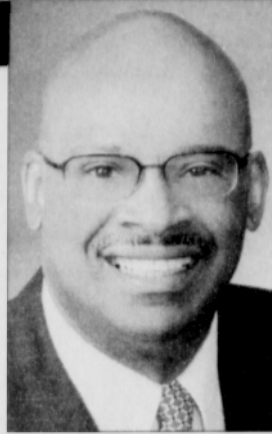


# METRO

The Portland Observer



## PCC Praised for Success

Portland Community College President and Board accept diversity award  
See page B3



## Congratulations Joelle!

Portland native is first runner up at pageant  
See page B3

SECTION B

## Community Calendar

### Free Health Care

The African American Health Coalition's 12th annual Wellness Village takes place Saturday, Oct. 20 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Blazers Boys & Girls Club, 5250 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. More than 40 health screeners and exhibitors will provide free services.

### Helping the Hungry

The Oregon Food Bank desperately needs your donations of nonperishable foods or funds. To find out how you can help, call 503-282-0555.

### Free Brown-Bag Lectures

Portland Community College sponsors the "lunch and learn" lecture series Staying Calm in a Crisis; featuring guest speaker Nancy McDonald, at 4040 N.E. Tillamook St., Monday, Oct. 15. For more information, call 503-614-7308.

### Weatherization Workshops

Thursday, Oct. 11, from 6 to 8 p.m., the Community Energy Project will host free educational workshops to self-weatherize your home, at Alder Sun School, 17200 S.E. Alder. Qualifying participants will receive a free weatherizing kit. Free weatherization is available for seniors. Call 503-284-6827 to register.

### Campfire Tales of Forest Workers

Saturdays, Oct. 13 and Oct. 20, from 7 to 8 p.m., the national park service invites guests to enjoy the ranger-led campfire tales of the Hudson Bay Company's 'engaged' workers from the fur-trade era; this free event will be held at Fort Vancouver, 1001 E. Fifth St. Call 360-816-6230 for more information.

### Kenton Puppet Shows

Penny's Puppet Productions and the historic Kenton Fire House, 8105 N. Brandon Ave., team up to present regular puppet shows beginning with: "The Little Donkey who cried Monster" on Monday, Oct. 15, at 10 a.m. Visit PennyPuppets.com or call 503-282-9207 for more information.

### Friends of Trees Run

Sunday, Oct. 14, the 2nd annual Family Fun Run will kick off at Oaks Amusement Park, 7100 Oaks Park Way; registration is at 8:30 a.m. the run begins at 9 a.m. Contact 503-282-7746 or visit friendsoftrees.org.

### AIDS Walk Portland

Sunday, Oct. 14, the 5K fundraiser walk in support of the Cascade AIDS Project, gets underway at 8:30 a.m. until noon, starting and ending at Pioneer Courthouse Square. To learn more, visit cascadeaids.org.

### Literacy Volunteers Needed

The Volunteer Literacy Program at Portland Community College's Cascade Campus needs volunteer tutors to provide free individualized instruction in basic literacy, English language and math skills. For more information, contact 503-244-3898 or visit oregonliteracy.org.

### Help Loaves & Fishes

The Two Rivers Loaves & Fishes Center, 9009 N. Foss St., needs volunteer drivers for meals-on-wheels to ensure that homebound seniors in St. Johns receive nutritional meals and a bit of companionship. Call 503-988-4088 to register.

### Craftsman Workshops

The Northwest Woodworking Studio is registering participants for fall workshops, classes, and lectures. Explore wood craftsmanship and learn the art. Visit northwestwoodworking.com or call 503-284-1644 to sign up.

### Volunteer for Crisis Line

Want to make a difference in your community? Volunteers and advocates are needed for the Portland Women's Crisis Line. The needs include on-call advocates to respond in person or over the phone, outreach and educational efforts, and fundraising and administrative duties. Call 503-232-4176 for more information.

### 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.

## Pastor Named Woman of Achievement

### Mary Overstreet sees needs and acts to meet it

Pastor Mary Overstreet of Powerhouse Temple Church in Portland will receive a Woman of Achievement honor from the Oregon Commission for Women for her humanitarian work.

Overstreet is among three women who will be honored during the group's 23rd Annual Awards Dinner, Thursday, Oct. 11 at the Willamette Valley Vineyards in Salem. The keynote speaker will be S. Renee Mitchell, an award-winning columnist for the Oregonian and who also writes and performs poetry advocating for women's empowerment.

Pastor Overstreet is a woman who wears many hats. In addition to founding the Powerhouse Temple Church of God in Christ in Portland and providing leadership there for 34 years, she is a foster parent, a licensed special investigator, a marriage and family counse-

lor, and the founder and host of the Way of the Cross radio hour and television ministry.

She is chief executive officer of her own company, an active visitor to prisons and a supporter of the families of prisoners. She is an advocate for the homeless and the hungry, a community activist, and was a humanitarian after Hurricane Katrina providing homes and support to people displaced from the Gulf Coast.

If her range of innovations and activism is wide, Pastor Mary's level of personal commitment is deep. She draws no salary from the church she founded and serves, supporting her family in the early days as a licensed practical nurse and later through her wide-



Pastor Mary Overstreet provides inexhaustible leadership.

ranging businesses.

Of the 14 children she has raised, only six were her biological children. She funded her Katrina aid by selling her own vacation home and cashing in some personal CDs.

She set up the free clinic in her own office building. She provides respite care for the autistic in her own home. If there are no public funds available she reaches into her own pocket.

This inexhaustible woman builds from one project to another, seeing a need and acting to meet it and then going on to meet another need. Nothing is allowed to stop her.

When she first came to Portland in 1965, she started church services on a street corner. When she discovered that no food banks were open to the hungry after 5 p.m., she started her own food bank and kept it open after hours.

When authorities wouldn't give her the addresses of hurricane refugees in Portland, she loaded up her 16-foot truck with goods donated to Katrina victims and sent it to Mississippi. When she found herself paying other people's medical bills out of her own pocket time after time, she started the free clinic.

Jill Ginsberg, the doctor Mary recruited to hold the free clinic says that she learned from Pastor Mary to "start from where you are, use what you have and go on one step at a time."



Tressie Williams, Fatuma Mohamed, Christiana Darko and Claudette La Vert help youth build successful lives during a leadership conference at the Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization's African House.

## Youth Build Success with Education At Immigrant community conference

"The best revenge on a system that does not value you is to get an education. What a win-win!"

Those words were spoken by Claudette La Vert, a special education teacher in the Reynolds School District, at the African Youth Leadership Conference Sept. 29 at the Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization.

Nearly 100 immigrant and refugee youth from a wide variety of African nations attended the conference, designed to empower youth between ages 12 and 23 to succeed in school and life. Additional goals were to establish a sense of community among youth from multiple (and often warring) African cultures and to increase personal self esteem and affirm



Rita Rakambaye and Abdikarim Mas hear a message of personal empowerment at the African Youth Leadership Conference.

cultural awareness.

Negussie Sado of Virginia State University, gave the young people advice on the necessity and methods of advocating for themselves in their schools. Sado emigrated from Oromia in Ethiopia to get an education in the United States.

Sponsored by and developed under the guidance of IRCO's Africa House, the conference was organized by a committee of youth, including

Fatuma Mohamed. Mohamed was less than two years old when civil war caused her family to flee their home in Somalia. For the next 14 years she lived in a refugee camp in Kenya before coming to the U.S. as a refugee in 2004.

Valerie Palmer, a researcher and director of the toxicogenomics laboratory at the Center for Re-

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## Local Girl Competes for Junior Teen Title

A young woman from Vancouver will participate Sunday in the Miss Junior Teen Portland pageant.

Dahzhane Turner was selected

Dahzhane Turner

as a finalist in the competition after submitting an application and taking part in an interview session. She will compete in modeling routines and be judged on her personality and interviewing skills while interacting with a judging panel.

Personality is the number one

aspect that each contestant is judged on during all phases of competition.

The winter of Miss Junior Teen Portland will compete at the Cities of America National Competition in Orlando, Fla.

Community and business organizations and private individuals are assisting Dahzhane participate in Sunday's competition as official sponsors. To help, call Anna Klejnowski at 1-800-569-2487 or Marilyn Turner at 360-518-6924.