

METRO

The Portland Observer



Local Rap Group Hosts NBA Party

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37
years of
community service

SECTION B

Community Calendar

Summer Job Fair

Thursday, March 8 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., MHCC College Center, 26000 S.E. Stark St. in Gresham, will host the first ever Summer Job Fair. Opportunities available for summer employment and summer recruitment, contact 503-491-7432 for more information.

What Happened to Pluto?

Monday, March 12 at 7 p.m. and 8 p.m. at the Mt. Hood Community College Planetarium Sky Theater, located beneath the campus library, you can explore Pluto the 'dwarf planet'. Seating is limited, admission \$1. Visit starstuff.com for more information.

Camp Fire Party

Saturday, March 17, from noon to 2 p.m., the Camp Fire USA Portland Metro Council will host their 97th birthday party with fun for all ages. Activities include live entertainment, games, prizes, music, and even birthday cake. Call 503-224-7800 for details.

End the War Now Rally

Sunday, March 18, at 1:30 p.m. at the South Park Blocks, local residents will mark the 4th anniversary of the Iraq War with a peaceful march through downtown Portland. Call 503-230-9427 for more information.

Spring Beach Cleanup

Saturday, March 24, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., thousands of volunteers are needed to help restore the coastline to a pristine condition. Volunteers can call 800-333-7658 or visit solv.org to register.

Zoo Teens Needed

The Oregon Zoo needs 300 high school students for the summer to assist in educating zoo visitors. If you love animals and teaching others, call 503-220-2449.

Spring Break Art Journeys

Monday, March 26 thru Friday, March 30, the Portland Art Museum hosts the instructional art series for children ages 7-12. Contact 503-226-2811 or visit portlandartmuseum.org, for more information.

Used Book Sale

Wednesday, March 28, from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m., the Multnomah County Library used book store at 216 N.E. Knott St. will celebrate its 19th anniversary by offering all used merchandise at 55 percent off.

Ghana Women's Art Exhibit

WSU Vancouver, 14204 N.E. Salmon Creek Ave., hosts a powerful West African art exhibit with guest lecturer and well-known Ghanaian art historian Nii Quarcoopome. The gallery hours are Monday thru Thursday from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Fridays 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, call 360-546-9580.

Life After High School

Monday, April 9, from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., PSU's Smith Ballroom, will host the Career and Educational Opportunities Fair, a venue for local businesses, trade apprenticeships, summer work programs and educational organizations to present career opportunities available within their organizations. For more information call 503-230-9427.

Fostering Diversity

Thursday, April 26 thru Friday, April 27, Mt. Hood Community College and Portland State University, will host the two-day conference to address critical diversity-related issues in the Portland and Gresham communities, with educational, business and cultural leaders. Call 503-491-7254 for more information.

Community Support

The African American Health Coalition, a non-profit that touches the lives of millions of African Americans each year, reminds you to support your community organization. All donations, grants, and gifts are tax deductible. For more information, visit aahc-portland.org.

Diabetes Support Group

Legacy Emanuel Hospital hosts a diabetes support group the first and third Thursdays of every month, from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m., in Room 1027.

Bradley-Angle House

The Bradley-Angle House needs volunteers to help its outreach against domestic violence. Women of color and bilingual women are encouraged to call. For more information, call 503-282-9940.



Ruth Pitts-London brings a voice to civil rights and justice issues in her new community of Gresham.

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

NAACP Voice for East County

New chapter forming in Gresham

BY SARAH BLOUNT
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

13 years ago Ruth Pitts-London moved from Northeast 19th Avenue to outer east Portland – not because she wanted to, but because gentrification made it difficult to afford housing and living costs in her close-in neighborhood.

But moving meant leaving the heart of the city's African American community.

"Being out there, I had no resources," Pitts said. "My church and family were

here [in northeast Portland]."

Since then, many minorities have joined Pitts in relocating to East County and Gresham, and as a result have affected the demographics of a once predominantly-white area. One example of that change is the formation of a new NAACP Branch in Gresham.

Pitts-London became interested in opening the branch in 2002 when, as a state-registered childcare provider, she took a foster care issue to the NAACP Portland branch and encountered an understaffed office that was unable to

resolve her issue. She served as branch secretary at the time, but decided to step down to open a chapter closer to her home.

"This is important because people in Gresham are not used to dealing with minorities," she said.

The Gresham-Territorial Branch is technically in its planning stages, but volunteer staff members are now serving residents of East County.

To become a chartered branch they must have 100 members, and must establish a youth chapter and college chapter. The branch is also in need of volunteer attorneys and a permanent office loca-

tion. "We're looking for businesses to donate available space for lease or rent," she said.

A college chapter at nearby Mt. Hood Community College is in the works and youth are encouraged to join or help establish their own chapter.

Meetings are held the third Saturday of each month at the Midland Library, 805 S.E. 122nd Ave.

To become a member one must live or work in the Gresham area and pay \$30 annual membership dues. If you are interested in joining or more information, call Pitts-London at 503-772-5059.

Stopping Domestic Violence

Men at the core of change

BY NIA DIYG
FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Changing the destructive ways of relating to their loved ones is the aim of a new domestic violence eradication campaign.

The Bradley-Angle House's "Allies for Hope" enlists the proactive support of business and professional men and mirrors the three-year-old "Bridges of Hope: Business and Professional Women Against Domestic Violence" campaign, earning support of psychiatrists like Dr. Christopher Huffine, formerly of the Men's Resource Center.

"If you're not part of the solution, you're part of the problem," he said. "Our goal is to help men realize that domestic violence is a much larger problem than the physical abuse."

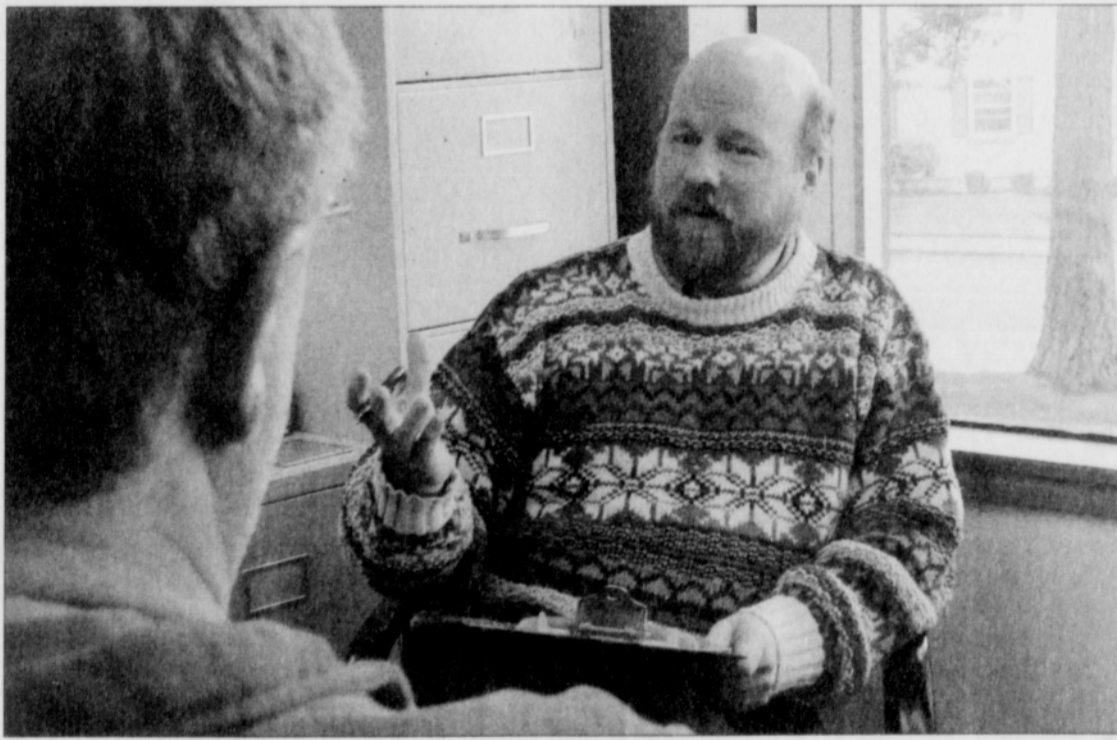
Gary (not his real name) has first hand experience in the violence and consequences of causing harm to another person.

A tall, articulate man in his early 40s, he speaks candidly about his own experience: He was arrested two years ago on a domestic violence charge involving his then live-in partner of more than four years.

An argument escalated into a physical altercation. He taunted her to call the police. So she did.

"I don't remember all the details," he said. "I was intoxicated that night, but that was not always the case when I became abusive."

Gary pushed his girlfriend down on the floor and pushed her face into the carpet.



Dr. Christopher Huffine lends his support to Bradley-Angle House's "Allies for Hope" domestic violence eradication campaign.

PHOTO BY NIA DIYG/
THE PORTLAND
OBSERVER

The incident, which landed him in jail for 28 days for resisting arrest and assaulting an officer, as well as the domestic assault charges, was the wake-up call he

needed to change his life.

"I always realized I had a violent temper," he says, "but I didn't realize how deep and big the issues were, nor did I

realize how much I was hurting myself as well as those closest to me."

He grew up in a family where his parents were emotionally abusive to each other and often physically abusive to him and his brother. Seeing the same dysfunctional behaviors in the homes of his relatives, he grew up believing that it was normal.

In April 2005, he began 15 months of court-mandated weekly sessions at Huffine's Allies in Change Counseling Center and four months of weekly outpatient alcohol treatment. He soon began to realize not only the depth of his problem, but more importantly learned how to deal with life in a new way, using the tools he

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Healing Roots Center Opens

The Bradley-Angle House, the first domestic violence shelter established on the West Coast, is celebrating the opening of the Healing Roots Center, a multicultural drop-in center at 5432 N. Albina Ave., just south of Killingsworth Street.

The facility is a new program for African and African American women and children affected by domestic violence. Funding comes from the United

Way of the Columbia-Willamette with support from mental health experts at LifeWorks Northwest and Nappy Roots Press, the group founded by Oregonian columnist and local African American activist S. Renee Mitchell.

The partners hope that by working together, they can raise awareness and create communities in which domestic abuse and sexual violence are not tolerated.

Bike Safety Fair at PCC

In a bike friendly city like Portland, it's important to be safe on the roads. That's why Portland Community College is hosting an event to teach kids

and their parents the value of bicycle safety.

The Bicycle Safety Fair will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, March 24 in front of the Public Service Education Building at the PCC Cascade Campus in north Portland.

Children aged 16 and younger attending the event will receive a free bicycle

helmet (while supplies last) and get to navigate a bicycle safety course. Attendees will also have the chance to tour various emergency response vehicles provided by several area police and fire agencies, and the PCC Student Association of Firefighters.

Plus, there will be a raffle for two children's bicycles complete with match-

ing helmets to benefit the PCC Criminal Justice Club.

Students from the school's 9-1-1 Emergency Communications program will be handing out and assisting with KidPrint packets for parents. The packets contain a stamp pad, fingerprint sheets and a photo as tools to assist law enforcement in finding lost or missing children.