

METRO

The Portland Observer

Portland Welcomes Concert of Hope

Light cast on children of Uganda



SECTION B

Community Calendar

Library Appreciation Sale

Title Wave Used Bookstore, on 216 N.E. Knott St., holds its Customer Appreciation Sale on Friday, Nov. 25 from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. For more information, call 503-988-5021 or go to www.multcolib.org.

Free College Outreach

The first Saturday of each month through May, from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. high school students will be helped to prepare for college at the Matt Dishman Community Center, 77 N.E. Knott St., through the efforts of Oregon State University. For more information call Earlean Wilson Huey at 1-800-291-4192, extension 7-9032, or call Jock White, Matt Dishman at 503-823-3620, or email Earlean.wilsonhuey@oregonstate.edu.

Computer Class for Parents

Portland Impact's Marshall High School SUN program is offering a free computer class for parents, starting with Basic Internet, MS Office and Windows on Wednesday, Nov. 16, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. For more information, call 971-570-1384.

Red Cross Teaches Safety

The American Red Cross offers a range of safety classes for crisis situations, from learning how to baby sit to performing CPR. The courses are intended for children aged 8 through adult. For more information visit www.redcross-pdx.org.

African Drumming, Dance

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

Multicultural Symposium

Lewis and Clark College presents the second annual Ray Warren Multicultural Symposium on Wednesday, Nov. 16 through Friday, Nov. 18. For more information, call 503-768-7051.

Essence Blood Drive

Essence Magazine, a lifestyle publication for African American women, will partner with the Red Cross to host a blood drive at the Portland Donor Center on 3131 N. Vancouver Ave. from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 19. For more information or to make an appointment, call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE.

Caregiver Resource Fair

A free resource fair for local caregivers will be held Friday, Nov. 18 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Providence Medical Center's Social Room at 4805 N.E. Glisan St. The fair will feature information on in-home assistance, adult day programs, support organizations, stress reduction, legal issues and more.

Women in Community Service

Volunteer mentors are being sought by Women in Community Service to work with incarcerated women at the Coffee Creek Correctional Facility. Mentors provide support and encouragement for women transitioning from prison back into the community. Volunteers must be females, age 24 and up. For more information, call 503-570-6614.

35
years of
community service



Local Standouts University Bound

Jefferson High School Basketball Coach Marshall Haskin (back row, from left) and assistant coaches Paul Kelly and Richard Fortson join their senior standout players guard Lathen Wallace Jr. (front left) and point guard Marquis Hall (front right) Nov. 9 for National Letters of Intent Day. Wallace announced that he will play basketball at Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Penn. next fall while Hill has signed with Oregon State University in Corvallis.

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Scam Artists Blow in

November in Oregon usually means the beginning of the high winds and heavy rain season. Homeowners whose property is damaged by Mother Nature's fury can be prime targets for unscrupulous thieves.

The Oregon Construction Contractors Board, the state agency that protects consumers and regulates the construction industry in Oregon, advises homeowners to be extra careful of door-to-door repair solicitations, contractors using vehicles with out-of-state license plates and "too-good-to-be-true" bids.

If you need roofs, windows, fences, or patio coverings fixed, or if you've got damaged trees that should be removed, "Stay away from unlicensed contractors," says board enforcement manager Richard Blank. "Scam artists come out of the woodwork after severe weather to prey on people who are anxious to get their home fixed because more winter weather is on the way."

Legitimate contractors performing home repairs must be properly licensed with the contractors' board. A license offers financial protection to consumers through the business' bond and insurance and access to dispute resolution services.

Consumers should verify a contractor's CCB license at www.ccb.state.or.us or 503-378-4621 before signing a home repair contract or paying any money.



PHOTO BY ISAIAH BOUIE/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Chores of November — Like residents all over the city, fall's leaves bring autumn chores for Ismael Sanchez along Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard near Fremont Street. The city offers leaf disposal sites at Leaf Depart locations around the city for \$1 per carload or \$4 per truck or trailer load. For more information, call the city Leaf Line at 503-823-1784.

Jobs Assured in New Neighborhood

Minority construction for South Waterfront

BY LEE PERLMAN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The Portland Development Commission has approved an agreement calling for greater participation of minority and women workers in the South Waterfront district construction, Portland's newest neighborhood of condominiums, apartments and businesses rising along the Willamette River, south of Riverplace.

Participants and workforce equality advocates, however, caution that the significance of the construction work set asides depend on how well PDC carries out its aspirations.

The agreement calls for 20 percent of construction jobs in the South Waterfront area - the west side waterfront south of the Marquam Bridge - to go to minority workers, and 15 percent to women,

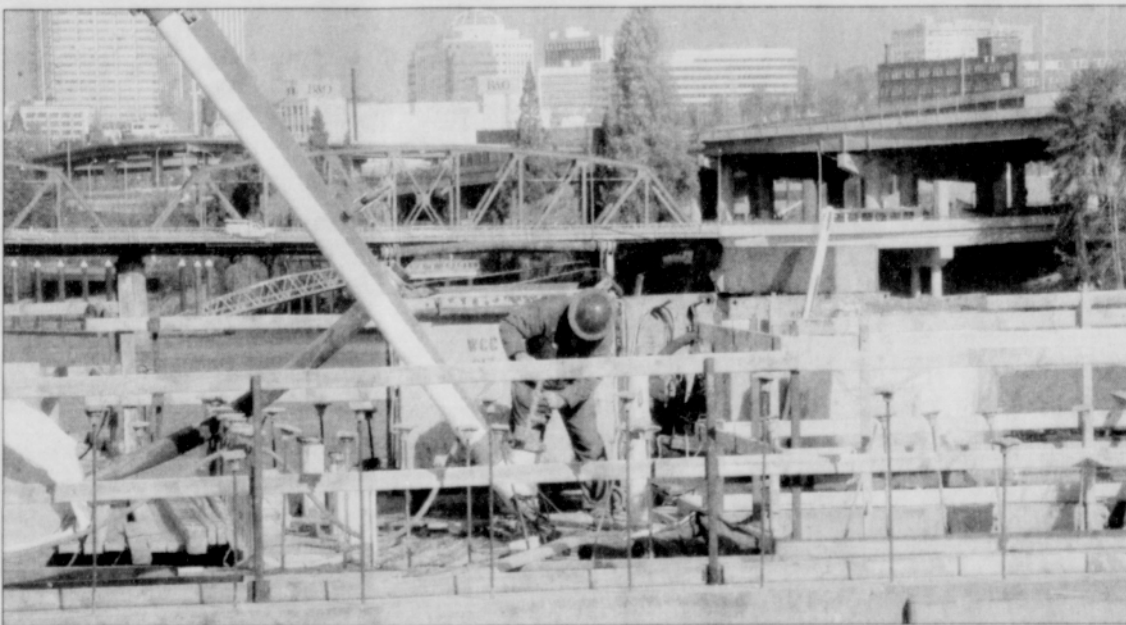


PHOTO BY ISAIAH BOUIE/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A brand new neighborhood takes shape along the Willamette River with the construction of condominiums, apartments and businesses in the South Waterfront district, south of downtown's Riverplace.

by the year 2014.

Parties to the agreement also agreed to develop programs to overcome barriers to apprenticeship programs and eliminate questions about criminal history when the work does not involve exceptional or extraordinary security requirements.

The document called on its signatories to make good faith efforts to achieve these goals, but con-

tained few specifics. Bidders are also relieved of doing anything that would put them "at a competitive disadvantage."

The agreement signatories are PDC, participating unions and contractors, and the developers: Oregon Health and Sciences University, River Campus Investors and North Macadam Investors.

Lacking an official voice on the construction jobs are groups such

as Oregon Trades Women, the African-American Chamber of Commerce, and the Community Coalition, which first brought the issue forward three years ago.

The Metropolitan Alliance for the Common Good, a coalition that included labor unions and churches, first called on PDC and the City Council to specify that construction work in this area be done at prevailing or union wages.

At that time, minority worker advocates called for assurances that minorities were included in the work force in significant numbers.

John Wallace of the Columbia Pacific Building Trades Council is happy with the final agreement.

"Not all of our unions support this, but most do. It's a good first step," he said.

Andre Baugh of the Community Coalition said the significance of the set asides is that people have finally put on paper what they've been saying for three years.

His biggest regret, he says, is that it took so long to materialize. As to the lack of minority representation on the Oversight Committee he says, "The parties have made clear they didn't want minority advocates to be signatories."

PDC Commission chair Eric Parsons told staff to make sure such interest groups "are being heard and feel like they're being heard." Ashbrook said a change in attitude among those involved might be more important than the contents of the agreement.

"There's a change in attitude at PDC and the unions seem to be coming around," she said. "But this is just an agreement. What counts is how it's carried out."