

The INSIDE

The Week in Review page 2

MADE-IN-USA RUSSIAN LAUNDROMAT



OPINION

pages 6-7



page 9

METRO



Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

pages 8-13

CLASSIFIEDS

pages 14

CALENDAR

page 15

This page

Sponsored by:

Fred Meyer

What's on your list today?

'Education has Value'

Retiring leader on increased access to early learning

BY ZACHARY SENN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

One of the most influential educators in Portland Public Schools, Dr. Harriet Adair, has entered retirement after a 47-year career in which she successfully increased educational access for minority and disadvantaged communities, especially for critical early learning programs.

Adair's career encompassed nearly every level of educational work in the district. She started as a middle school teacher in 1970, and most recently served as the Assistant Superintendent in the Office of Early Learners, Schools and Student Supports.

The Confederation of Oregon School Administrators recognized Adair with its President's Award in 2014, and a number of substantial policy shifts in education practices across both the city and state can be traced to her dedication to high-quality schooling for all Oregonians.

Adair, who herself attended Portland Public Schools beginning at the age of four, says that she personally knows the power of early learning programs. She says that her mother attempted to enroll her at the age of three, but the district wouldn't accept a child that young.

Both of Adair's parents were educators who had earned Master's degrees outside of the Northwest. When her family first moved to Portland from San Antonio, however, Adair says that her mother wasn't allowed to work in Portland Public Schools due to her race. She



Retiring school administrator Dr. Harriet Adair is credited with increasing educational access for minority and disadvantaged communities during her 47-year career in Portland Public Schools.

eventually landed a position teaching at Boise/Elliot Elementary School, however. When she graduated from Madison High School, Adair says that she was one of only five black students out of her entire graduating class. Adair then went on to earn her Bachelor's degree at Portland State University, a Master's degrees from the University of Oregon and a Doctorate from Brigham Young University.

Her own academic experiences instilled Adair with a passion for furthering educational achievement for disenfranchised students.

"I come from five generations

of people with Master's degrees," Adair said. "Education was something that I grew up valuing."

Throughout the course of her career, Adair says that there several achievements that she is most proud to have played a role in.

While she was the principal of Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School, Adair says that she oversaw the implementation of the first 'Dreamer,' class in the state of Oregon. The 'I Have a Dream,' program seeks to provide students in poverty-stricken schools with bet-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Heat Wave Brings Safety Precautions

The Portland area began to heat up on Tuesday for a record-breaking heat wave that wasn't expected to ebb until later this weekend. Temperatures were forecast to hit 100 and above for at least three straight days.

Multnomah County and other jurisdictions responded by opening up public buildings as cooling centers for elderly and disabled residents to stay safe and hydrated.

The Walnut Park Building, containing the Multicultural Senior Center and other public offices at 5325 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. will be hosting one of the cooling centers in Multnomah County. The others will be located at the Hollywood Senior Center and the Multnomah County East Building, in Gresham.

Ride Connection will be providing free transportation to the

centers. To arrange a pickup, call 503-226-0700.

Health Department officials recommend that everyone drinks lots of water and other non-alcoholic, non-caffeinated beverages during the heat spell. They also advise to staying indoors throughout the hottest parts of the day, and warn individuals to never leave children, pets or the elderly inside a parked vehicle during the heat wave.