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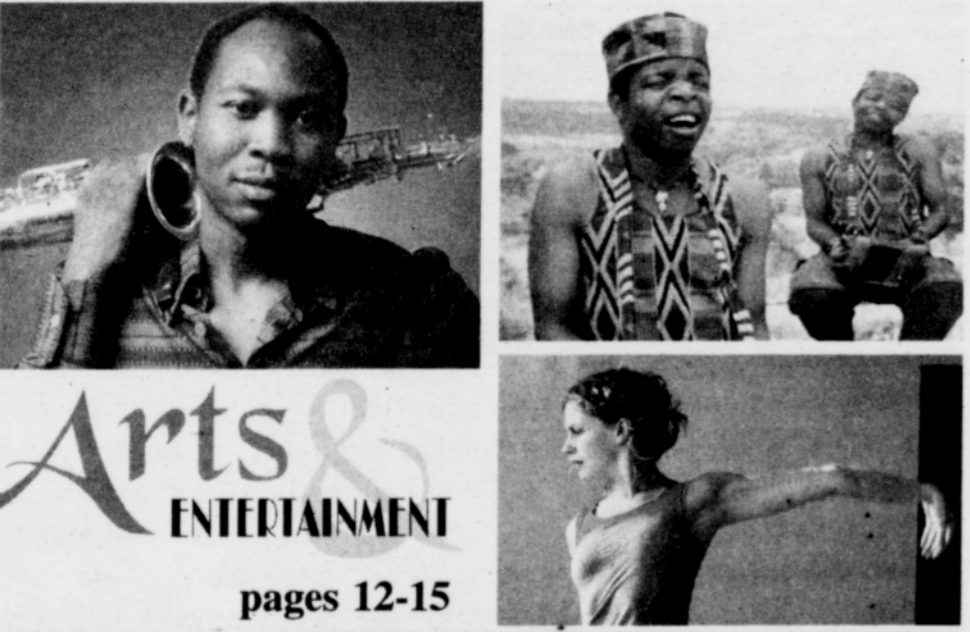
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What's on your list today?

## LOCAL NEWS

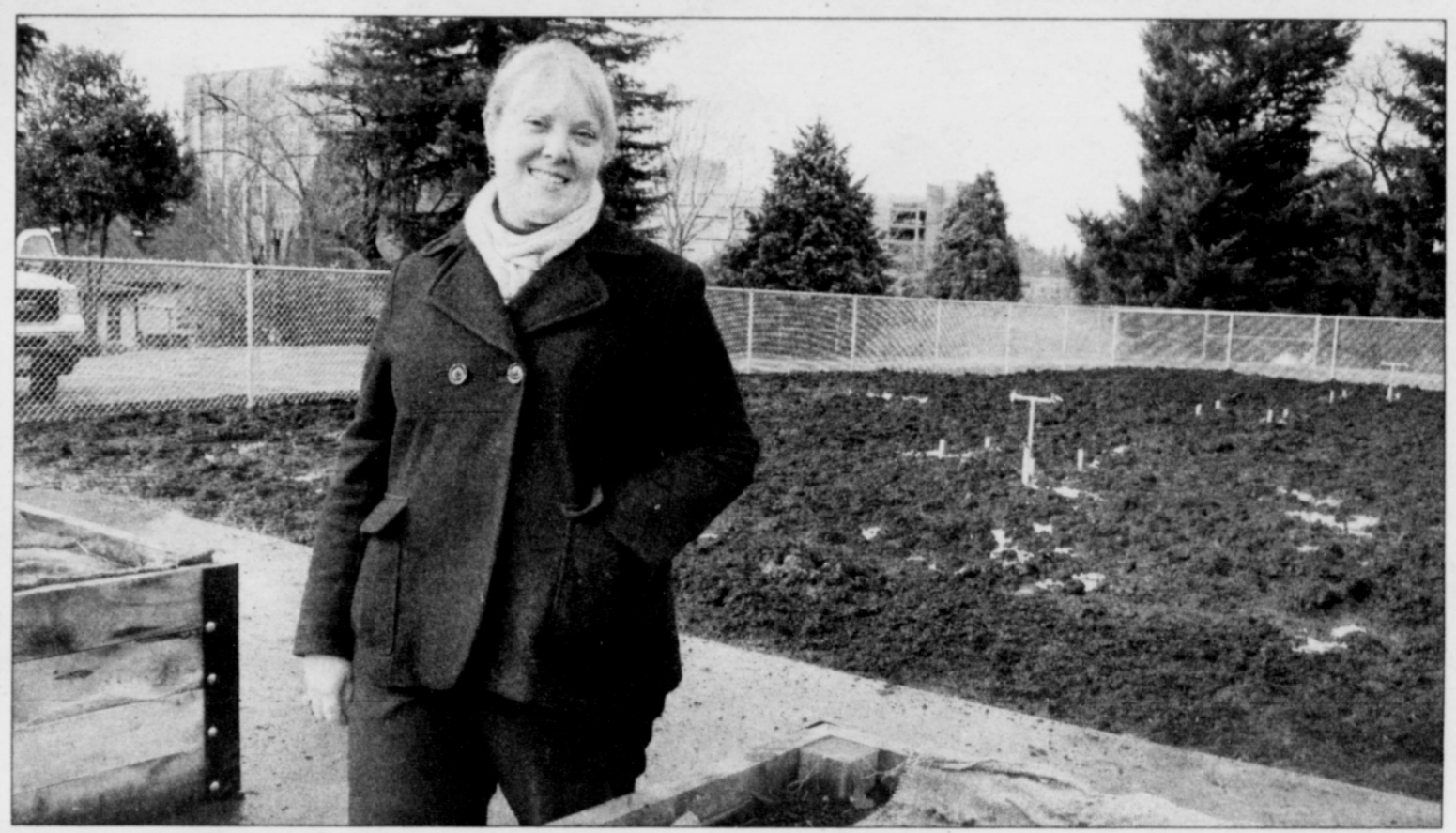


PHOTO BY MINDY COOPER/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Laura Niemi, coordinator for Portland's Community Gardens program, oversees work to open the Frazer Park Community Garden at Northeast 52nd Avenue and Hassalo Street, one of five new community gardens scheduled to open up this spring.

### Cultivating Gardens

Community spaces open to the public

BY MINDY COOPER  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The demand for garden space is on the rise, leaving many Portlanders wondering where they can plant their seeds this spring. Founded in 1975, Portland Parks and Recreation's Community Gardens program has provided gardening opportunities for more than 38-years by creating usable plots of land for residents to grow

their own healthy organic food. In an effort to meet the rising demand by residents for more garden plots, the city is currently building more gardens than ever before, with a goal of five new community gardens and 1,000 new planting plots in various locations for use by the end of the year. According to Laura Niemi, coordinator for the Community Gardens program, there are many benefits to having public garden space available to residents throughout Portland. "It is an opportunity to grow food in the city, so it gives people who may not live in a place where

they have garden space, the opportunity to grow food," said Niemi. "We also find we have people who have community garden plots who could garden at home, but chose to garden in the community space for the social aspect." Community gardens bring people together, she said. "It builds a sense of community and coming together around a topic they are all interested in, which is growing food." She said, however, the demand for the gardens continues to ex-

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### Finalists for Federal Judgeship

The names of five finalists for a federal judgeship, including Adrienne Nelson of Portland, the second African-American female judge in Oregon history, have been delivered to President Obama, who will select one candidate to fill a vacant judge position. "Oregon has been fortunate to have a long history of outstanding judges serving our state on the federal bench, and we are pleased that the selection committee identified five excellent candidates who can continue in that tradition," read a joint statement last week from Or-



Adrienne Nelson

egon Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley. The 13-member committee was appointed last fall to find a replacement for U.S. District Court Judge Michael Hogan of Eugene, who has taken senior status. The five finalists also include Suzanne Chanti, Lane County Circuit Court judge; Hannah Horsley, assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Oregon; Bryan E. Lessley, assistant Federal Public Defender, Eugene; and Michael McShane, Multnomah County Circuit Court judge.