

Observing Vancouver

March for Jobs to Cross I-5 Bridge

Saturday rally to build on Occupy Portland momentum

BY MINDY COOPER
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

In the spirit of Occupy Wall Street Movement, several demonstrations and marches over the past couple of weeks have emerged in both Portland and Vancouver, where residents unite for their voices to be heard.

Coming up on Saturday, Oct. 22, Esther Short Park in downtown Vancouver will be the destination as people join forces to march across the I-5 Bridge from Portland to rally for jobs and speak out against cuts to government services. The protesters will meet at the field just off Exit 308 to Jantzen Beach.

"The times have been changing in the last several weeks," said Laurie King of Portland Jobs with Justice, an organizer for the event.

"The occupations of Wall Street, Portland and hundreds of other places in the U.S. and around the world are highlighting the fact that everyday working people are fed up with policies that protect and enrich financial markets and huge multi-national corporations."

Last Saturday, several hundred people also attended another Occupy Portland march, which began around 1:30 p.m. through the streets of downtown. The parade of residents, holding their own self-crafted poster boards and signs, followed a banner, which read "End the Wars—Bring Our Money Home."

As the march came to an official end,



PHOTO BY MINDY COOPER/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Local residents take to the streets to speak out against troops remaining locked in war in Afghanistan and Iraq during a march on Saturday in downtown Portland.

several individuals kept marching on sidewalks and through parks and ended up, once more, at Pioneer Courthouse Square minutes before a different demonstration arrived where several individuals held Tibetan flags.

As the activists showed their support for a free Tibet, the two demonstrations began to merge together, chanting phrases, including 'we are the 99 percent' and 'There is no Freedom with oppression.'

Hugs and handshakes were exchanged amongst strangers, who united together to demand change for a more just tomorrow.

Clinic Honored for Community Impact

Washington State University Vancouver has presented a community award of distinction to the Free Clinic of Southwest Washington

The clinic has provided 10,929 patient visits for medical and dental care; filled 9,834 prescriptions and coordinated specialty care for 366 patients. All of these patients were uninsured and all of their care was provided free of charge.

A Project Access Program organizes donated specialty and hospital care to uninsured Clark County residents. Currently there are more than 260 physicians in the community participating in the program in addition to the four major health systems: PeaceHealth Southwest Medical Center,

Legacy Salmon Creek Medical Center, Kaiser Permanente and Providence Health.

Since the program began, 1,115 patients have received high-quality specialty care, surgery (if needed) and hospital care at no cost to the patient.

WSU Vancouver also made a community award of distinction for equity, diversity and inclusion, naming Teresa Williamson for her work at Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation.

Williamson acts as an advocate for programs for individuals with disabilities and has created the framework for individuals with disabilities to participate in Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation programs.



Barbe West, executive director of the Free Clinic of Southwest Washington, accepts WSU Vancouver's Community Award of Distinction for Community partnership. West is accompanied by WSU Vancouver Interim Chancellor, Lynn Valenter and Vancouver Business Journal Publisher John McDonagh.

Free Dental Care Event

A free dental care event hosted by Dr. Bradley Gillespie and non-profit Dentistry From the Heart, offers residents 18 years or older of Clark County and surrounding areas free dental care services on Saturday, Oct. 22.

Registration begins at 6 a.m. at the offices of Gillespie Dentistry. Patients are encouraged to come early and will be seen on first come, first-serve basis starting at 8 a.m. The first 150 to 200 patients will receive treatment until 4 p.m.

Gillespie Dentistry is located at 13200 S.E. McGillivray Blvd. in Vancouver.