

METRO

The Portland Observer



Best in Dance

Whitebird dance series opens 10th season
See A&E section, inside

Latin-American Films

Premiere four-day festival opens Thursday
See El Observador, page B3



SECTION B

Community Calendar

Weatherization Workshops

Thursday, Sept. 20, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., the Community Energy Project, 422 N.E. Alberta St., hosts free educational workshops to self-weatherize your home; qualifying participants will receive a free weatherizing kit. Free weatherization is available for seniors. Call 503-284-6827 to register.

Lou Gossett Jr.

Community advocate and academy-award-winning actor Lou Gossett Jr. will kickoff the United Way's annual Community Campaign with a keynote breakfast address on Thursday, Sept. 20 at 7:30 a.m. at the Oregon Convention Center. RSVP by visiting unitedway-pdx.org or call the events line at 503-226-9366.

African-American Council

You're invited on the third Tuesday of each month from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. when the African American Advisory Council meets at the King Facility, 4815 N.E. Seventh Ave. Call 503-823-0000.

Hispanic Heritage Month

In honor of National Hispanic Heritage Month (Sept. 15-Oct. 15), Multnomah County libraries will celebrate the culture and traditions of Spanish-speaking nations with bilingual programs and special events. Visit multcolib.org/events/hispanic for a complete listing of events.

Seeds of Euphoria

The Seeds of Euphoria program offers a safe, educational and creative alternative for teen girls ages 15-18, building self-esteem and confidence through tribal belly dancing. Classes begin Tuesday, Sept. 25 at Euphoria Studios, 1235 S.E. Division. For more information, call 503-522-1403.

Diabetes Support Group

Legacy Emanuel Hospital hosts a diabetes support group the first and third Thursdays of every month, from 7 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.

Home-Buying Fair

Saturday, Sept. 22, from noon until 5 p.m., Portland Development Commission will host this free event to promote home ownership among people of color. The event will be held at the Portland Community College-SE Center, 2305 S.E. 82nd. For more information, call 503-823-3400.

Fall Swimming Lessons

The Portland Parks will be offering fall swimming lessons for citizens of all ages at various pools throughout the Portland metro area. For rates, registration, and information contact 503-823-5130.

Food Bank Seeks Volunteers

The Oregon Food Bank seeks volunteers to sort and repack perishable foods. Call 503-282-0555, extension 272, to register.

Tax Help in Rockwood

VITA tax aide for low-income families will begin to assist clients at the Rockwood Community office, 18709 S.E. Stark. Clients are seen by appointment only, made on Wednesdays only from 1 to 5 p.m., by calling 503-816-1530.

Interstate Farmers Market

A farmers market is held each Wednesday through Sept. 26 from 3 - 7 p.m. just off Interstate Avenue between Overlook Park and the Interstate Kaiser Permanente Campus. The market is known for its variety of fresh local produce, baked goods, cut flowers, artisan cheese, meat and fish.

Neighborhood Farm Stand

Locally grown vegetables and fresh flowers will be available to the public, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. every Sunday, at the Redeemer Lutheran Church, N.E. 20th and Killingsworth. The stand supports local refugees and immigrant farmers.

Women in Community Service

Volunteer female mentors are being sought by Women in Community Service to work with incarcerated women at the Coffee Creek Correctional Facility. The women provide support and encouragement for inmates transitioning from prison back into the community. For information, call 503-570-6614.

Families Make Lents Their Home

Turning around a neighborhood perception

BY RAYMOND RENDLEMAN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Trying to sleep over the scurrying of cockroaches remains a fresh memory for the Garcias, one of the 37 low-income families finding refuge in a new outer-southeast-Portland development.

As ROSE Community Development held grand-opening ceremonies for the Leander Court Apartments last week, families, managers and officials tried to bring to light some of the true-life tales that necessitate a \$7.4 million investment.

Hoping that the complex will provide safe and stable homes to many families earning \$20,000-30,000 a year, they provided constant reminder of rents that leave little left over for food and clothing, let alone for extermination professionals refused by slumlords.

Some families additionally escaped the physical and emotional abuse of a partner.

The primary mover behind the project only wished that it were possible to get more funding for those in need.

"Everybody knew it was a great project, but there were just other projects that were in line ahead of us," says Nick Sauvie, ROSE executive director. "It's a very competitive funding environment, especially for low-income-housing tax credits, and we actually had to go back three times."

Saying that "everybody recognizes that it's a problem," Sauvie looks forward to the day when his nonprofit can expend less of its resources in the bureaucracy.

Newly installed residents prepared for the upcoming rhetoric of Multnomah County Commission Chair Ted Wheeler and City Commissioner Randy Leonard by holding a community

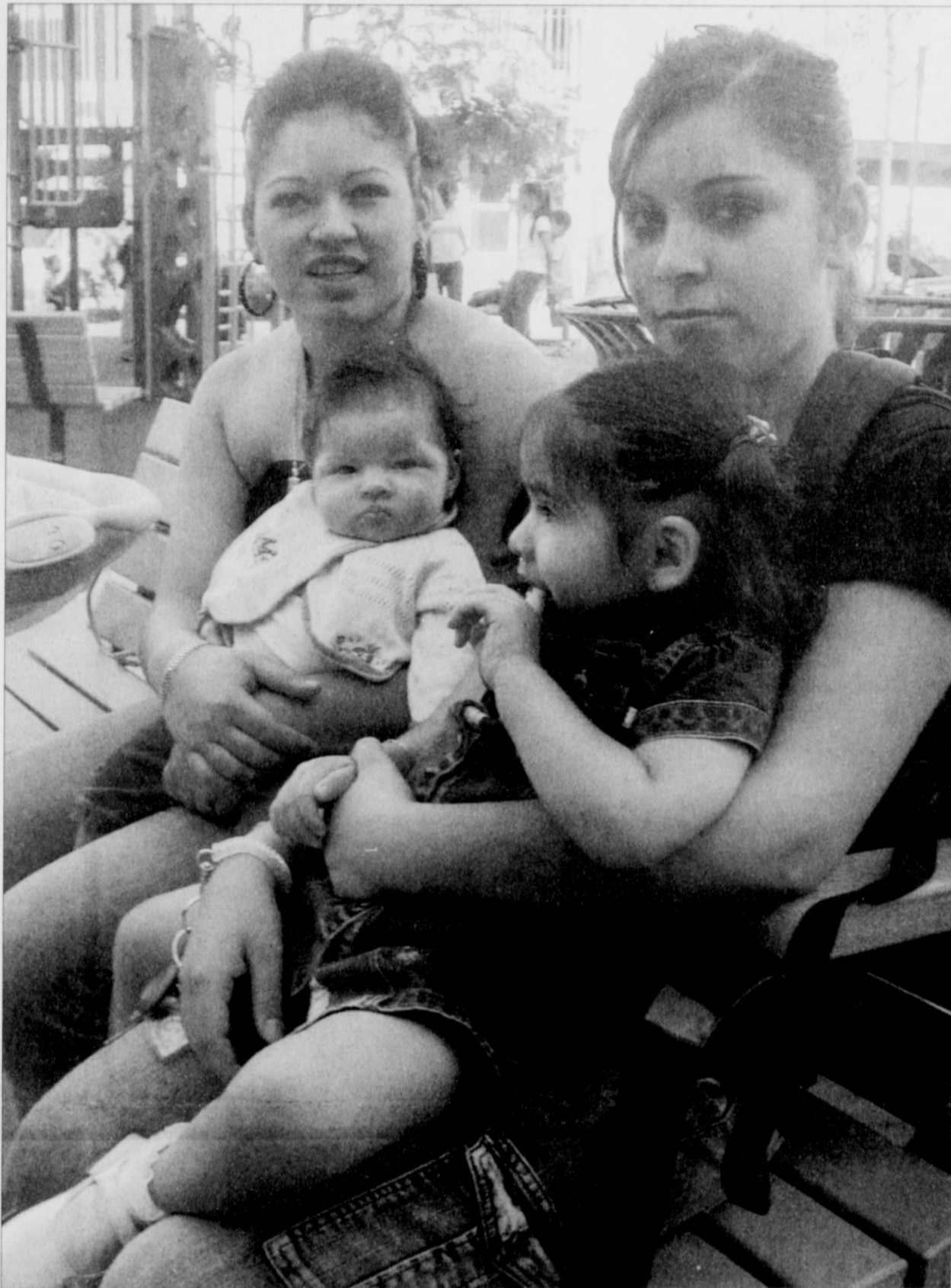


PHOTO BY RAYMOND RENDLEMAN/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Vanesa Barragan (right) helps take care of her sister Esther Garcia's children Angel and Montserrat.

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Breast Cancer Doesn't Discriminate

Higher mortality in populations of color

Breast cancer has no boundaries, and it doesn't discriminate. In fact, 85 percent of all women diagnosed with breast cancer do not have a family history of breast cancer.

While the overall breast cancer mortality rate has steadily declined over the past decade, the mortality rate for minority women has not declined at the same pace.

Breast cancer is the leading cause of cancer death among Latina women in Oregon.

The reason for higher mortality rates in Latino and African-American populations is a combination of access, awareness and cultural pressures that might not allow for open discussion about breast health. It will take a significant investment to overcome these barriers.

Among Latinas and African-American women, breast cancer is more frequently diagnosed at a later stage when fewer treatment options are available.

Oregon and Washington have the highest breast-cancer rates in the country, though no one can accurately and scientifically explain why.

Each week in Oregon, 47 women are diagnosed with breast cancer and 10 will die from the disease. It is estimated that in Washington each week 78 women are diagnosed with the disease and about 14 will die. Breast cancer can affect men too.

With 75 percent of the funds raised by local Komen Race for the Cure affiliates going toward community education, screening and treatment, the other 25 percent goes toward national research.

Over the last decade, Komen affiliates nationwide have granted over \$110 million toward programs that target the breast health and breast-cancer needs of ethnic and racial-minority populations around the world.



Thousands of supporters make the Komen Portland Race for the Cure an annual success. This year's event takes off Sunday morning, Sept. 23 from Waterfront Park.

Race for the Cure Sunday

Thousands of cancer survivors and activists will gather in Waterfront Park Sunday, Sept. 23 for the Komen Portland Race for the Cure.

Susan G. Komen for the Cure is the only grassroots organization fighting to cure breast cancer at every stage, from the causes to the cures and the pain and anxiety of every moment in between.

Portland's race weaves through downtown and the Pearl District. Registration opens at 6:30 a.m. at Waterfront Park with a co-ed 5k run at 7:30 a.m.; a one mile walk at 8 a.m.; a women's 5k run at 8:30 a.m.; and 5k walk at 9 a.m.

The cost \$25 when registering online. An added event, Sleep In for the Cure, allows people who can't attend the race to contribute. They simply pay the \$25 registration fee and receive an official race T-shirt.

For more information, visit komenoregon.org.