

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Shamara Stevenson (left), a student at Portland Community College, welcomes Sen. Margaret Carter to the Cascade Campus in north Portland to celebrate a \$150,000 grant to help the school train a diverse workforce in the transportation industry.

Diverse Transportation Workforce Wanted

State provides local grant for training

State Sen. Margaret Carter joined Oregon Gov. Ted Kulongoski and other state officials Monday to present a \$150,000 workforce training grant to the Portland Community College Skills Center in north Portland.

The hefty check from the Oregon Department of Transportation will assist the PCC Cascade Campus in expanding and diversifying skilled workers in the transportation industry.

The goal is increased training and apprenticeship opportunities for women and minorities interested in pursuing careers in heavy highway construction. ODOT will work with PCC Cascade to improve community outreach, support services, basic skills, and training in achieving these goals.

"Oregon ranks among the top five states nationally in construction job growth and the grant will help the state build on the success, by creating more employment opportunities in the highway construction

trades for more citizens—particularly women and minorities," said Gov. Kulongoski. "We are not only expanding family-wage job opportunities for individual citizens, but we are advancing our efforts to ensure that all communities throughout the state benefit from the Oregon Transportation Investment Act."

The legislation, among other things, was enacted to ensure that a qualified and diverse labor pool is ready to meet contractor needs for federally and state-funded transportation projects.

Bus 4 Route Changes Studied

A year ago, TriMet proposed re-routing Line 4-Fessenden to serve the new St. Johns Safeway store. Also proposed was using the space next to the new store

as a layover location. However, residents near the proposed bus turnaround asked for other bus routing options. Since then, TriMet has analyzed other route alternatives

and will share its findings and recommendations with residents on Wednesday, Nov. 30 from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Xenos Coffee Shop, on 8527 N. Lombard St.

Local Volunteers in Gulf for Holidays

Portland volunteers are serving in the Gulf Coast this holiday season, bringing gifts and more importantly hope.

Northwest Medical Teams will send three teams of volunteers to Louisiana and Mississippi in response to the needs of hurricane survivors. More than 20 volunteers will help feed families, distribute supplies and clean up hurricane-damaged houses. Joining the medical teams are Evergreen Aviation and Comcast representatives.

The Medical Teams will also truck thousands of toys along with school and hygiene supplies to the region. Their volunteers will also distribute these items at schools, churches and

community centers.

Northwest Medical Teams has sent more than 100 relief workers and \$891,000 in supplies to the Gulf region since September.

"Many people are still living in temporary housing and it's unknown how long it will take to restore any sense of normalcy to their lives," said Bas Vanderzalm, president of the Northwest Medical Teams. "Our volunteers will bring more than just toys and school supplies to children who have lost everything. Further, he said we want them to know that they haven't been forgotten, especially during this holiday season."

City Hall to Hear Immigrant Concerns

A forum is scheduled Saturday, Dec. 3 from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. at City Hall to help integrate immigrants into the American culture in Portland.

One out of every eight residents in the greater Portland area is foreign-born. In some neighborhoods, immigrants represent one out of every three residents. Many are

unable to find sustainable jobs and must spend time and energy towards basic needs, rather than civic involvement.

Bridgetown Voices, a community dialogue group, through the Community Language and Culture Bank will host this platform for change. For more information, call 503-223-4464.

Winter Registration Begins

Winter term registration for students new to Mt. Hood Community College begins Thursday Dec. 1 for classes starting Jan. 9. Returning students may register anytime at www.mhcc.edu or by calling 503-491-6000.

Anyone new to the college who is taking six or more credits is in-

ited to come to the Student Services offices at the MHCC Gresham campus to submit an admission form which is also available online and can be faxed to 503-491-7388.

For those taking non-credit classes, contact the college's community education department at 503-491-7572.

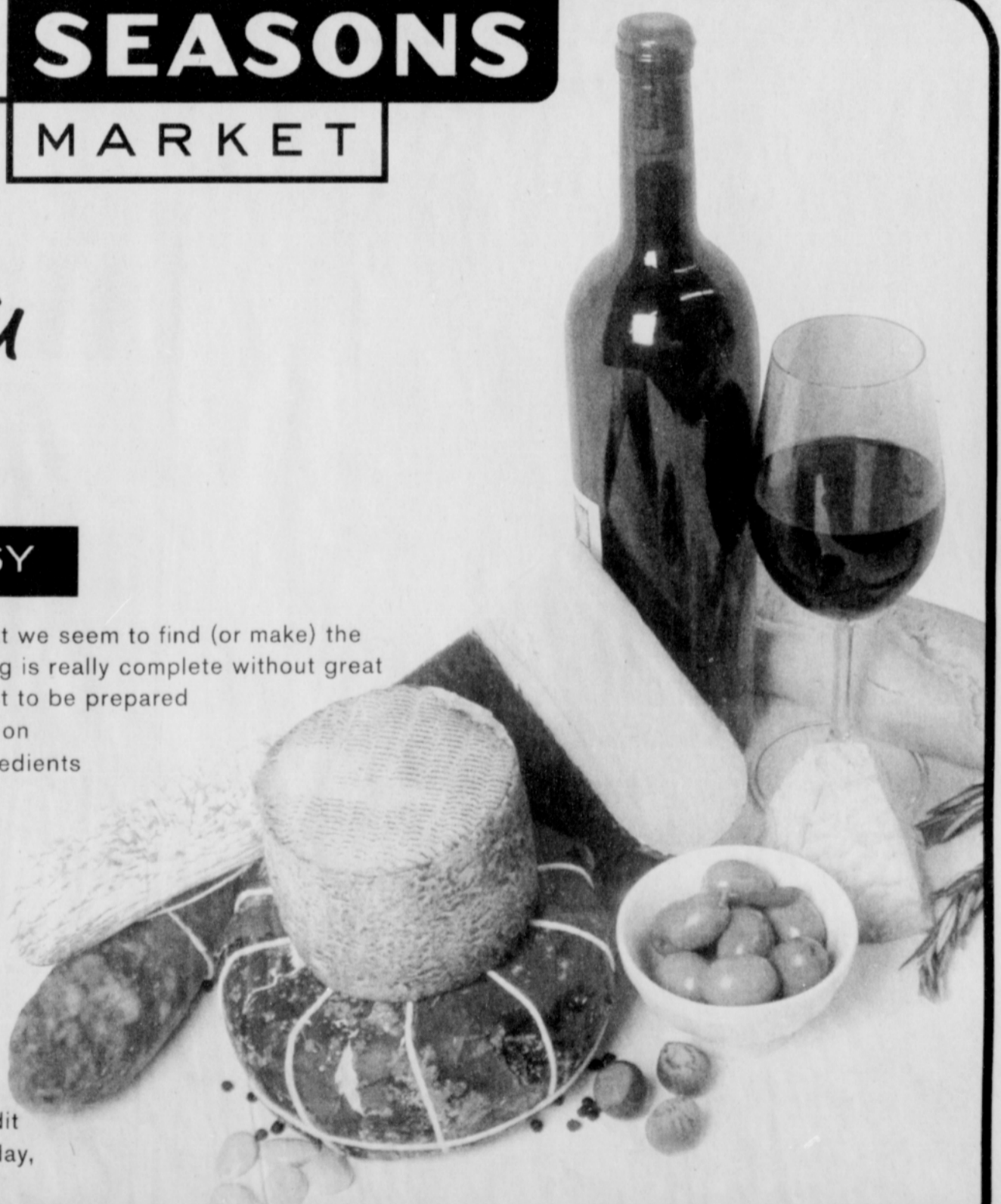
NEW SEASONS MARKET

They'll think you had it catered.

PARTY PLATTERS MADE EASY

One of the greatest pleasures of the holiday season is that we seem to find (or make) the time to visit with friends and family. Of course no gathering is really complete without great food and drink. To help you get ready for your party, or just to be prepared for that unexpected drop-by, this weekend we're focusing on party platters. We'll be sampling some of our favorite ingredients and offering tips on how to put together a quick and delicious presentation. We'll make it easy for you to take home whatever you need for your holiday pantry – from the cheeses, olives, and cured meats, to the smoked salmon and dips, artisan crackers, and fresh crusty breads, the wines and the ales – and even the actual platters.

Sound like too much work? Don't have enough time? We'll custom-make your party platters for you. Check out your options on pages four and five of this flyer. Take credit for it either way. We won't tell. Join us Saturday and Sunday, 11am-5pm.



EASY & FUN TO SHOP • LOCALLY OWNED & OPERATED

NOW OPEN! ARBOR LODGE AT NORTH INTERSTATE AVENUE & PORTLAND BOULEVARD

CONCORDIA STORE NE 33rd & Killingsworth Portland OR 97211 503.288.3838

www.newseasonsmarket.com