

Political Job Interviews Attract 26 Candidates

Nearly 90 percent of the candidates running for local government positions in the upcoming May 20 Primary Election answered questions before the public at the Ambridge Conference Center next to the Oregon Convention Center in northeast Portland last Wednesday.

The forum sponsored by the African American Chamber of Commerce, the Oregon Business Network, The Portland Observer, and other partnerships was entitled "The Job Interview," attracting 26 candidates. Some are more known than others, but all had an opportunity to be able to express their platform on a wide variety of subjects and questions.

Mayoral front runners Sam Adams and Sho Dozono both provided expanded answers to questions delivered by a highly diverse panel of individuals representing the entire spectrum of the city and region.

Roy Jay, chamber president, says that the organization is also looking to have a similar event in the fall involving Oregon's U.S. Senate race.



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Candidates for local office jam the podium for a forum sponsored in part by the African American Chamber of Commerce.

Bill Clinton Visits Portland



Bill Clinton



Hillary Clinton

"Don't you believe she can't win the nomination... because she will," Clinton said. "Don't you believe it when all those people in Washington say your votes don't count and this race is over. If this race was over, they wouldn't tell you that."

The former president also talked of the need for energy independence and changes in the management of Iraq war policy.

Over the next 10 years, Clinton said economic growth will be mostly in jobs to develop clean energy and reach energy independence, and that will be followed by a wave of growth in biotech.

"If we do this right," he told about 500 people at Oregon Health & Science University, "by the next decade, when you'll have me as an old codger, we will generate (jobs) through advances in biotechnology. But we won't get there if we don't stop wasting so much money on the financing system of health care."

As president, Bill Clinton said, his wife would want to see vehicles that could get 100 miles to the gallon, and he criticized the relatively small amount of money spent on retrofitting buildings for energy efficiency.

Hillary due Saturday

(AP) - Stumping through Oregon on behalf of his wife's candidacy, former President Bill Clinton promised the state's voters Monday that the contest would continue through their May 20 primary.

Hillary Clinton's campaign managers said she will visit Portland and Eugene on Saturday, but released no further details.

"The way Oregon votes may determine who the Democratic nominee is going to be," Bill Clinton told

about 150 cheering senior citizens at a southeast Portland senior center. "It's a big test for Democrats this year, whether everyone will get a chance to vote, and every vote will be counted."

Clinton's two-day visit included stops in Medford, Salem and Bend and followed a sweep down the Willamette Valley by Illinois Sen. Barack Obama, who is challenging New York Sen. Hillary Clinton for the presidential nomination.

Housing Secretary Resigns

Amid allegations of favoritism

(AP) -- HUD Secretary Alphonso Jackson, his tenure tarnished by allegations of political favoritism and a criminal investigation, announced his resignation Monday amid the wreckage of the national housing crisis. He leaves behind a trail of unanswered questions about whether he tilted the Department of Housing and Urban Development toward Republican contractors and cronies.



Alphonso Jackson

have reduced chronic homelessness. And we have preserved affordable housing and increased minority homeownership," he said.

The FBI has been examining the ties between Jackson and a friend who was paid \$392,000 by Jackson's department as a construction manager in New Orleans. Jackson's friend got the job after Jackson asked a staff member to pass along his name to the Housing Authority of New Orleans.

In another instance of alleged favoritism that came to light in February, the Philadelphia housing authority alleges that Jackson retaliated against the agency because it refused to award a vacant lot worth \$2 million to soul-music producer-turned-community developer Kenny Gamble for redevelopment of a public housing complex.

Jackson's problems began in 2006, when he told a group of commercial real estate executives that he had revoked a contract because the applicant who thanked him said he did not like President Bush. Jackson later told investigators "I lied" when he made the remark about taking back the contract.

There comes a time when one must attend more diligently to personal and family matters. — Alphonso Jackson

In announcing that his last day at HUD will be April 18, Jackson said, "There comes a time when one must attend more diligently to personal and family matters."

Jackson said he was proud of his record. "We have transformed public housing. We

County Program Remembers King

Managers of Color of Multnomah County will sponsor a program on Dr. Rev. Martin Luther King and the Civil Rights Movement this Friday.

Speakers include Sam Jackson Jr., a participant in the Montgomery bus boycott who was inspired by Rosa Park's refusal to give up her seat to a white passenger, and Pastor J.W. Matt Hennessee of Vancouver Avenue First Baptist Church, who was a contemporary

of Dr. King's children and has long been a close friend of the family.

"Remembering a Lifetime of Service: A Tribute to the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. on the 40th Anniversary of his Death" will take place from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on April 4, in the Multnomah County Building, 501 S.E. Hawthorne Blvd., room 112.

For further information, contact Patricia Welch at 503-988-6280 or Carl Goodwin at 503-988-3983.

Judge Mathis Reschedules

A local visit by TV Judge Greg Mathis, a syndicated columnist and lifetime member of the NAACP, has been rescheduled.

Mathis will be the keynote speaker when Corner Stone Community Services hosts a Youth Summit for Jefferson and Grant high-school students at the Lloyd Center Doubletree Hotel on April 27.

The event will begin with a job fair at 5 p.m. and the banquet at 6:15 p.m.

Mathis cancelled his March 15 engagement in Portland due to a death in his family.

For more information on the upcoming youth summit, call B. E. Johnson at 503-281-4587 or LaVerne Davis at 503-891-5812.

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