

# METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

## SECTION B

### Community Calendar

#### Election Office Opens

The Multnomah County Elections Office, 1040 S.E. Morrison, will open Saturday for extra duty hours, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., to assist voters in Tuesday's election for U.S. Senator. Ballots must be received at the office by 8 p.m. Tuesday in order to be counted in the election.

#### Saxophonist In Concert

Tenor saxophonist Javon Jackson performs the season's final Family Jazz Concert series of the DePriest Project, on Saturday, Feb. 17 at 7 p.m. at the University of Portland.

#### Albina Bank Hosts Reception

Enjoy free refreshments and meet the officers from the new Albina Community Bank as it hosts a celebration on Friday, from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m., at the bank's temporary location at 1130 N.E. Alberta. The financial institution was created to help area residents take advantage of economic opportunities in north and northeast Portland.

#### Living Legends Discovered

The world of the American Indian is the newest exhibit at the Portland Children's Museum, 3037 S.W. Second Ave. Visitors are welcome to explore a longhouse, visit an intertribal pow-wow and see what it's like to camp in a tipi. The museum is open Tuesdays through Sundays. Call 823-2227 for more information.

#### Famous Felines To Strut

Friskies' famous felines will steal the stage at the Friskies Oregon Cat Fanciers Show on Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 3 and Feb. 4 at Memorial Coliseum. The show will also demonstrate how cats are trained.

#### Tour Is Ready To Depart

A bus tour of Portland landmarks with lunch at Dan & Louis Oyster Bar will be held Saturday from 8:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Transportation is provided from the Fred Meyer Hollywood West store. Cost is \$35. Sharon Wood, author of the Portland Bridge Book is the tour guide. Call Wood at 238-9842 for more information.

#### Piano Sensation Appears

Recording artist Jim Brikman brings his passion and magic with the piano to the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall on Thursday, Feb. 8 at 8 p.m.

#### Jackson Browne Performs

Jackson Browne brings his poetic and elegant music to the city with a Monday, Feb. 28 performance at 8 p.m. at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall. Tickets are on sale at Fred Meyer Fastixx locations.

#### Crisis Line Help Sought

The Clackamas Womens' Services office in Milwaukie is looking for volunteers to answer the crisis line, provide support to shelter residents and help with domestic violence support groups. Call Carol or Toni at 654-2807.

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

## Habitat In Need Of Homeowners



Portland Habitat For Humanity representative Audrey L. Sanders.

**P**ortland Habitat for Humanity is in need of homeowner applications. Interested parties must attend one of the informational meetings held each first and third Tuesdays of the month. The meetings are held at the Habitat Home Building Center located on the corner of Northeast 15th and Killingsworth.

Meetings begin at 11 a.m. on the first Tuesday and 7 p.m. on the third Tuesday. There is a Spanish translator present during the third Tuesday meeting.

Qualifications for home ownership as well as applications are available at these meetings.

Habitat for Humanity is a nonprofit, ecumenical Christian organization that builds homes in partnership with low-income families.

Habitat homes are built with volunteer labor and donated materials and are sold at no profit with a no-interest mortgage. Habitat families must invest 400 hours of sweat equity to help build their home.

Founded in 1981, Portland Habitat for Humanity is the oldest affiliate on the west coast. This year Portland Habitat will celebrate placing their 100th person in a home.

### Elder Advocates Needed

**A**n orientation for all those interested in becoming volunteer advocates will begin February 13.

Volunteer advocates are needed to serve as ombudsmen for residents of nursing homes and adult foster care homes. The training will cover such areas as the aging process, communication skills, medication, problem-solving skills and investigation.

Certified Ombudsmen investigate complaints and concerns of the residents and then work with the facilities to make changes. "Ombudsmen empower residents

and provide a means to solve their problems," says Gayleen Eldridge, chair of the Recruitment and Screening committee. "I think that sometimes we forget about the elderly. But it is important to remember that they (the elderly) have the same rights, needs and wants that everybody else does." Certified Ombudsmen spend sixteen hours monthly on their ombudsman work.

For information about the program or to learn how to get involved contact Kathy Walter at 1-800-522-2602.

### Diabetes Awareness Set

**T**he American Diabetes Association will begin holding "Diabetes Sundays" in Portland to better inform the African American population about the symptoms and dangers of diabetes.

Diabetes adversely affects one in four African Americans.

Churches throughout north and northeast Portland will participate in the public awareness program.

The awareness campaign will include diabetes risk tests, referral services to

doctors, clinics and screening, patient follow-up and education materials about diabetes management and current treatments.

The program shares valuable, possibly life saving information about diabetes, using a neighbor-to-neighbor approach.

It's estimated that more than two million African Americans have diabetes, but half are unaware they have the disease.

Given this high impact, the associa-

Continued to page B6

### Gym Is Open For Midnight Basketball

**I**f the gym is open, they will come.

This is the philosophy behind the midnight basketball program sponsored by the North/Inner Northeast YMCA.

Each Friday night during its 8 week sessions, about 60 to 70 boys, gather to play basketball from 7 p.m. to midnight. Teams are divided into two age groups, from 11 to 14 years old and from 15 to 18.

"The purpose is to get kids off the streets and give them a place to go and have fun and just gang out for the night," said Steve Guy, midnight basketball sports coordinator.

Activities are put into a positive structure, with goals set for character building, respect for others and respect for yourself, Guy explained.

There are no eligibility requirements and than mean participants with troubles in school even get a warm welcome.

"Many of the kids we have are not doing well in school," Guy explained. "They can't play on a basketball team in school and we have some really good athletes."

Midnight Basketball features certified referees and volunteer coaches. Players are provided with game jerseys.

Guy said there's a lot of interest in expanding the program for girls.

"We want to get bigger," he said. "And we



North and northeast Portland kids enjoy the YMCA's Midnight basketball and gain a positive experience.

need more volunteer coaches."

An annual fundraising effort for the new year started this month.

Organizers are asking various groups and organizations to pledge \$100 toward the pro-

gram or whatever they can afford.

For more information on contributions, participating or volunteering, call Guy at the YMCA's north/northeast office at 288-3355.

### King Remembered At Maranatha Blood Drive

**A**rea residents rolled up their sleeves to celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s message of brotherhood and love for the community.

The 8th annual Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Blood Drive, sponsored by the Maranatha Church in northeast Portland, generated 70 units of blood for the American Red Cross.

"This drive's success is measured in more

than just pins," said Heidi Patterson, Red Cross blood services director. "The drive's primary goal is to increase community awareness about the critical need for donors of color."

Patterson said the blood donations will help ensure an adequate regional blood supply and meet the special transfusion needs of Portland's African American patients.

African Americans currently make up about 7 percent of Portland's population, but

less than 1 percent of Red Cross's regional blood donor base is black. Increased blood donations by people of color are needed to reduce the risk of regional shortages.

All donations collected at the Jan. 12 drive were screened for rare blood types, types occurring less than once in a thousand donors. Certain rare blood types, such as U-negative and Duffy negative, are found only in the black community. African Americans with these blood types depend upon African

American donors to meet their transfusion needs.

In addition, 11 donors gave an extra two tablespoons of blood to join the National Marrow Donor Registry, a nationwide computerized list of unrelated marrow donors. Currently, African Americans make up only about 7 percent of the volunteers listed on the registry.

The next Maranatha Church blood drive is scheduled April 4 from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

### North-Northeast Light Rail

**A**rea business leaders will discuss the potential impact of light rail on north and northeast Portland at the upcoming luncheon forum of the North-Northeast Business Association.

The proposed route for the Tri-Met mass transit project is expected to bring far-reaching and dramatic changes for the area.

"Naturally, businesses along the proposed route will be affected the most. However, even business not directly on the route could also be enormously impacted," association officials said.

Interested business owners and residents are invited to the forum to get an overview of the economic development effects of the light rail project.

The panel of presenters will include Metro Counselor Ed Washington, Metro staff members and an official of the Portland Office of Transportation.

The association is a group of businesses dedicated to improving the business opportunities and creating jobs to enhance the quality of life for the north-northeast community.

The luncheon will be held Tuesday, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Best Western Rose Garden Inn, 10 N. Weidler. Those interested in attending can call the association office at 284-3093.