

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
 Marwan Granville gets his blood pressure taken by Clark College Nursing students during the Men's Health Awareness Fair at Mt. Olivet Baptist Church in north Portland.

Men's Health Awareness Fair

A local organization has made good in prompting African American men to preserve their health.

The Men's Health Project hosted a health fair on Feb. 28 at Mt. Olivet Baptist Church in north Portland to address the disparities and inequalities in healthcare which impact African American males.

The event not only raised the awareness of important health issues, it was a platform to show males of the community how to better maintain their health for the sake of themselves and their family.

The effort included the participation of many event volunteers and the contributions

of sponsors and donors.

With the sharing of individual experiences and personal coping mechanisms, the fair ended by discussing how to move forward not only as individuals, but collectively as a community as well.

For more information, call Chuck Smith at 503-725-4815.

PPS Holds College Night

Portland Public Schools will hold a free college-prep event -- with food, beverages and transportation to and from some schools -- for all juniors and their families from 5 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, March 19, at Madison High School.

Students and families can meet representatives from a variety of colleges and attend workshops on financial aid, essay writing, athletics, campus visits, interviews, early action and early decision, learning dis-

abilities and more.

Free bus transportation will be provided from and back to the Franklin, Jefferson, Marshall and Roosevelt campuses; school counselors have more information on bus schedules.

PPS high school counselors, led this year by Madison counselors Roberta Cooper and Kelly Schafer, organized the symposium. Its purpose is to make college representatives and information acces-

sible to all junior students and families.

Cooper says: "This symposium will be helpful for students regardless of whether they've decided to go to college. It will provide a look at what many colleges have to offer, and will help students gain admission -- and learn how to pay for -- the school of their choice."

This is the second year for an all-district college night. The event was held last year at Grant High School.



Baby's Garden Blooms

A space for children ages 3 and younger to play, develop and explore gets a first look at the Portland Children's Museum. The new Baby's Garden is designed with a young child's development needs in mind, a quiet inspiring space that's filled with flowers, a climbing tree and slide, a babbling brook and an aquarium.

State Representatives Hold Town Hall Forum

Democratic State Representatives Tina Kotek and Chip Shields, who represent North and Northeast Portland, will hold a town hall meeting on Saturday, March 14 to discuss the state budget, the 2009 legislative session, and concerns from constituents about district issues. It will be held from 10 a.m. to noon at the Portland Cascade Campus in Terrill Room 112.

County Report: Substandard Housing Growing Problem

A report recently released by the Multnomah County Health Department states that substandard housing in the area is contributing to health problems of tenants. Deteriorating housing contributes to ailments such as asthma, heart disease, and unintentional injuries.

The report attributes the growing problem to the lack of quality affordable housing in the area. It also blames the soaring housing prices and the city's tight control of growth as contributing to the issue. Low-income people are particularly impacted.

Mold growth, lead poisoning from paint chips, and pests were cited as common problems.

"Maintenance coupled with education for renters and landlords is critical to healthy housing," said Lisa Wickham, manager of Multnomah County Health department's Environmental Services, in a statement.

The Multnomah County Health Department convened a summit in 2007 to address the issue. It recommended an overhaul of the city housing code, using incentives to steer market forces toward creating affordable housing, educating landlords and tenants about their rights and obligations, and creating coalitions between developers and community organizations to address the issue, among others. The report also stated that more people are renting because of problems in the mortgage industry.

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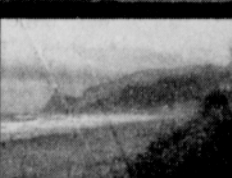
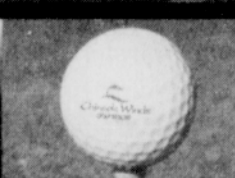


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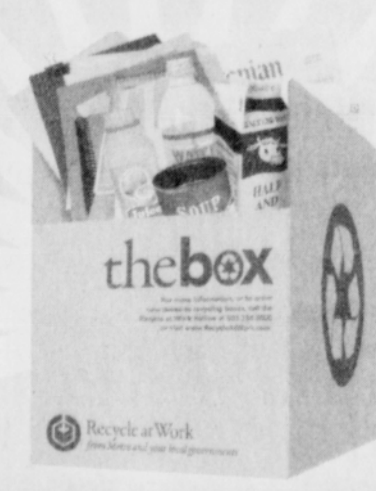





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