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Community partners working on two major construction projects – the Multnomah County Central Courthouse Project and the Gladys McCoy Health Department Headquarters – anticipate filling thousands of positions for the projects.

Workers Sought for Upcoming Construction Projects

Pre-apprenticeship programs seek those looking to start or shift careers to the building trades

The Skanner News Staff

Community partners working on two major construction projects – the Multnomah County Central Courthouse Project and the Gladys McCoy Health Department Headquarters – are seeking workers.

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CBC Chairman Cedric Richmond (D-La.) and a group of CBC members met with FBI Director Christopher Wray about the "Black Identity Extremists" report. This photo was taken during a recent ceremonial swearing-in event for the 115th Congress in Washington, D.C.

CBC Question FBI Director

Members seek clarification on 'Black Identity Extremists'

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Zimbabwean Musician in Exile in Eugene

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RAINIER BEACH HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE



PHOTO BY SUSAN FRIED

A little boy talks to Santa about what he wants for Christmas at the Rainier Beach Community Center Dec. 1. The Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc., Lambda Alpha Zeta Chapter offered free photos with Santa as part of the Rainier Beach Merchants Association "Light up the Beach" Rainier Beach Community Holiday Open House. More than two dozen businesses in the Rainier Community participated. Customers could stop by the businesses for free hot chocolate or cider, pictures with Santa, music and dance performances and food samples.

KairosPDX Receives After-School Grant

Charter receive Children's Levy funding to boost learning in STEM

By Melanie Sevckenko
Of The Skanner News

The Portland's Children Levy has helped one charter school start the academic year off on the right foot.

Its support will continue throughout the next two school years, as the Levy has gifted KairosPDX – whose K-5 student body is 75 percent youth of color – with \$200,000 for its af-

ter-school STEM program, which incorporates the fields of science, tech, engineering and math.

The goal of the program is to get historically underserved students interested in these areas at a critical age.

According to the Department of Commerce, employees of STEM jobs have among the highest earnings, charted at 26 percent more than non-STEM jobs.

Growth in these sectors is also looking up, currently holding the lowest unemployment rate over other industries.

By introducing children to these fields early on, the hope is to encourage lifelong learning and even career opportunities as adults.

One component of Kairos' after school program is called Project Breaker. This fall, it gave students

the chance to participate in a design challenge through a partnership with Construct Foundation, a public organization which helps modernize teaching and learning models in Oregon.

"We aim to introduce students to the steps of the design thinking process and mindsets that designers use to solve messy problems," said Erin Bray, Proj-

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'A Christmas Carol' Brings Together Actors of Color

The Portland Playhouse production runs Dec. 6 – 30

The Skanner News

Portland Playhouse's award-winning mainstay "A Christmas Carol" is returning this holiday season with a diverse cast and an artistically forward take on the Dickens classic.

Due to renovations at the theater's northeast home (in the former Mt. Sinai Baptist Church building), the show will be taking up residence at

the Hampton Opera Center at the base of the Tilikum Crossing.

The production officially opens Dec. 6 and will run until Dec. 30.

As with previous years, the Playhouse's "A Christmas Carol" features several actors of color – including Charles Grant in his returning role as The Ghost of Christmas Present.

The non-traditional casting choices

See PLAY on page 3



PHOTO BY BRIDGILES

Actor Charles Grant as the Ghost of Christmas Present in Portland Playhouse's production of "A Christmas Carol."