

METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

Community Calendar

Martial Arts Day For Kids

A free martial arts and self-defense workshop for children, age 6-12, will be held Saturday, Feb. 25 from 10:30 a.m. to noon at One With Heart, 4231 S.E. Hawthorne Blvd. Kids will learn about physical and verbal self-defense skills and practice a few beginning martial arts movements. To register call 231-1999.

Record Store Hosts Artist

Classical Millennium, 3150 E. Burnside, will host classical guitarist Christopher Parkening on Monday from noon to 1 p.m. Parkening will be on hand to autograph copies of his many compact discs and cassettes, including his latest release.

Camp Fire Recruits Volunteers

Camp Fire is now recruiting volunteers to help elementary school children develop a sense of community and participate in service projects. Training for the "A Gift of Giving" program is provided. Call Nancy Warnock at 224-7800.

Fitness Class For Big Women

The YMCA Fitness and Swim Center, 1111 S.W. 10th, offers Beginnings, a class for women whose physical abilities are restricted by weight, age and inactivity. The class starts Monday, Feb. 27 and will be held every Monday and Wednesday from 5:30 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. Non-members pay a \$45 special introduction rate.

Harrison In Concert

Elmonica Grade School presents pianist/composer Michael Allen Harrison performs in a benefit concert for school arts

Feb. 24th at 7:30 p.m. at Westview High School Auditorium

4200 N.E. 185th Ave. Admission is free to K-5th grade students and Elmonica parents and \$2.50 for others.

Les Femmes Tea Planned

Sunday, Feb. 26 at 5 p.m. "Counter the Conspiracy to Destroy Black Boys" will be the theme of the Les Femmes Prospective Cavalier Rites of Passage Tea at the home of Prospective Cavalier Harold Williams, II. The event is sponsored by the Past Cavaliers and hosted by the Senior Prospective Cavaliers. The Cavaliers will present a program each hour. The Tea is to raise funds for the Cavalier's fourth annual rites of Passage Ceremony and to give the prospective an opportunity to host potential sponsors before the annual ball. Kevin Fuller is Director of Cavaliers.

Black History Observed

The Oregon Association Of Colored Women's Club's annual Black History Program and Salad Luncheon will take place Saturday, Feb. 25 from noon to 2 p.m. at the Vancouver Avenue Baptist Church under the direction of Lillie Raibon. For ticket information call Layola Brown, chairman, at 281-2304.

Winter Lecture Series

Maya Angelou, American author, poet and entertainer who is best known for her strong portrayals of African-American women, presents an evening lecture on March 6th from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the O'Connell Sport Center Gymnasium at Clark College in Vancouver. General ticket price is \$25. Student ticket price is \$10.

SUBMISSIONS: Community Calendar information will be given priority if dated two weeks before the event date.

EXPRESSIN' THEMSELVES

BY JIMI JOHNSON

Mandisa and Tyeshia Brown are two young sisters that believe in expressing themselves. Age 16 and 14 respectively, these two young ladies are on a mission. While attending school full time, Mandisa and Tyeshia owns and operates an Espresso Cart located in the lobby of the Multnomah County Juvenile Justice Division. These two hard working young ladies share the responsibility of operating the cart while the other is in school.

A ninth grader at Grant High School, Tyeshia says that she now looks forward to each day with renewed enthusiasm. She's excited about completing her school work and getting back to her customers as the Juvenile Justice Division. "Going to work is fun" stated Tyeshia who spent brief period of time incarcerated at the Juvenile facility. After being released, Tyeshia realized that being away from her family was something that hurt deeply and vowed never to return to the juvenile system as a client.

While in the "system", Tyeshia said that she was lucky enough to meet people who truly cared for her and had her best interest at heart. One such person was Tyeshia's counselor Kate Desmond who encouraged and supported her throughout her ordeal in the court system.

Tyeshia and Mandisa grew up in a family of six children (all girls) and were raised by their mother Ms. Vera Lewis. "Raising a family of six children can be quite trying sometimes" stated Ms. Lewis. The one thing that's kept me going is prayer and the love that I have for my children as well as the love that they have given me in return. We all support one another no matter what happens" continued Lewis.

The idea of starting an Espresso Cart was the brain child of Willie Brown, a Juvenile Court Program Coordinator at the time. He met with Hal Ogburn who was Director of the Juvenile Justice Division at that time and Lorenzo Poe, Director of Community and family Services to see what they thought of



Mandisa Brown and her sister Tyeshia Brown

the idea of youth operating their own businesses. Mr. Ogburn and Mr. Poe thought that this would be a great opportunity to include young people in the system in a positive manner at an early age. After all, a majority of the offenses committed by youth are because the lack of money and a connection to something positive in the lives. Mr. Ogburn gave Willie the "green light" to look into this youth entrepreneurial project.

Willie and co-worker Nick Buell began looking at business opportunities for youth who had at one time or another been involved in the juvenile justice system in hopes of turning their lives around. With the help of Junior Achievement and others in the community, the idea of a youth owned and oper-

ated business soon became a reality.

The Espresso Cart began with six youth but soon only two remained, Mandisa and Tyeshia Brown. "To be in charge of your own business is something that I've always wanted to do" stated Mandisa. This has been a great opportunity to learn all about running your own business and manage your finances" continued Mandisa.

As the business enters its fourth month (some didn't think it would last two weeks) Tyeshia has noticed a change in the attitudes of their customers. They are treated with more respect and the people look forward to seeing them each day. Tyeshia says that it hasn't always been that way, but the friendly and consistent service as well as a good

product has brought many customers back repeatedly.

One thing these two entrepreneurs have learned is that everyone likes good service and is willing to pay for it. "You never know what to expect when you meet different people but they all deserve to be treated with courtesy and respect", chimed Tyeshia.

Tyeshia and Mandisa both agreed that their mom is their role model because of the values that she has instilled in them and her unwavering support no matter what the situation may be. Also Mandisa and Tyeshia realizes that they are role models to their sisters, especially 10 year old Monique. Monique made it quite clear that she looks up to her sisters and loves them dearly. "Watching my sisters achieve their dream makes me so happy and proud of them, stated Monique. "Besides mama, they are my heroes" she continued.

One of the highlights that the Brown sisters experienced was meeting Multnomah County Chairperson Beverly Stein and the Board of County Commissioners. "Being up there on the 15th floor made me feel real good" stated Tyeshia. "It also made me realize that anyone who wants something and is willing to work for it can achieve their goals" added Mandisa.

Mandisa believes that youth should not be labelled because labels usually hurt young peoples self esteem. They also can give a false impression about another person. Mandisa wants to be an Interior Decorator and start her own business in Design when she finishes school. She feels that getting an early education in business with the Espresso Cart is a great start.

Tyeshia said that her ultimate goal was to get a college degree in Early Childhood Education and work with young people to assist them in achieving their goals. "I want to give something back to those who have helped me along the way" added Tyeshia.

Mandisa and Tyeshia has definitely been a bright light at the Juvenile Justice Division and hopes to shine even brighter when the new complex is completed in early spring.

Wet Carpets Comes To Firehouse Theatre

Professional theatre comes to north Portland's Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center for the west coast premier of "Wet Carpets."

The comedy/drama is the final production of the Oregon Stage Co.'s 1994-95 season. Performances started last weekend and run through March 4.

"Wet Carpets" is about the mid-life crises of three sisters on the occasion of "their" daughter's graduation from high school. It is a warm and hilarious story of intelligent, witty and passionate women; a story rich in surprises and captures the spirit and traditions of an African-American family.

Playwright Marian X was awarded a New Professional Theatre Playwriting Award in New York in 1992 for the script.

Oregon Stage Co.'s production features Jeanette Russell Brown as Nedra Nelson; Marilyn Jones as Tutelia Nelson and Wanda Walden as Camille Nelson. "Their" daughter, Darlene is played by Abigail Lawrence, a Portland State University theatre major who recently appeared in Letters From Distant Men.

Curtain times are 8 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and 2 p.m. on Sunday Feb. 19 and Feb. 26. Tickets for regular performances are \$17. Friday and Saturday shows



Capturing the spirit and traditions of an African-American family are Marilyn Jones (from left), Wanda Walden and Jeanette Russell Brown who star in "Wet Carpets," now showing at the Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center.

are \$19. There is a \$2 discount for students, seniors and groups of 12 and more.

Student group-only performances are

also planned.

Tickets may be purchased in advance at any Fred Meyer Fastixx outlet or by calling

Fastixx at 224-8499.

The firehouse theatre is located at 5340 N. Interstate Ave.

Moose Honored

Portland Police Chief Charles Moose was honored this week with a "Valentine for Valor" award from the Concordia Community Assistance Program, an organization affiliated with Concordia College in northeast Portland. Annual Valentine for Valor awards recognize distinguished people who demonstrate courage, a willingness to take risks to improve their community and outstanding leadership abilities. The organization cited Moose's national reputation as an expert in community policing and in other solutions to neighborhood problems throughout Portland.

Child Safety Seat Law Enforced

Portland Police said they will emphasize enforcement of child restraint violations this week as part of a National Child Passenger Safety Week observance.

While all patrol officers will be involved, traffic division officers will have special detail cars assigned to the enforcement effort, authorities said.

Drivers not in compliance with the law may be cited for endangering a child passenger. The law requires that passengers under the age of 16 must be restrained by a child safety system, safety belt or safety harness.

Children under four years of age or 40 pounds or less, must be secured by a Department of Transportation approved child safety system.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates that more than 52,000 serious injuries and almost 500 deaths could be prevented if every child under the age of 5 was secured in an approved safety seat. For additional information on safety seats or the enforcement program, contact officer Mike McDonald or the police bureau's traffic division at 823-2235.

Portland Center Stage

Andrea Marcovicci Cabaret Singer And Actress

To Present Concert Of Love Songs. In A Benefit For Portland Center Stage. Andrea Marcovicci, hailed as the "most Sinatra-like" of the new generation of cabaret performers (LIFE magazine, 1990), will be presenting a concert titled "Love Songs from the Theatre" at the Portland Center for the Performing Arts, Intermediate Theatre on Monday, April 3, 1995, 7:30pm.