

METRO

The Portland Observer

BLACK WHITE

Families Swap
Race in TV
Reality Series

see page B3, inside

SECTION B

Community Calendar

Kells St. Patrick's Party

Celebrate at the city's largest St. Patrick's Day festival at Kells Irish Restaurant and Pub. Three jam-packed days of Dublin bands, prizes, and authentic Irish dishes. Festival kicks off at 11:30 a.m. on Friday, March 17 through Sunday March 19 at Kells, 112 S.W. 2nd Ave.

Anti-War Peace Rally

Mobilize against the war to mark three years since the Iraq invasion. A network of over 125 organizations issues call to action for a march and rally on Sunday, March 19 at Waterfront Park. Gather at 1:30 p.m. Event begins at 2 p.m.

Minority Networking

Oregon Association of Minority Entrepreneurs (OAME) Business After Hours Quarterly Networking event. Thursday, March 16 from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the OAME Cascade Plaza, 4134 N. Vancouver Ave. Cost is \$5 members, \$10 nonmembers. For more information, call Patricia Garcia at 503-249-7744.

Animal Secrets Exhibit

Where does a chipmunk sleep? Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (OMSI) provides answers in a new exhibit. Features text panels in English and Spanish. OMSI, 1945 S.E. Water Ave. For more information call 503-797-OMSI(6674).

Right to Choose

Defend Lovejoy Surgicenter, protecting a woman's right to choose. Show support for clients and staff of the women's health center on Saturday, March 18, 8:30 a.m. Meet at northwest corner of Northwest Lovejoy and 25th Ave. Contact Radical Women at 503-240-4462.

Get Wet at City Parks

All March, spring break extended hours at Columbia, Matt Dishman, Mt. Scott and Southwest Community Center pools. Open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. with open swim times starting at 1 p.m. Register for spring classes by calling Portland Parks and Recreation at 503-823-5130.

Courageous Moms Seminar

Rick Johnson will present Courageous Moms: Raising Boys to Become Good Men. March 18, 9 a.m. to noon at Parkrose High School and Community Center, 12003 N.E. Shaver St. Childcare and activities for kids provided. Cost is free. To register call 503-665-3761 or e-mail rick@betterdads.net.

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.

Relay For Life

Local residents unite to fight against cancer through Relay For Life. Teams of eight to 15 people will camp at Portland Christian School and take turns jogging or walking around the track on Aug. 5 and 6. For more information, visit <http://acs.kintera.org/relay/or/nepoland>, or contact Heather Sayah at 503-795-3971.

36
years
of
community service

Crossing Cultures

Excursions build friendships, confidence

An innovative club is helping international students adjust to Portland Community College and the city of Portland.

It's called the Saturday Excursion Club and it began last fall. Since then, students have joined staff at a Portland State University football game, shopping at Saturday Market, tours of the PCC Cascade Public Services Building, attended PCC's Annual Winter Powwow at the Sylvania Campus, and enjoyed films at the 16th Annual Cascade Festival of African Films.

"Students who speak English as a second language often don't know the city or have ideas about what to do socially on the weekends," said Penny Thompson, coordinator for the PCC Learning Center, 705 N. Killingsworth St. "So we decided that for three Saturdays each term we would give them a cross cultural experience and introduce them to Portland."

"The dad of one of the students followed us for a while just to make sure that we were legitimate," she added. "That student proved his maturity to his more traditional father and is now skiing out of town on Spring break."

It is that kind of socialization and confidence in getting around town that organizers were looking for. Thompson along with instructor Pat Semura and educator Marcio Lemos has opened the excursions to all PCC students, not just international ones.

The club is sponsored by the Associated Students of Portland Community College at the Cascade Campus. The activities consist of meeting students at different spots and showing that they have to do something to get involved in the city.

Thompson, who has been at PCC-Cascade for 28 years, has been the coordinator of the Learning Center since September when the different Learning Center sites were combined into one location at the new space in Terrell Hall. She has concentrated her academic support on international students and those who speak English as a non-native language.

"I've seen the number of students grow in numbers and diversity," she said. "The goal is to get more faculty and students involved."

For more information, contact Thompson at 503-978-5455.



Penny Thompson (back row, center) leads a group of PCC international students on a tour of Portland's Saturday Market.

Clara Vista Homes are 'Affordable and Green'

Opening doors in the Cully neighborhood

Clara Vista Townhomes has opened its doors for families with limited incomes with new environmental "green" homes in the Cully neighborhood of northeast Portland.

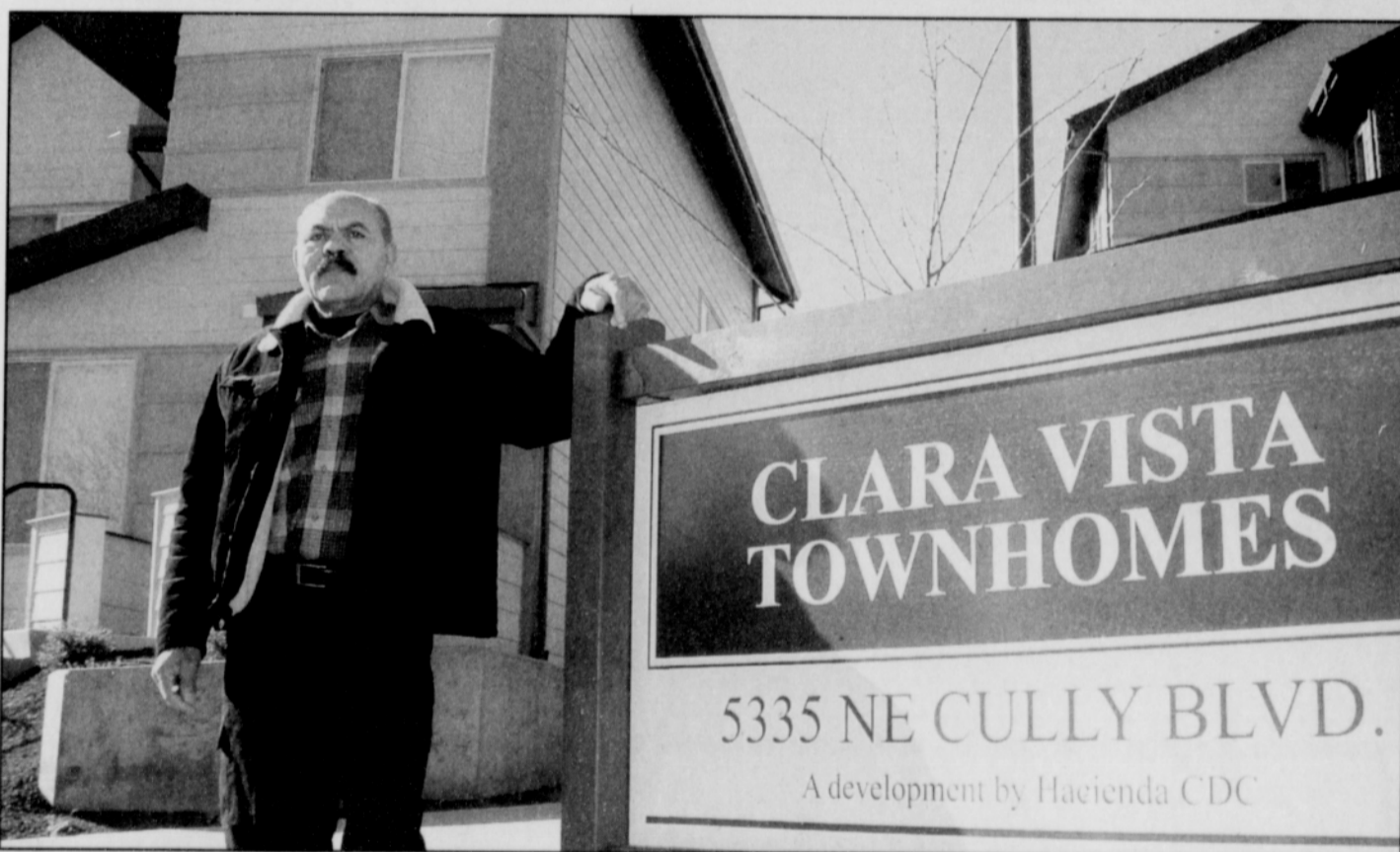
The 34 three-bedroom and 10 four-bedroom townhomes serve households that earn less than 60 percent of the area median income. 14 townhomes have project-based rent subsidies to increase affordability for very low-income families, those earning less than 30 percent of the area median income.

The development was made possible through the Hacienda Community Development Corp. and is managed by Cascade Management.

Financing for construction included low-income housing tax credit equity from Enterprise Housing Partners and a multi-investor fund that included Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, J.P. Morgan Chase Bank and Merrill Lynch & Co.

Enterprise supported the project through its "Green Communities" initiative with the Natural Resources Defense Council to build more than 8,500 affordable homes that deliver significant health, economic and environmental benefits for low-income families and communities.

"Hacienda is setting an example for af-



Pedro Bisset-Puebla, property manager, welcomes residents to the new Clara Vista Townhomes, an affordable housing development on Northeast Cully Boulevard, just north of Killingsworth Street.

fordable housing developers nationwide who think housing should be built affordable and green," said Kate Allen, director, Enterprise Portland.

The housing features Energy Star lighting, roof top solar hot water systems, and

formaldehyde-free particle board cabinets and countertops. Energy efficient building systems include hydronic heating systems, fans with timers and delays, high performance electric lighting and fixtures, low flow plumbing fixtures, controls, and water effi-

cient appliances. Each townhome has a whole house ventilation system and an ultra-quiet bathroom fan to help prevent mold growth.

For information on unit availability, contact Cascade Management at 503-284-3985.

PHOTO BY ISAIAH BOUIE/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER



Bobby Seale

Black Panther Coming to Oregon

Corvallis NAACP to host party founder

Black Panther Party founder Bobby Seale is coming to Oregon to serve as the keynote speaker at the Corvallis-Albany Branch NAACP annual Freedom Fund Banquet.

A camera crew will record the Saturday, May 27 address in Corvallis for use in a documentary film on the 40th anniversary of the Black Panther Party to be released in

October of this year.

Huey Newton and Bobby Seale founded the Black Panthers October 1966 in Oakland, Calif. The Panthers practiced militant self-defense of minority communities and worked to establish revolutionary socialism through mass organizing and community based programs. The party's agenda included establishment of economic, social, and political equality across gender and color lines.

Although largely remembered for the policy of arming the urban black population in self-defense against police, the party also

created the first models for Head Start and federally funded school lunch programs. The Panthers operated public health clinics, schools and community social centers. They were the inspiration for the Grey Panthers, a political force that still represents the interests of retirees today.

By the mid 1970's the Black Panther Party was destroyed by police infiltration, assassinations and criminal prosecution of its leaders. Bobby Seale has been a successful

continued ▼ on page B5