

# Nonprofits Repair Homes

## Honing skills while helping seniors

When her 1895 north Portland home fell into disrepair, Vicki Williams, a retired special education teacher, reluctantly sought help.

Although it was hard to make the phone call, she contacted the Community Builders Program. When REACH Community Development staff and volunteers from Oregon Tradeswomen, Inc., arrived this month, Vicki was amazed that all the tool belts and hard hats were worn by women.

Northeast Portland-based nonprofit Oregon Tradeswomen student volunteers have completed over 20 home-repair projects, mostly in north and northeast Portland.

At the Williams' residence, students replaced the rotted front porch, installed outside railings and steps.

"For many, this is the first time they've volunteered out in the community," said Dawn Jones, OTI instructor. "This is a chance to give back and see what it feels like to help



out their neighbors. It's the very definition of community building."

Soon this class will graduate and begin the pursuit of jobs in their chosen fields as carpenters, electricians, ironworkers or, in one case, a heavy equipment operator.

The group is planning its annual Women in Trades Career Fair on May 3 at 16021 N.E. Airport Way. For more information on the job fair, visit the Website Tradeswomen.net.

The free home repairs through the Community Builders Program are for homeowners with low income due to age or disability throughout Portland. The program keeps seniors safe in their homes and avoids the displacement of longtime residents from their neighborhoods.

For more information, contact Laurel Lyon at 503-231-0682, extension 134 or by e-mail at llyon@reachcdc.org.

Volunteers from Oregon Tradeswomen, Inc. celebrate the completion of a day's work at Vicki Williams' house in north Portland.

## Minority Success in the Trades

A panel of experienced and successful African Americans in the trades will help others find employment in construction on Saturday, April 19 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Oregon Association of Minority Entrepreneurs, 4134 N. Vancouver Ave.

A 10-year projection of Oregon's construction industry indicates that approximately 14,000 new workers will be needed to fill openings created by job growth, competition from other

states and retiring workers.

Oregon Tradeswomen Inc. and the Oregon Department of Transportation are hosting the Success! outreach event. Information on careers and apprenticeships in highway construction, cement masonry, iron working, carpentry, laborer and operating engineering will be available.

For information and to sign up for the event, contact Roberta Hunte at 503-335-8200, extension 32, or email roberta@tradeswomen.net.

# Author Speaks on Racism at PCC

## Focus is on diversity at Sylvania Campus

A near capacity crowd of 200 students, faculty and staff stopped by the

school cafeteria at Portland Community College's Sylvania campus in southwest Portland last Wednesday

to hear a presentation about racism given by a locally-based artist, author and public speaker.

Damali Ayo, whose popular book, "How to Rent a Negro," served as the foundation of the talk, used humorous stories and creative visuals to highlight methods that can create healthier, more productive racial interactions.

Her presentation served as the kick-off for a long list of diversity events and activities taking place during the college's spring term, planned by PCC Sylvania's diversity committee.

"Diversity is an integral component of what Sylvania is, in terms of our student body, our faculty and staff, and the programs and classes we offer," said Linda Gerber, Sylvania campus president. "With this in mind, our spring term events enable us to embrace and celebrate the richness diversity brings to our community."

Entitled "I Can Fix It!: Racism,"



Damali Ayo, a locally-based artist, public speaker and author, addresses racism during a slate of diversity activities at Portland Community College's Sylvania campus in southwest

Ayo's presentation addressed the need for races to acknowledge and identify themselves. Through a step-by-step process, individuals — of all colors — need to listen, learn, broaden personal experiences, speak out and take action. After the presentation, Ayo engaged in an hour-long discussion about racism

and diversity within Portland.

"We are delighted that Damali could join us this year," said Claire Oliveros, coordinator of the PCC Sylvania Multicultural Center and a member of the diversity committee. "As expected, her presentation was thought-provoking and well-received."

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## 82nd Avenue Parade on Saturday

The Eastport Plaza 82nd Avenue of Roses Parade is set to take off on Saturday, April 19 with Portland Community College District President Preston Pulliams serving as grand marshal.

The parade will recognize how

the new PCC campus on Southeast 82nd Avenue and Division is serving students young and old and from all walks of life and cultures.

The sanctioned Rose Festival event begins at 9 a.m. at Eastport Plaza,



4000 S.E. 82nd, and will travel north on 82nd, turning west onto S.E. Yamhill and disbanding at S.E. 78th.

Participants will include the Get a Life Marching Band and many other groups.

## Ask Deanna!



**Real People, Real Advice**

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His house.

**Dear Deanna!**

My brother acts nice, loving and sincere when he's in public. However, he tells a lot of lies, curses and verbally abuses his spouse behind closed doors. My family ignores him and looks the other way. It's hard for me to ignore his huge lies because we share the same crowd. When I make a negative comment or tell the truth, people call me a liar. Now that I'm exposing him, people are accusing me of being a hater. What do I do? --Tired of Lies; Tampa, Fla.

**Dear Tired:**

It's strange that you would want to expose your brother instead of dealing with him personally to help him. Trying to cause embarrassment and airing his dirty laundry is not the solution. Your brother has a self-esteem issue and a lying problem. You can give your brother a gift of love by paying for a life coach so he can address, sort and fix his issues. There's no value or benefit from family destruction. Therefore, if you're not willing to help then mind your business.

**Dear Deanna!**

I saw my pastor shopping with the church checkbook. I could see the church logo, name and everything on the outside cover. A clerk was trying to refuse the check because it was a business check and required signatures. My pastor pulled rank and said he was authorized. Then he signed two signatures, winked at me and told me to turn the other check. What do I do about this? --Sylvia M.; St. Louis, Mo.

**Dear Sylvia:**

You sure that wasn't Jim Baker? Your pastor is a thief setting a bad example for the congregation. The pastor knew this was wrong especially if he advised you to look the other way. What part of Exodus 20 Verse 15 Thou Shall Not Steal doesn't he understand? Pray for your pastor and God's guidance as you report this to the church governing board. Telling is not between you and man, but you and your dedication to God and protecting

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