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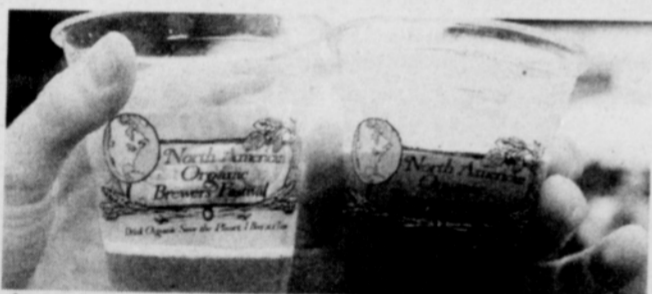


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What's on your list today?

LOCAL NEWS

Williams Avenue Uplift

New Seasons to host Friday job fair for new store

BY LEE PERLMAN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The newest New Seasons Market at 103 N. Ivy St., near the North Williams Avenue and Fremont Street intersection, is being readied for a September opening, one that is being awaited as eagerly by company officials as by customers and neighborhood residents looking for a job.

On Friday, June 28, the locally-owned grocery chain will host an employment fair from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Portland Community College's Cascade Campus gymnasium in north Portland. In a notice on a local neighborhood website, the company says it's looking for high-energy, service-oriented people who want to go the extra mile for customers.

Among the kind of employees New Seasons hires is Bill McGee, who will oversee operations of the Williams store as manager. After working for New Seasons for six years, he told the Portland Observer, he is eager to take over "a brand new building with new challenges, and the ability to build my team from the ground up."

The team of employees will consist of about 150 people, he says, and they will be a mixture of veterans and newcomers.

He said a good number of workers at other stores have requested to work at the new site, in many cases because it is in or near their

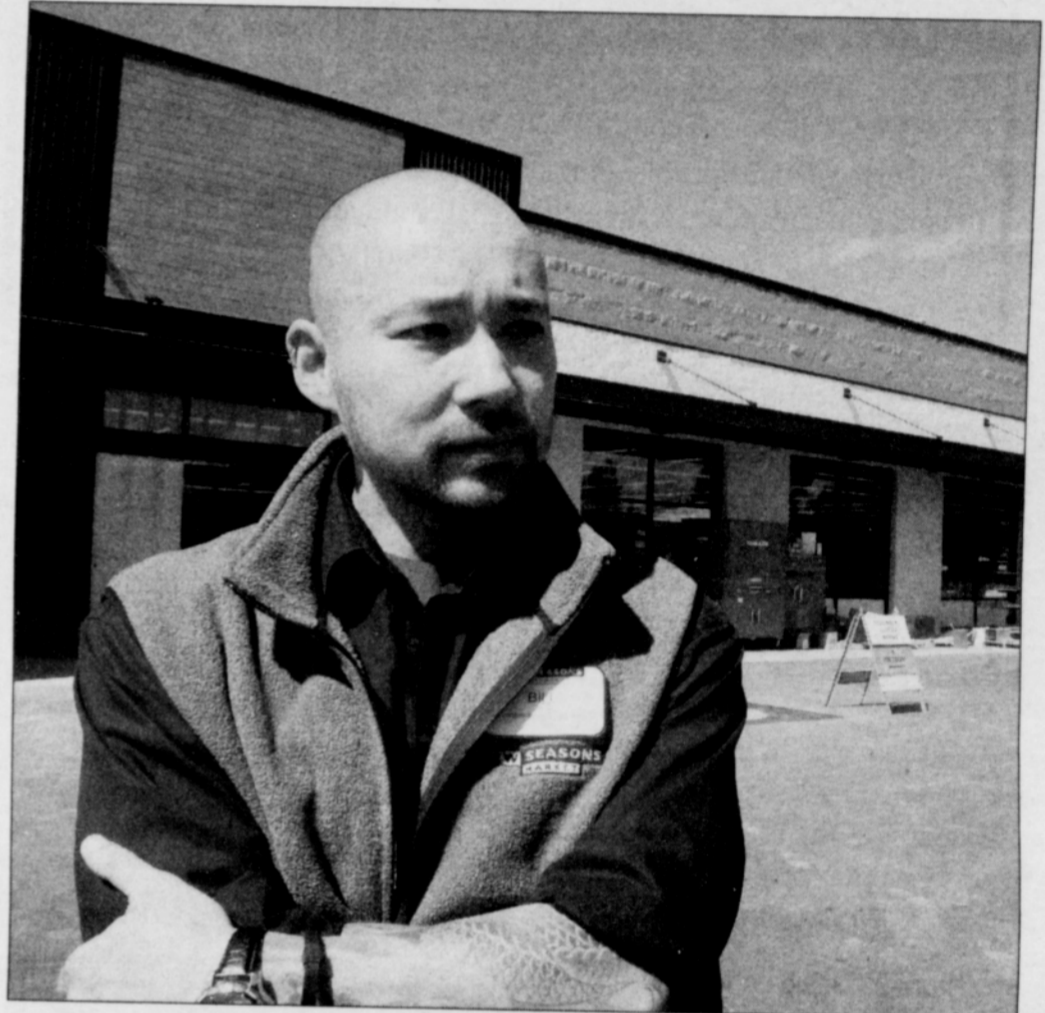


PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Bill McGee will oversee operations of the latest New Seasons Market slated for opening this September at North Williams Avenue and Fremont Street. Finishing touches to the new building are being made, and a job fair for potential new employees is slated for Friday at Portland Community College's Cascade Campus.

neighborhoods.

"If two people (seeking a job) are equally qualified, we like to give someone a chance to work where they live," McGee says. For instance, one of the workers lives three blocks from the new store, yet currently commutes daily to a New Seasons outlet in Washington County.

Mary Lou Keeran, staffing manager for New Seasons, says the company does not release specific data about the diversity of its work force, but the hometown grocer is known to be inclusive in terms of race, ethnic origin, gender and age.

Keeran says New Seasons is doing employment outreach through groups such as the Urban League of Portland, New Avenues for Youth, and neighborhood associations.

The company also relies on word of mouth from their own employees, "A happy staff tends to promote you among their own circles," she says.

For the Williams Avenue store, Keeran says such approaches will tend to reach people from inner north and northeast Portland rather than, say, Washington County.

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Last Thursday Group Resigns in Protest



Street

The popular northeast Portland event Last Thursday on Alberta Street faces an uncertain future. The group Friends of Last Thursday announced Monday that it will

cease its sponsorship of the event because it objects to new permit demands from the city of Portland.

Though the volunteer group will not assume responsibility for providing ambassadors to monitor rowdy behavior, pay for portable toilets and the collection of garage and recyclables, the 16 year old event will continue on as usual, officials said.

The loss of support comes after

the city added a number of new regulations to the festival, such as 15 certified security guards, musicians complying with city noise ordinances, port-a-potties every other block and most recently a 9 p.m. shut down and smaller street closure.

The festivities are still scheduled to last until 10 p.m. on Thursday, but will not have the sponsoring group involved.