

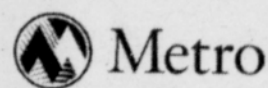
LET'S GET DOWN TO BUSINESS

If you operate a certified minority-owned, woman-owned or emerging small business in the construction trades, Metro has a new way to help you grow.

Starting Nov. 1, 2013, you'll find Metro Sheltered Market Program construction contracting opportunities between \$5,000 and \$50,000 listed on the Oregon Procurement Information Network (ORPIN) website orpin.oregon.gov.

To find out more ways your company can get in the game and compete for contracts to serve Metro facilities – from the Oregon Zoo to the Portland Expo Center, contact Michelle DePass, MWESB program coordinator, at 503-813-7596 or bidsandproposals@oregonmetro.gov.

MAKING A GREAT PLACE TOGETHER



African American Alliance for Homeownership



Presents the 15th Annual

Homeownership Fair

**Saturday,
October 26, 2013
10 am – 3 pm**

**New!
"Homes For Sale"
Bus Tour
12noon - 2pm
FIRST COME
FIRST SERVED**

**Legacy Emanuel Hospital Atrium
501 N. Graham St., Portland**

- Enter to Win a \$1,000 grant give-away and other great prizes!
- Visit over 40 housing professionals; Attend free workshops
 - Home Retention Resources for current homeowners
- Free Lunch ● Free Parking ● Pre-registration is NOT required

FREE & OPEN to the Public
www.aaah.org
503-595-3517

Sponsors



[HomeStreet] Bank

SAFeway

CHASE

skyline HOME LOANS

THE SCANNER News Group



Saving Our Boys

Reframing the narrative

BY DONOVAN M. SMITH
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

African American parents and other parents of children of color gathered for a symposium Saturday to find new ways to elevate the academic achievements of their seeds.

The 5-hour symposium hosted by Black Parent Initiative was held at the disbanded Marshall High School campus in southeast Portland. It was the fourth year the group has sponsored a range of workshops promoting equity and excellence in the classroom through increased parental involvement at school and at home.

Speakers included the director of curriculum and instruction for the Oregon Education Investment Board, Dr. Doris McEwen, BPI board member Andre Herring, and a video message from Sybrina Fulton, the mother of slain Florida teenager Trayvon Martin. Fulton was scheduled to attend the symposium, but cancelled due to an unforeseen emergency.

Herring, who's been heavily involved with the organization for a number of years, says he was compelled to speak at this year's event when asked by BPI founder Charles McGee.

A father of a 4-year-old girl himself, a sizeable portion of Herring's speech aimed to enlighten parents and teachers that though African-American children are often portrayed as the face of underachievement in schools nationally, that it is statistically impossible to say black students in Oregon bring down the relatively low scores the state schools receive.

He said that nugget of information was important to how black parents view problems of achievement with their own kids in terms of self image moving forward.

"We think about school clo-

tures, we think about problems in the city, or violence, and it's always posted as black kids and brown kids – that these are the ones messing up the schools, the reason that the scores are low," he says. "But we're not bringing down the numbers, the



Charles McGee

state of our numbers in themselves are bad, but we're not the problem in America, we're not the problem in this state."

McGee, a proud father to a young son, says the symposium was primarily meant to serve as a kind of "educational commercial." He says he is more anxious about the work that gets done with people after the event.

"I think it's easy for people, generally, to come to something for one day. A lot of people came for a couple hours in the morning then they left, and then some came for the afternoon then they left. But it's who comes to the classes, right? Because I really believe that we are at a point of an emergency. If black men were salmon, the EPA would be out, and the Fish and Wildlife would be out and they'd be testing us and trying to figure out how to get us to reproduce. We are at an emergency point. And I am really hoping and praying that as a community we stand up and step up and take care of our own," McGee says.

More information on the work of BPI can be found on their website thebpi.org.

King Hoodie Call Mystery

BY DONOVAN M. SMITH
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

If someone wanted kids at King Elementary to wear hoodies in solidarity with the family of slain teenager Trayvon Martin, no one is taking responsibility for it.

Last week, a poster was circulated claiming to be sponsored by King School's PTA and requesting the students at King to don hoodies on Friday in memoriam to Martin's family the day before his mother was scheduled to keynote a Portland event headed by the Black Parent Initiative. Martin wore a hoodie the night he was killed in Florida.

KGW Channel 8 subsequently ran a story with an unidentified parent who criticized the school.

Further investigation by The Portland Observer found that the King PTA was never behind the hoodie request, nor was the school district or Black Parent Initiative.

When King PTA president Kenny Butler sent out an email to news media on Friday clarifying the school's position, the correspondence was apparently hijacked with additional inflammatory language that suggested Martin's character was justification for him being shot and killed.

As of now, no-one is taking claim for the poster's creation, or the apparent hi-jacking of Butler's email.

Classes at King went on as scheduled Friday without a demonstration.