

# METRO

The Portland Observer



## Ainsworth in the City

Top performers will highlight weekend festival, fundraiser

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38  
years of  
community service

SECTION B

## Community Calendar

### Connections Job Fair

Thursday, May 29 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., the Urban League of Portland host the annual career fair at the World Trade Center, 121 S.W. Salmon St. Dress professionally and bring lots of resumes for an opportunity at a new and exciting career. Pre-register at [info@ulpdx.org](mailto:info@ulpdx.org); attach a current resume and they will be distributed to all vendors at the fair.

### OHSU Tram Run, Walk

Saturday, June 1, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., the family-friendly event will start at the base of the aerial tram, 3303 S.W. Bond Ave., benefiting Doernbecher Children's Hospital, featuring a health fair, games and more.

### Flex Your Gray Matter

Thursday, June 5, from 6 to 9 p.m., test your knowledge of women to pop culture, win prizes and support a local feminist magazine. Bring your friends to the patio of the Vita Café, 3024 N.E. Alberta.

### Juneteenth Celebration

Portland's Juneteenth celebration will be held Saturday, June 14 with a parade at 11 a.m., starting from the Wells Fargo bank at 5730 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Activities will follow at Jefferson High School from 1 to 8 p.m. with free food for children, entertainment and booths set up by local businesses. For more information, call Doris Rush at 503-605-8252 or Tisha Stigler at 503-249-9093.

### Kids Self Defense Camp

June 16 thru June 20, from 9 a.m. to noon, the Tulen Center for Martial Arts and Wellness, 10004 S.W. Canyon Rd., will teach easy and effective self-defense techniques for children ages 6 to 12. Call 503-291-9333.

### Summer Camps for Kids

Plan an exciting summer for your child through the Mt. Hood Community College summer camp programs. All camps begin at 9 a.m. and finish by 4 p.m. with before and after care available. For details, visit [mhcc.edu/kidscamps](http://mhcc.edu/kidscamps).

### Breaking the Cycle

Saturday, June 7 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Calvary Christian Center, 126 N.E. Alberta St., hosts a workshop teaching men of all ages how to deal with addiction, depression and other pressing issues; \$10-lunch provided. For more information, call 503-422-8573.

### Learn to Swim

Swimming lessons for ages 8 months and up will begin on June 16 at the Mt. Hood Community College Aquatic Center. Adult classes available in water aerobics, swimming lessons and more. For a complete summer schedule, call 503-491-7243.

### Concert Volunteers Needed

Warner Pacific College will host a concert to benefit higher education for the people of Ghana, West Africa on Saturday, June 28. Volunteers are needed. Call 503-348-4912.

### Race for Justice

Saturday, June 21, the St. Andrew Legal Clinic's 5K Run/Walk and Kids Fun Run will kick off at the Madeleine Parish, 3123 N.E. 24th Ave., followed by a post-event party at the parish hall with free pizza, beer, and root beer, proceeds to benefit low-income families receive legal representation. Visit [salcgroup.org/events/home.cfm](http://salcgroup.org/events/home.cfm).

### African Drumming & American Jazz Benefit Concert

Saturday, June 28, at 7 p.m., Warner Pacific College McGuire Auditorium, 2219 S.E. 68th Ave., will host a night where Ghanaian drumming, dancing and American jazz, featuring Chata Addy & The Mosaic Band. For tickets, call Beth at 503-348-4306.

### Homebuyer Programs

PDC's homebuyer-assistance programs address the gap in home ownership rates between whites and communities of color. To learn about the new and expanded homebuyers' assistance programs, visit [pdc.us/nhp](http://pdc.us/nhp) or call 503-823-3400.

### Learn to Make Recycled Art

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

# Bringing Hope to the Underserved

## Inmates inspired by MLK writings

Graduates of an outreach program at the Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution presented their final thoughts in a form modeled after their favorite text, "Letter from Birmingham Jail" by Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., who drafted words on a roll of prison toilet paper.

The "Letter from EOICI" reflected on some of the ways that the Humanity in Perspective course they just completed helped them get past educational failures that began at an early age.

"I've learned to grow out of the mask that I wear and to grow as a human," one inmate wrote.

Another inmate wrote, "Some of the most important knowledge and realizations come from examining the grey areas."

The perspective program gives economically disadvantaged individuals the opportunity to study the humanities in a year-long, college-level course. The effort is undertaken by the Oregon Council for the Humanities and Reed College in the shared conviction that the humanities provide access to ideas and skills that in fact change people's

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Inmates at the Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution get inspired about education by writing a letter modeled after civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.'s "Letter from Birmingham Jail," which was also drafted on a roll of toilet paper.



Riko Whirl got past his economic disadvantages and on-track with improving his education by taking a free college-level leadership course sponsored by the Oregon Council for Humanities.

## Leadership Course Turns Lives Around

Humanity in Perspective graduates succeed in the ultimate experiment of challenging the assumptions about race and national history to pursue a future for themselves and their families.

James Boyd said the perspective course helped him question the racist beliefs with which he was raised and credits the course with encouraging him to be a leader in his community by fighting discrimination against people who are HIV positive.

Another student, Riko Whirl, said he struggled with education from a young age. He had already dropped out of high school at 17 and attempted higher education numerous times by the time he heard about the free Oregon Council for the Humanities' course for low-income adults at southeast Portland's Reed College.

Whirl previously attended a magnet school in a wealthy, white, Chicago neighborhood that was an hour-long bus ride from the tiny walk-up apartment he shared with his disabled mother who lived on government assistance.

Engaged in both worlds, he felt a sense of not belonging to either, which led to periods of partial homelessness, but also made him curious about people's different reactions to and experiences with higher education.

Aware of how his economic background affected his access to formal education, Whirl sought to understand through the perspective program how the issues of class, race, gender and geography often

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## Housing Designed Affordable and Green

### Ground broken for first-of-kind building

A groundbreaking celebration took place May 16 for one of the few apartment buildings in the U.S. that is both green and affordable.

The Shaver Green Building will be built on what once was a blighted piece of commercial property at 4011 N.E. Martin Luther King, Jr., Blvd.

In the place of old, rusting appliances and an unsightly used-appliance store, a modern six-story building will rise from the property to serve 85 individuals and families. Occupants of the new building



The Shaver Green Building is a proposed apartment complex coming to Northeast Shaver Street and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard that's designed to be both affordable and environmentally sensitive with energy efficiency features.

Rusting appliances formerly took up space at 4011 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., where a new six-story building will rise to serve more than 85 people meeting Housing and Urban Development income requirements.



must earn at or below 60 percent of the county's two-person household median income of \$32,580.

The most unique aspect is that the developer of Shaver Green will strive for

either gold or platinum Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification while meeting Housing and Urban Development income level requirements.

"Very few if any residential developments in the U.S. offer buildings that are sustainable, innovative and also accessible to those meeting minimum income standards," said developer Armstrong

Stafford

His partner Rolanne Stafford said, "There are many hard-working and responsible people in Portland who are finding it difficult to keep up with the rising cost of housing. Our goal is to provide a housing option that will allow the workforce population to have affordable rent while saving for eventual ownership."

Rents at Shaver Green will be \$710 for each of the 59 one-bedroom units, \$848 for each of the 25 two-bedroom units and \$981 for the single three-bedroom apartment. Ten of the apartments will be permanent supportive housing, or housing for those who are earning zero to 30 percent of median income.

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