

# Concepts for Coliseum Wanted

## Blazers promote 'Jump Town'

The City of Portland and the Portland Development Commission Monday called for concepts for the renovation or adaptive reuse of Memorial Coliseum.

The Portland Trail Blazers used the date to launch their version for the site, an entertainment district called "Jump Town" that pays homage to the jazz clubs of Portland's African American history.

Blazers president Larry Miller said the idea is to pay homage to the old neighborhood where the Rose Quarter currently sits by put-



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER  
Mayor Sam Adams is asking for ideas on renovating or adapting the Memorial Coliseum for reuse.

ting in bars, restaurants and live music. He believes it will help the economy by creating jobs while

building a green, sustainable development that will benefit much more than the team.

The city will accept other concepts through Dec. 1 using the online application form available at

rosequarterdevelopment.org. In December, the concepts will be analyzed by the 32-member Stake-

holder Advisory Committee.

Mayor Sam Adams said some elements for consideration include sustainability, connectivity, architectural preservation and honoring veterans.

"I look forward to the innovative and unique concepts Portlanders have to share," he said.

Coliseum concepts must complement existing uses at the Rose Quarter as well as exemplify the future vision and urban design principles that have been developed for the area.

A public presentation of qualified concepts is slated for January. The Portland City Council will make a final decision on the future of the Coliseum in late spring 2010.

Additionally, the Blazers will lead a process to develop their community-supported development strategy. To learn more, visit their website at [imaginejumptown.com](http://imaginejumptown.com).

## Workers to get Unemployment Benefits with Job Training

This month the Oregon Employment Department will put into place a new program designed to help unemployed Or-

egonians receive unemployment benefits while going to school or re-training.

The intent of the program is to

assist low income workers in expanding their skills, allowing them to seek work in occupations that provide higher wages.

To be in the program, an individual must qualify for an unemployment claim based on wages of less than \$9.24 an hour. In addition, the individual must be attending training designed to prepare him or her for employment in jobs that are in high demand, and where wages are at least \$9.24 per hour.

The program does not pay for the training or provide benefits for individuals in training intended to lead to a baccalaureate or higher degree.

"This is one of the many actions taken this legislative session to help Oregon families during this difficult time," said Gov. Ted Kulongoski.

For more information call the Employment Department's Training Unit at 1-800-436-6191.

## Heat Assistance Help Available As weather turns colder

The Obama Administration has released \$33.4 million in federal assistance to Oregon to help low income citizens with their heating bills during October, November and December of this year.

These funds represent grants to states, tribes and territories under the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

"By releasing this money now, we are helping to provide needed assistance to those individuals in Oregon who otherwise might not be able to afford heat this winter," Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius said. "This program helps to offset seasonal energy costs for low income families, leaving more of their income to use for other necessities."

LIHEAP helps eligible families pay the costs of heating and

insulating their homes in the winter, and cooling their homes in the summer. The federal government is releasing such a large allocation of LIHEAP funds now in order to ensure that states have resources available to support their energy assistance programs as the weather turns colder.

"Each year LIHEAP helps more than five million low income households deal with energy costs," said Carmen R.

Nazario, assistant secretary for children and families. "We will continue to work with Oregon to assure their heating assistance programs work effectively."

Individuals interested in applying for energy assistance should contact their local LIHEAP agency. More information is also available by visiting [oregonheat.org](http://oregonheat.org) on the Internet or calling 503-612-3790.

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### Natural Gas Prices Fall

There's good news if you heat your home or run your business with natural gas. That's because you can look forward to a double-digit price drop this winter.

The Oregon Public Utility Commission has approved rate reductions effective Nov. 1.

"Prices have fallen because demand for natural gas has dropped off due to the economy, and new drilling technology has opened up access to domestic gas fields that were previously out of reach," Commission Chairman Lee Beyer said.

The average NW Natural residential customer using 55 therms will experience a drop in their monthly bill of \$14.96 or 18.1 percent.

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