



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Bridgecity Group founders Robel and Meron Alemseghed show the custom interior features of their newly built condos just off Williams Avenue on Northeast Going Street.

Local Brothers Build Luxury Homes

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community and environment. The condo units are Earth Advantage and Energy Star certified. The developers were resolved to utilize building materials and methods that are more sustainable than

those typically used on other projects of this sort.

Such features include reclaimed hardwood floors from The ReBuilding Center, reclaimed stair treads and risers from the now-demolished Whitaker/Adams School, a radiant-floor-heating sys-

tem that utilizes one water heater for both heat and domestic use, ultra high-efficiency insulation and windows, exposed beam ceilings on the second floor, an air-recirculation system, a minimal building footprint without grass for maximal rainwater permeation and high-efficiency

appliances.

This project is a vivid example of how minority entrepreneurs are active in the neighborhoods of Portland, shaping its future in a very positive way.

By some people's evaluation, Bridgecity Group may be contributing to the gentrification that is commonly characterized as a malevolent market force. The Alemseghed

brothers, however, are not victims of urbanization.

Rather, they are visionaries who bring an innovative and positive influence to city development. They offer a case study in how minorities can take an active role in shaping the growth and future of our fine city, rather than being cast as the helpless throw away victims of capitalistic endeavors.

The Chehalis Tribes
An economic tradition hundreds of years in the making.

Linda Benn, wife of Dave Benn, with some of her baskets.

Salish-speaking people have lived in the Chehalis River area for many centuries. In the old times, we relied upon the land for sustenance. Today, we operate Lucky Eagle Casino, Eagles Landing Hotel, a convenience store, a health clinic, a housing authority and many different tribal programs.

In addition, we will open the new Chehalis Reservation Great Wolf Lodge in early 2008, which will include an indoor water park, spa, fitness center and arcade.

And while we are extremely proud of our ability to succeed in contemporary life, our hearts still travel where our ancestors lived and died.*

LUCKY EAGLE CASINO
EAGLES LANDING HOTEL
Rochester, WA • www.luckyeagle.com

* Copy adapted from original by tribal member Liichaat.
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Would you like to
Build Your Small Construction Business?

The City of Portland is opening the application period for the Construction Sheltered Market Program. Certified Minority, Women and Emerging Small Businesses (M/W/ESB) in business for two years or more may apply for the program.

Program participants will have opportunities to bid on City of Portland construction projects, and can receive free technical assistance to improve their business management skills.

The application period runs from September 3 to November 9, 2007.

For more information, contact:
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