Page 16

The Fortland Observer_

April 13, 2011



Retirement Apartments

- Studio & One-Bedroom Apartments Affordable Rent with No Costly
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Retirement Living

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Prom Gowns All Around

continued from page 3

Abby Egland, and a small group of friends.

The idea originated when before Abby left for college, as mother and daughter cleaned out her bedroom closet and found a number of formal dresses she had worn to various West Linn High School events.

Wonderful memories attached to one beautiful, sequenced pink gown inspired Abby and her mother to start their own one-of-a-kind organization in Portland, where they could collect and distribute formal prom gowns, free of charge, to high school women who might otherwise be unable to attend prom due to the expensive costs.

Within six years of its inception, Abby's Closet has provided free gowns to over 7,000 high school women, with 2,100 given away in 2010. Collecting donations year around, Abby's Closet receives dresses from over 40 local businesses with dress drop-off sites, along with volunteer-organized dress drives at schools and from individuals.

With no paid staff, Abby's Closet runs with a board of directors who set the vision and direction of the organization and provide leadership for over 500 volunteers that help throughout the year. A 13-member



PHOTO BY CARI HACHMANN/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER Abby Egland, daughter of Sally Egland and co-founder of Abby's Closet, began her non-profit organization just one year after she graduated from West Linn high school in 2003.

student advisory board, made up of giving back to their communities by alongside the Abby's Closet Board.

not be possible without the support from businesses, volunteers nity for school credit. and the leadership of our board of directors and student advisory are excited as we begin planning for next year's event."

been helped by Abby's Closet are 503-722-1524.

local high school women, works joining the student advisory board, organizing dress donation drives at "The success each year would their schools, or using Abby's Closet as a volunteering opportu-

If you would like more information or an opportunity to board," Sally Egland said. "We volunteer, donate, or make financial contributions to Abby's Closest, visit the group's Many young women who have website abbyscloset.org or call

Joyce Washington HIGH SCHOOL CLASSIC The 11th Annual

Basketball Game

Saturday, May 21 at Portland Community College, 705 N. Killingsworth

> Doors open at 12 p.m. Girls Classic at 1 p.m. Boy's Classic at 3 p.m.

Tickets available at The Portland Observer 4747 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Looking for High School Boys & Girls to Participate for more information contact Tony or Mark Washington at 288-0033 Sponsored by: The Portland Observer (SSAFEWAYINC. Portland Community

"Dedicated to our mother, whose purposeful life is our family inspiration." — The Washington family