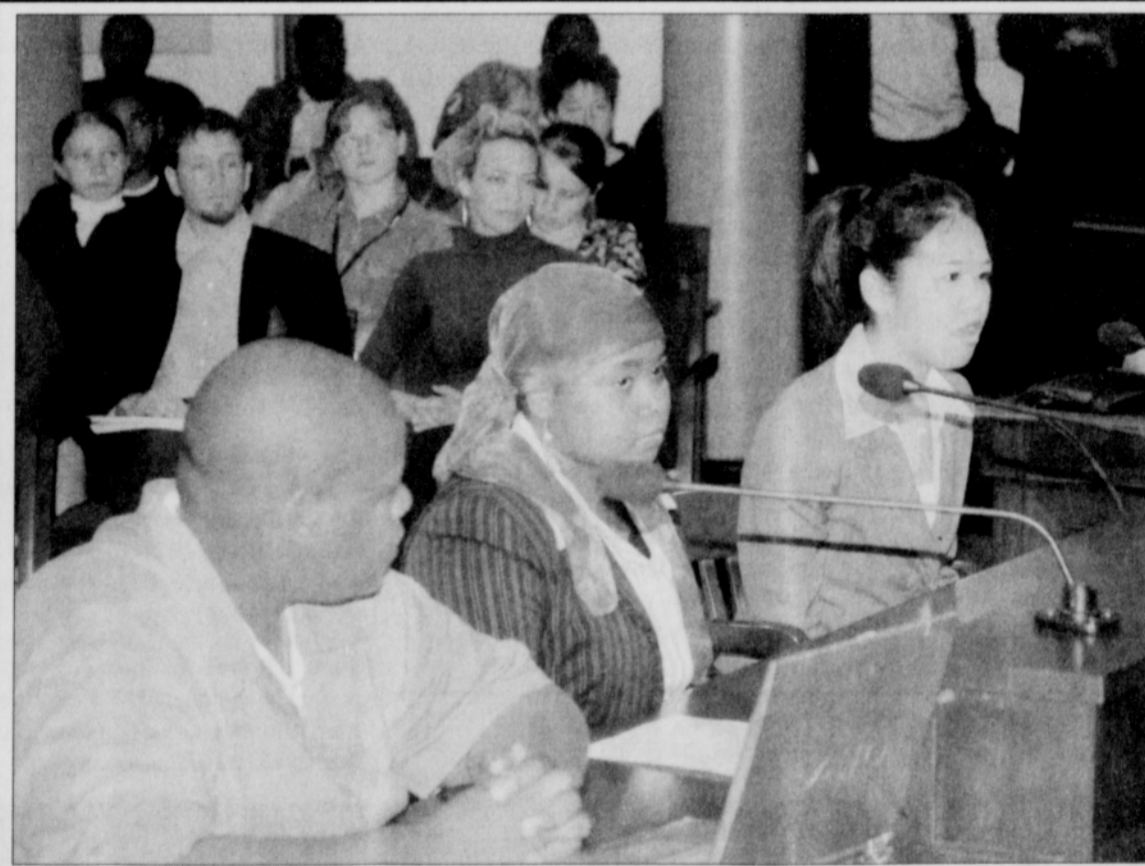
The sisters are also great encouragers, pushing local schools and students to keep-up the good work despite the negative feedback from the community. Their "We Believe, You do Achieve" said it all for Jefferson High School students who were struggling with community support.

The group is now working on a

new campaign called Support our Schools and Students. The mission is to help neighborhood public schools get the community support they need to get the best results.

The sisters are fighting hard to prevent the selling of public school land to private institutions; they want the land to be sold to other public

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Youth Workers Meet City Council

In an effort to bridge the gap between local youth and City Hall, 69 summer employees from the Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization gathered recently with Portland's elected officials.

Three minority youth, Christina Li, Anael Jeannis and Suada Ibrahim, presented their statements about working for the city

◀ Summer youth city employees Christina Li, Anael Jeannis and Suada Ibrahim present statements at a recent Portland City Council meeting.

and the Summer Youth Employment Program, giving their impressions of the program and working for the city. The city's Director of Human Resources presented information about the city-funded program.

The project coordinates recruitment, screening and selection of minority youth to participate in the City of Portland's Summer Youth Employment Program. It provides work skills training while coordinating that experience with city-wide job placement.

For more information regarding the Summer Youth Employment program, call Lyn Tan at 503-234-1541.

Columbia Slough Regatta to Launch

"Rediscover the Columbia Slough" by joining the Columbia Slough Watershed Council and its regatta partners at the 11th annual Small Craft Regatta in north and northeast Portland on Sunday, July 31, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Regatta is the largest community paddling event in Oregon. Last year more than 500 community members launched more than 170 boats to celebrate the efforts of concerned citizens, agencies and organizations who have worked hard to make the slough a cleaner and more vibrant habitat and recreational resource.

The 2005 Regatta includes live music by Hora Tzigane at the launch

site, a live radio remote by 105.9, kayak clinics by Alder Creek Kayak and Canoe, and tours of the Multnomah County Drainage District Facilities.

Participants receive a complimentary Regatta t-shirt, refreshments and a paddler's access guide to the Columbia Slough. Participants should plan to bring their own canoe or kayak and personal flotation device. A donation of \$5 per boat is requested.

The start and finish location will be the Multnomah County Drainage District #1 Office at 1880 N.E. Elrod Drive.

To reserve a complimentary canoe or kayak, contact Debbie Caselton at 503-823-2831.



Local paddlers make their way through the Columbia Slough. More than 500 people showed up to last year's Small Craft Regatta. The annual event takes place this Sunday.