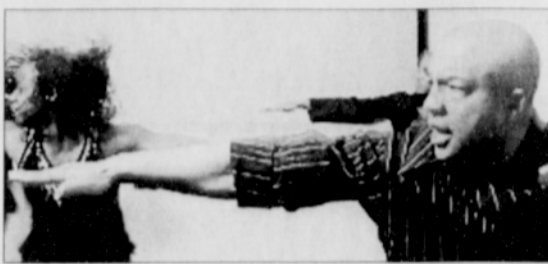


METRO

The Portland Observer

Step Africa! An art form born at African



American fraternities comes to WSU-Vancouver
See A&E, inside



Emergency 911!

Portland Community College-Cascade recruits students for careers in emergency services
See story, page B4

SECTION B

Community Calendar

Math and Science Academy

The Black Parents Initiative and Concordia University invite parents and their children to attend a free information session preparing high-school students to achieve in math and science on Thursday, April 10 at 6 p.m. in Luther Hall, Room 121. To RSVP, call 503-284-8000.

Lents Home Buying Fair

Saturday, April 12, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Kelly Elementary School, 9030 S.E. Cooper St., learn about opportunities to buy your own home. The free event features various workshops and a drawing for a \$4,000 down-payment assistance grant. For more information, call 503-788-8052, extension 105.

Buckman Art Show & Sell

Friday, April 11 and Saturday, April 12, Buckman Elementary School hosts a fundraiser featuring arts, crafts, ceramics, jewelry, gourmet foods, music and dance. For more information, visit Buckmanelementary.org/artsale.

Learning English

Every Tuesday and Thursday, currently through May 29, the SUN Center at Marshall Campus, 3905 S.E. 91st Ave., will offer free English as a Second Language classes. For more information, call 971-570-1384.

Health Inequities

The public is invited to join in the dialogues with community members, organizations, business leaders and local elected officials to discuss the root causes of health inequities as well as long-term solutions in this seven-part series. For neighborhood locations, dates and times, visit Mchealth.org/healthequity.

Beach School Auction

Saturday, April 12, Beach Elementary in north Portland will host an auction and dinner fundraiser to benefit the homeless children's after-school program at Magdalene Parish Hall, 3123 N.E. 24th Ave., with doors opening at 5:30 p.m. Items to be auctioned include horseback-riding lessons, use of vacation homes, gift certificates and more.

Walk MS 2008

Saturday, April 12 and Saturday, April 19, take to the streets to raise funds and awareness in the movement toward a world free of Multiple Sclerosis (MS). To get involved, call 1-800-344-4867 or visit WalkMSoregon.com.

Remodeling Seminars

Saturday, April 19, beginning at 9:30 a.m., Neil Kelly Showrooms at 804 N. Alberta St., and 15573 S.W. Bangy Road in Lake Oswego, will host free kitchen and bath remodeling seminars. For information, visit Neilkelly.com or call 503-335-9204.

82nd Avenue Roses Parade

Saturday, April 19 at 9 a.m. the second-annual 82nd Avenue of the Roses parade kicks off. For information about participating, call 503-484-6225 or 503-252-9143.

Spiffin' Up MLK

Saturday, April 19, SOLV and neighborhood businesses and community members will work together to pick up trash, clean graffiti and remove street debris along northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. To get involved, visit Handsonportland.org.

Health Wellness Fair

Wednesday, April 23, from 4 to 8 p.m., Self Enhancement, Inc. will host the wellness fair to promote awareness to children about nutrition, health and fitness.

Town Hall

Saturday, April 26, from 10 a.m. to noon, Sen. Avel Gordly and Sisters of the Road invite the public to join in an open forum on homelessness in Mt. Tabor Hall at Portland Community College's Southeast Center, 2305 S.E. 82nd Ave.

Free First Fridays

The Portland Children's Museum has partnered with Target to provide free admission to everyone the first Friday of each month from 5 to 8 p.m.

Ockley Green Art Project

Ockley Green School, 6031 N. Montana St., Thursday, April 10, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., encourages participation in the creation of new art on North Interstate Avenue. For more information, contact Peg Butler 503-545-0693.

Lofty Opportunity

PHOTO BY RAYMOND RENDLEMAN/
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER



City building inspector Mark Vasquez shows Bureau of Development trainees Autumn BigBoy and Viktor Palchey the finer points inside a 16-story Pearl District condo-construction project.

City program gives work experience to disadvantaged

BY RAYMOND RENDLEMAN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

When thinking of jobs reserved for young immigrants or single mothers, tidying up upscale residences for a minimum wage may first come to mind.

A new city program, however, defies the traditional logic by training disad-

vantaged youth for living-wage jobs that sustain the construction of Pearl District condominiums.

This spring, 10 high-school juniors and seniors will be chosen for seven-week internships for part-time training in lucrative trades that have the potential to turn into continued employment.

Even though the Pearl's \$300,000 to \$2 million condos are financially out of reach for most city workers, it doesn't dampen enthusiasm on a visit to Encore on the Park, a 16-story construction project on the pricey neighborhood's northern edge.

"We couldn't even get one of these on the first floor," responded city building inspector Mark Vasquez, who was leading the tour that day. "This type of work is great though for making a decent wage and feeling good about it when you get home."

Tiffani Penson, Portland's Bureau of Development outreach program coordinator, obtained funds last summer to start an internship program to recruit disadvantaged kids into the building professions.

Parkrose High School graduate Autumn BigBoy, a Native American, was

determined to advance in the program. "You've got to have a lot of motivation to go to work if you're a teen mom," she says, stressing the importance of taking training seriously even with her child in daycare.

Prior to the issues surrounding her now one-year-old son Ayjay, BigBoy struggled with the grief and self-destruction that accompanied her mother's death to hepatitis. Until getting help from the city filling out paperwork, she

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PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Learning from the Community

Community leaders lend their support to the students and administrators of the John H. Johnson Leadership Academy for Young Men of Jefferson High School. Pictured are Anthony Lathan (standing from left), interim Academy Administrator Marshall Haskins, Austin Casey, Urban League of Portland President Marcus Mundy, Andres Hernandez, Joshua Davis, Portland Observer Publisher Charles Washington and Jefferson Principal Cynthia Harris. Seated from left are Conner Hiland, Kris Penn, Leon Sanborn and Lee Miller.

Helping Small Business

PCC hires professional

Tammy Marquez-Oldham is the new director of education for the Portland Community College Small Business Development Center located at the Lloyd Center Mall in northeast Portland.

Marquez-Oldham will be responsible for the design of entrepreneur and business development coursework. Additionally, she will lead the center's business advising efforts, working with a team of talented and experienced business advisers.

Marquez-Oldham has been a business professional for 30 years working in the education, healthcare, software and food industries. Founding Marquez Project Management LLC in 2000, she has leveraged her connections and talents toward programs with social significance, most recently a micro-enterprise social change program.



Tammy Marquez-Oldham

"Tammy brings considerable experience and dedication to the development of small business growth and entrepreneurship in our region," said Tom Lowles, director of PCC's Small Business Development Center. "We are very lucky to have her join our organization. She will have a positive impact on small businesses."

Her work with large and small business, and experience as a successful business owner, added Lowles, will lend itself well to the mission of PCC's Small Business Development Center, which is to be the premier provider of technical support and entrepreneur development in the state of Oregon.

"As a business leader in the 21st century, I believe I have a social responsibility to transfer the knowledge learned through my journey to those embarking on theirs," said Marquez-Oldham.

For information, call the center at 503-978-5094 or visit the website Bizcenter.org.