

# METRO

The Portland Observer



## Walk For Life Honors Portland Teen

See Sports, page B6 inside

SECTION B

### Community Calendar

#### Rally for Housing Justice

A rally for housing justice to support seniors, people with disabilities, working families and low-income individuals is scheduled at noon on Thursday, May 25 at Portland City Hall, 1221 S.W. 4th Ave. For information, call Michael Anderson at 503-335-9884.

#### Beginning Meditation

Free yourself from worries and mental discomfort and experience true happiness by learning about meditation in practical, easy, clear and systematic methods each Monday from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at In Other Words bookstore, 8 N.E. Killingsworth.

#### Jefferson Old School Dance

Shake it to Old School and R&B at the Jefferson High School Reunion Old School Dance, Friday, May 26 from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Melody Ballroom, 615 S.E. Alder. Ricky Pettiford and DJ O.G One will provide the music and tickets are \$20, helping Jefferson Student Funds support future proms, grad nights and student activities. For more information, call Phoebe Tyeskey at 503-490-0985.

#### Peace Park Dedication

A dedication ceremony for the Portland Memorial Peace Park next to the Steel Bridge in the Rose Quarter is scheduled for Memorial Day on Monday, May 29, beginning at noon at Memorial Coliseum. Participants will walk to the Peace Park for a dedication ceremony at 1 p.m. The event is free for the public.

#### All-City Gospel Skate

Prayze Entertainment Group presents Roll Bounce Gospel Skate, featuring live performances and DJ giveaways, happens 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Monday, May 29 at Gresham Skate World, 1220 N.E. Kelly Ave. Tickets are \$5 in advance, \$7 at the door and are available by calling 503-754-1600, 503-577-9239.

#### Mexico Heritage Celebration

Celebrate the colorful heritage of Mexico at the free Spring in Mexico Community Celebration, June 2 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Holladay Park Plaza Retirement Community, 1300 N.E. 16th Ave. RSVPs are appreciated, by calling 503-280-2216.

#### Restoring Wood Workshop

Learn about the Four R's of Vintage Woodwork: Restore, Repair, Replace or Renovate? Saturday, June 3 from 9:30 a.m. to noon at the Architectural Heritage Center, 701 S.E. Grand Ave. Admission is \$10 for AHC members and \$15 for the general public. For more information call AHC at 503-231-7264 or visit www.VisitAHC.org.

#### Cycle the Well Field

Join the Portland Water Bureau and Columbia Slough Watershed Council for a bike tour through Portland's Groundwater Protection Area, Saturday, June 10 from 9 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Parkrose Transit Center, Northeast Sandy Boulevard and 95th Avenue. To register call Jill Wall at 503-281-1132 or email jill.wall@columbia.slough.org.

#### Run/Walk for Arthritis Help

The first annual 5K run/walk for the Child Arthritis and Rheumatology Research Alliance will kick off on Sunday, June 11 at 8:30 a.m. at the Main Street Plaza on the Eastbank Esplanade in Portland. To pre-register visit www.signme.upsports.com and for information visit www.CARRAgroup.org.

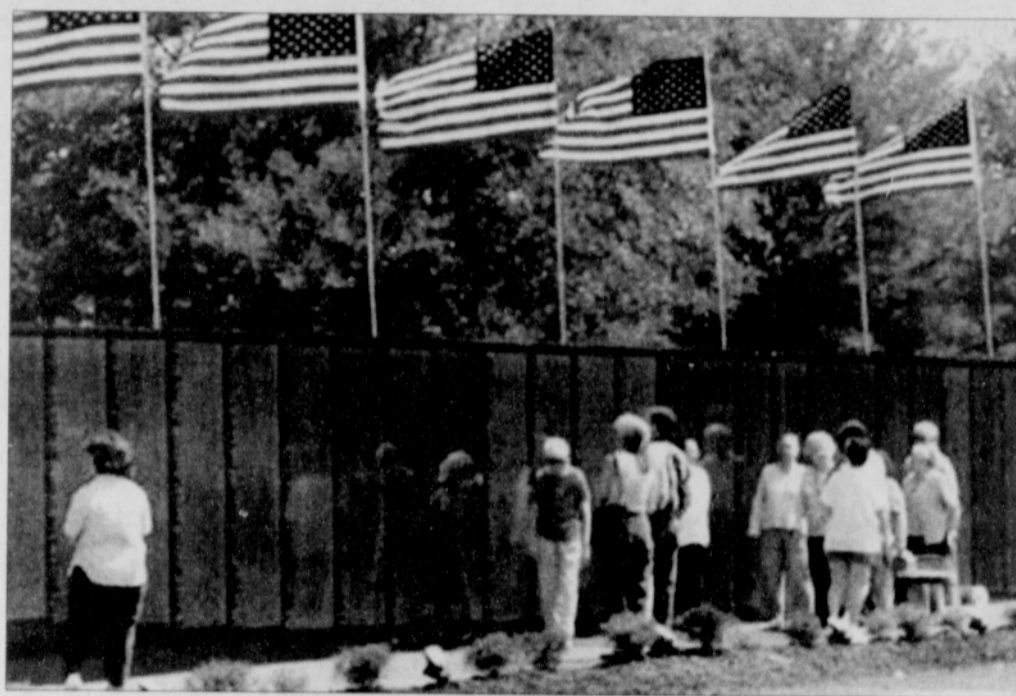
36  
years  
of  
community service

## Vietnam Wall Comes to Portland

Local residents can experience a traveling replica of the Vietnam Wall Memorial during a three-day exhibition to honor Vietnam War veterans and those who have served in the U.S. military. The traveling memorial will visit Portland May 26 through 28 at Lincoln Memorial Park, 11801 S.E. Mt. Scott Blvd.

The traveling wall is a three-quarter-size, faux granite replica to its Washington counterpart, spanning 240 feet with a height of eight feet.

The Memorial Day Weekend exhibition is free to the public and will feature speakers, a special Purple Heart ceremony to tell the story of the heart of the wall and 24-hour access for viewing and name rubbings.



For more information, visit [www.vietnamwallexperience.com](http://www.vietnamwallexperience.com) and click the Portland link.

A traveling replica of the Vietnam Wall Memorial in Washington D.C. comes to Portland over the Memorial Day Weekend, May 26 through 28 at Lincoln Memorial Park, 11801 S.E. Mt. Scott Blvd.

## Advocate Accepts New Job in Nevada

### Urban League executive will be missed

Vanessa Gaston, chief executive officer and president of the Urban League of Portland, will be leaving Portland for a new job in Nevada, league officials announced Thursday.

Gaston, a charismatic leader who has greatly enhanced the organization's credibility and visibility in the community, has accepted the position of Assistant Director of Social Services for Clark County, Nev., said Charles Wilhoite, Chair of the Urban League of Portland Board of Directors.

Gaston begins her new duties in Las Vegas in July.

"Vanessa has been a tremendous leader for the Urban League, and she will be sorely missed," said Wilhoite. "We recognize, however, that leaders of Vanessa's caliber are few in number and are nationally sought after. The

League is fortunate to have benefited from her presidency over the past three years. We wish her only the best in her new position."

The League is initiating a search for Gaston's replacement and expects to have a new CEO in place within three to six months, he added.

In the meantime, the board has appointed Marcus Mundy, a board member, private consultant and former vice president and regional compliance officer at Kaiser Permanente Northwest, to serve as interim director during the search process. Mundy is principal of Mundy Consulting, a local health care compliance consulting firm.

"I humbly accepted this appointment because of my enduring respect and affinity for the work of the Urban League and my desire to maintain the considerable momentum that has been generated by Vanessa's leadership, strong staff and an energetic and involved board," said Mundy. "I eagerly await the identification of our new director so that the programs, mission and positive benefit to the entire Portland metropolitan community can continue to move forward."

Gaston has served as president and chief executive officer of the league since March 2003. She previously served as associate superintendent at Washington Soldiers Home & Colony in Orting, Wash.

As president of the Urban League, Gaston provided a focus to the league's

demographic achievement gap.

Wilhoite also credits her with restoring financial health to the league. "Her strong focus on reducing expenditures and controlling costs has resulted in increased confidence from the League's financial supporters, and has driven a period of growth in



Vanessa Gaston

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—Charles Wilhoite, Chair of the Urban League of Portland

activities through a seven-year strategic plan that established and tracked performance outcomes for programs; hired a highly-educated, professional staff to deliver quality services to the community; and served as a strong advocate and public servant on educational issues for youth, with particular attention to eliminating the aca-

areas of membership, sponsorships and general fund raising," Wilhoite said.

The Urban League of Portland helps empower African Americans and others to achieve equality in education, employment and economic security through a combination of direct services, outreach and advocacy.

## Mental Health Provider Plans Move to MLK Site

### Called Better Location

Cascadia Behavioral Healthcare, the major provider of mental health services for local minority and low-income residents, recently purchased a 14,600 square foot site at 3038 N.E. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard as part of continuing commitment to better serve local communities.

Cascadia President and CEO Leslie Ford and other executives will join staff from the current clinic on North Albina Avenue and Killingsworth Street, relocating this August to the \$2.88 million one-story masonry and glass building.

Ford said the MLK building was chosen for client convenience, good transportation, parking, and an opportunity amount of square footage. The site's current configuration will require only a



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Cascadia Behavioral Healthcare, a major provider of mental health services for local minority and low-income residents, will relocate to a building at 3038 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. that once housed a career center and before that Nike.

couple hundred thousand dollars of renovation to meet Cascadia needs.

The property once housed the Nike Outlet store and was most recently home to human service agencies, including Youth Opportunities and the Northeast One Stop Career Center.

Cascadia executives have begun meeting with residents of the Eliot Neighborhood to engage them in the process of developing a Good Neighbor Agreement and ensure a smooth transition.

The company is committed to being an asset to the neighborhood and Ford noted that with 70 staff members with payroll exceeding \$2.5 million, local restaurants and other stores can anticipate increased business.

Cascadia is the area's largest provider of behavioral healthcare services, operating more than 70 sites in four counties. Cascadia creates hope and opportunity for people with mental illnesses and addictions, blending innovation and determination with competence and compassion.