

METRO

The Portland Observer



2008 Auto Show

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38
years of
community service

SECTION B

Community Calendar

Tree Planting

Saturday, Feb. 2, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Friends of Trees hosts the 25 community planting project beginning with the Arbor Lodge, University Park and St. John's areas; the staging area will be at 8204 N. Central St. Arrive before 9 a.m. to register for your planting team.

Problem Pooch Solutions

Saturday, Feb. 2 and Saturday, Feb. 16, at 12:30 p.m., the Oregon Humane Society, 1067 N.E. Columbia Blvd., with animal behavior specialist will host the informative discussion groups for pet owners. Do not bring your pet. A Finicky Feline course will be held on Saturday, Feb. 9 at 12:30 p.m.

Family and Friends Day

Sunday, Jan. 27 at 3 p.m., New Hope Missionary Baptist Church, 3725 N. Gantenbein, will host Family Groups and Choirs to minister in song. For more information call 503-698-5447 or 503-281-0163.

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. Appointments will be made on Wednesdays only from 1 to 5 p.m., by calling 503-816-1530.

Simulator Thrill Rides

Currently thru Jan. 31, the Oregon Zoo presents the latest animal adventure for a \$3 winter rate in addition to admission; for more information, visit oregonzoo.org.

Super Tuesday Party

Tuesday, Feb. 5, from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., the Democratic Party of Oregon will kick off the general election campaign with spirit at the Tiffany Center, 1410 S.W. Morrison St., featuring plenty of politics, live music, complimentary beer, wine, appetizers and raffles. For more information, visit oregondemocrats.org or call 503-239-8629.

Homebuyer Programs

PDC's homebuyer-assistance programs address the gap in home ownership rates between whites and communities of color. For information about the new and expanded homebuyers assistance programs, visit pdc.us/nhp or call 503-823-3400.

Me, Too & Company

Tuesday, Jan. 29, begins the free eight-week support group for children, teens, and adults who have experienced the death of an immediate family member or close friend; for more information, contact 503-499-5307.

Cycle of Life Festivals

Friday, Feb. 29 through Monday, March 3, Portland Japanese Gardens, 611 S.W. Kingston Dr. will host the Hina Matsuri, which is the Doll Festival. Call 503-542-0280 to learn more.

Free Weatherization Workshop

Saturday, Jan. 26, from 10 a.m. to noon, the North Portland Tool Library, 2209 N. Schofield, will host this free workshop to help lower your energy bill. To register, call 503-284-6827.

AARP Driving Refresher

Tuesday, Feb. 5 and Thursday, Feb. 7, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., the Mt. Hood Community College Gresham, 26000 S.E. Stark, will offer the two-day AARP class designed for age 50 and older; students who complete the course become eligible for insurance discounts. \$10 fee. To register, visit mhcc.edu or call 503-491-7572.

Vocabulary of Architecture

Saturday, Feb. 9, from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., the Architectural Heritage Center, 701 S.E. Grand, hosts a seminar to demystify architects' language. To register, call 503-231-7264 or visit AHC.org.

Catch the Authors

Thursday, Feb. 28, at 6:30 p.m., In Other Words, 8 N.E. Killingsworth St., will host the reading night featuring five gay/lesbian/transgender authors. For information, visit inotherwords.org or call 503-232-6003.

Learn to Make Recycled Art

Portland Community College is offering hands-on training to create art from recycled materials; classes will be held at the ReBuilding Center, 3625 N. Mississippi. Call 503-731-6622 for information.



PHOTO BY RAYMOND RENDLEMAN/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
Rob Ingram, the new director of Portland's Office of Youth Violence Prevention, bases his efforts out of the Northeast Precinct, 449 N.E. Emerson, and the mayor's office.

CONFRONTING Youth Violence

Longtime mentor fills an important role

BY RAYMOND RENDLEMAN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Now a student at Portland Community College, Joseph Johnson envisioned taking a much different life path without the guidance of Rob Ingram, who just became director of the Mayor's Office of Youth Violence Prevention.

"If it wasn't for Rob, I wouldn't be in the situation where I'm at right now," Johnson said. "He gave me other ways to help myself, like business."

"I told Joe starting when he was 12," Ingram responded, "whatever you do, you're going to be the leader of it and you're going to make it work, and I just hope you do something positive."

The focusing of Johnson's leadership abilities highlights the experience and savvy that Ingram brings to the safety effort for Portlanders starting from a young age. Ingram has been director of the city violence-prevention office for less than a month, but his experience working with at-risk populations extends to counseling for Emmanuel Community Services in 1991.

During the intervening time, Ingram served six years as a program director at the Blazers Boys and Girls Club in northeast Portland, and as executive director for nonprofits Positive Youth Development and Empowerment Initiatives, groups that create and operate mentoring programs for other organizations working with at-risk youth and people with mental health issues.

Established leaders are confident in Ingram's ability to continue the local gang-outreach program's largely successful effort to keep youth violence under control with fewer resources.

"Rob is more than capable of doing that," says Harry Jackson, a former Portland Police officer whose decades of dedicated service is recognized in the name of a plaza on Northeast Alberta and Martin Luther King Jr.

Whatever you do, you're going to be the leader of it and you're going to make it work, and I just hope you do something positive.

— Rob Ingram, Director of Portland's Office of Youth Violence Prevention

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Mechanic Finds Job Transition Success

Opportunities grew when he went to work for TriMet

A little over four years ago, Theo Porter decided to leave the trucking industry behind and join TriMet for new opportunities and job security.

"In the trucking industry, you could be working one day and laid off the next," Porter said. "Job security at the truck shop was next to none."

He had more than a dozen years as a mechanic already under his belt before applying at TriMet: working on tanks in the Army, locomotive engines for a railroad and on trucks for a Portland-based trucking company.

The training program was great because...although I worked as a mechanic for many years, I wasn't certified before.

— Theo Porter

After a year at TriMet as a helper, Porter entered the two-year apprentice program to become a journeyman mechanic. Under the program, he learned how to repair all of the systems on buses. The transition worked out well for him.

"The training program was great because I became a state-certified journeyman heavy diesel mechanic, and although I worked as a mechanic for many years, I wasn't certified before."

TriMet mechanics sign up every six months for work assignments they will perform over a six-month period, based on seniority. The first few signups, Porter picked a general duty assignment because he preferred the variety of tasks available. However, more recently, he's chosen specific types of work.

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Theo Porter specializes in suspension systems in his job as a mechanic at TriMet.