

METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer **SECTION B**

Community Calendar

Music by Blue Lake

The festive world beat band Mumbo Gumbo serves up a spicy stew of jubilant dancing music, Thursday, July 17 at Blue Lake Regional Park. The seven piece band is a Bay-area favorite and features sizzling vocals, accordion, swamp guitar, boogie piano and a solid rhythm section. The concert area opens at 4:30 p.m. with the two-hour performance beginning at 6:30 p.m. Admission is \$3.50 per adult, \$1 for teens and \$3 per vehicle for parking.

How's your hair

Haircare experts will answer your questions on hair color and style and give out free sample products, during the Nice 'n Easy Shine On-Tour Thursday, July 24 through Sunday, July 27 from noon to 5 p.m. at the fountain court area near Stanfords and Nordstrom at Lloyd Center.

Police sell seizures

Drug-seized and government surplus property will be sold in a police auction Saturday, July 19 at the Expo Center. The sale starts with bicycles and personal properties at 9:30 a.m. with boats and cars going on the auction block at 1:30 p.m. You can preview items Friday, July 18 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Advocate for women

Clackamas Women's Services is recruiting new board members. The organization provides emergency shelter, support and advocacy for women and children escaping domestic and sexual abuse. Minority residents and survivors of domestic and sexual violence are encouraged to apply. The board meets monthly. Call Kathy Moore, executive director, at 722-2366 for an application packet.

Film festival at dam

The annual Bonneville Lock and Dam Fish Film Festival, films about fish, will be shown at the Brandford Island theater at the Washington Shore Visitor Complex between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Saturday, July 26 and Sunday, July 27.

Day camp choices

Youth day camps for children from post-kindergarten through sixth grade are in session now through Aug. 22 at the Marshall Community Center, 1009 E. McLoughlin Blvd. in Vancouver. The parks and recreation department camps run Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. They offer a variety of activities, field trips and clinics. Register at the Bagley Center, 4100 Plomondon or call (360) 696-8065.

Talk on race

Metropolitan Human Rights invites you to join people from various ethnic and racial backgrounds for open and honest dialog on race relations during a community dialog, Thursday, July 24 from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at the Red Cross building, 3131 N. Vancouver. Pre-registration is requested by calling Linda Hunter at 823-5284.

Hear the blues

Ellen Whytle and Reflex Blue play the blues on July 21 at 6:30 p.m. as part of the Sellwood Concerts series at Westmoreland Park at the intersection of southeast 22nd and Bybee. The public is cordially invited to bring picnics and enjoy some of Portland's best musicians performing in a beautiful park setting.

Fun jazz for all

Jungle Jim and the Swingset dish out jazz for all ages Thursday, July 17 at 7 p.m. at Wallace Park by the corner of northwest 26th and Raleigh.

Whitewater fun

Mt. Hood Community College's Wild Side Tours will take a rafting trip down the McKenzie River east of Eugene on Friday, Aug. 8. The group will float the whitewater section near Blue River. The cost is only \$39, transportation included. For information call the College Center Information Desk at 667-7277.

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

Liquor license renewal shot down

BY NEIL HEILPERN

The Portland City Council last week rubber stamped recommendations from the police and licensing departments to deny King Food Mart a liquor license renewal.

A parade of opponents and supporters of Elaine Rho's store at the corner of Martin Luther King Blvd. and Fremont St., N.E., sparked debate in council chambers Tuesday.

Impassioned pleas by several supporters did not dissuade the 5-0 vote of commissioners, who said Rho's request for more understanding and cooperation from the city was outweighed by the case presented by the police department and bureau of licensing.

The council's recommendation will be forwarded to the Oregon Liquor Control Commission (OLCC), which has the final say in the licensing matter.

Regulatory specialist Mike Sanderson presented council members with a thick document, outlining concerns about sale of alcohol to minors, violence and people drinking in the parking lot, the alleged sale of so-called crack pipes, and other incidents. Some of the public drinking involved alcohol purchased elsewhere.

Sanderson complained the store lacks appropriate security and often fails to call police when there is a problem.

Perry Christensen, police investigator, said Rho was "reluctant to cooperate with the efforts of different agencies to improve the neighborhood," accusing her of not training properly to resist sales to minors. He said police bought crack pipes from employees.

One officer told of driving into the parking lot and noticing known drug dealers go into the store, "as if it was a safe haven for them." Another said he had not seen promised changes in behavior by the store's owners, accusing them of having a "blind eye to the community, to make a profit."

Rho's attorney, Thomas P. Walsh, painted a picture of the woman as a cooperative person dedicated to improving her store, working for the betterment of the community and having a lot of support from neighbors. He showed a petition with more than 600 supporting signatures.

Walsh noted several steps Rho had taken to alleviate problems, including speed bumps to slow cars in the lot, six new lights, modifying pay phones to eliminate incoming calls to drug dealers, hiring security guards, closing part of the lot and increasing discussions with OLCC.

He complained that "hearsay information presented to the council is clearly an effort to orchestrate a decision unfairly without due process."

When Sanderson cited an Oregon law allowing denial when a store's owners are "not willing or unable to control patrons in their vicinity," Walsh argued the law clearly



Elaine Rho of the King Food Mart and her attorney Thomas P. Walsh appear before the Portland City Council to fight for her liquor license renewal.

Photo by Neil Heilpern

states that persistent problems must be related to the sale of alcohol.

"We could shut this place down under the county nuisance law," said Mayor Vera Katz.

Walsh said Rho admitted the few violations of sale to minors and that violating employees had been fired. "If the test is the two violations, then 50 percent of the stores in town should be closed."

"The murder (last year) was about a personal grudge and had nothing to do with the licensee," he said, adding that police never said people arrested for dealing drugs in the parking lot had been drinking any alcohol purchased at the store.

"I try to run a good businesses," said Rho, noting that although she has been at the store for 11 years, she recently took over management following her divorce. "I will be good at it if you help me."

Rho said she made numerous requests for advice from OLCC and the police. "I took it

and it worked." She then invited council members to visit her store for a first hand look.

"I'm not ignoring it; I am working on it," she added.

Although he voted against renewal, Council Member Jim Francesconi noted that "if we uphold denial of the license, two or three years from now we would see the same complaints (at the corner)."

Rho argued that prior to this year "I wasn't managing the store and wasn't aware of all the problems."

"One individual cannot be there 24 hours a day; that's why we have police," said neighbor Thomas Mullen.

"This is a black neighborhood," noted Jesse Hall. "These oriental people are not the problem. The (OLCC) liquor (two stores away) is the problem."

Another neighbor, Craig Boehm, noted the state liquor store has no parking lot of its

own and its customers purchase hard liquor before congregating in the King Food Mart's lot. He accused police of not going after similar problems in places like Safeway as aggressively as Rho's store.

"I've never known Elaine to do anything illegal," said neighbor and tobacco vendor Robert L. Shaw. "I'm behind the counter often and have never seen pipes or screens."

"I've seen her walking the parking lot, asking people to leave who don't belong there," he added. "It is a clean store."

"If police see it as a trouble spot, why don't they park there while doing paperwork," said Shaw, urging a pro-active police stance.

"See what she has done that is positive, not just the negative."

Robert Barnes, who described himself as a former night manager for King Food Mart, said Rho ran a "tight ship," citing frequent

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McPherson team USA coach

Local coach named one of top wrestling assistants in the country

BY MICHAEL LEIGHTON

When the top wrestlers in the nation compete for the World Championships later this summer, they will have received expert instruction from Donnie McPherson, a long-time Portland resident and wrestling coach.

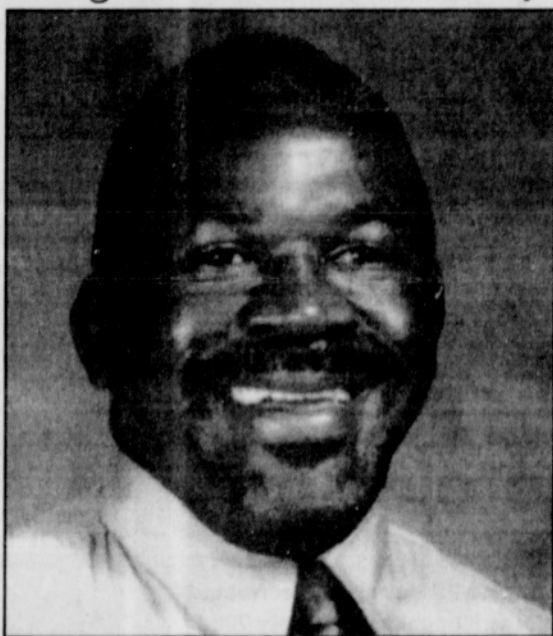
McPherson has been selected as one of two assistant coaches for Team USA which begins two weeks of practices later this month at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Arizona State University's Larry Smith is the head coach for the freestyle wrestling team.

This is not the first time around the world's best athletes for McPherson, a Jefferson High School wrestling coach who also serves as a student discipline counselor.

McPherson coached wrestlers for the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta, Ga. and he has traveled extensively for international competitions, including coaching in January of this year for international competition at Yasadogo, Turkey.

McPherson said this year's group of wrestlers are a mixture of old veterans and young, rising stars. "We're a great team, but we still have to prove what we can do," he told the Portland Observer.

He said some of this year's top contenders are Zig Jones, a former world champion silver medalist; Melvin Douglas, a world champion; Terry Brands who competed at the '96 Olympics; and Les Gutches, a two-time NCAA champion from Oregon State University.



Donnie McPherson

The world championships will take place Aug. 29 through Sept. 2 in Siberia, Russia.

McPherson is a former assistant coach at Portland State University and was one of 15 finalists for the head coaching position for last year's Olympic team. He has high hopes of becoming the head freestyle wrestling coach for the 2000 Olympics in Sydney, Australia.

McPherson graduated from Washington High School in Portland in 1969. He went on to continue his education at Portland State University.

CATHEDRAL PARK *hot jazz*

Premier music event of the summer begins Saturday underneath the St. Johns Bridge

Some of the greatest jazz music on the planet takes place this weekend underneath the St. Johns Bridge in north Portland at the Cathedral Park Jazz Festival.

Red Holloway headlines the 17th annual event sponsored in large part this year by Portland General Electric.

"This festival embodies all the best attributes of Portland's community and neighborhood spirit and the very essence of what makes north Portland and St. Johns so special," said John Dusea of PGE's Our Neighborhoods First campaign.

Heralded as the premier jazz event of the summer, performances start at noon Saturday with the Marc Fendel Trio. Tall Jazz performs Saturday at 2 p.m.; Chris Parker with Gary Hobbs, Dave Captien and Renato Caranto hit the stage at 4 p.m. and True Friends featuring Marilyn Keller performs at 6 p.m.

Sunday's line-up starts at noon with the Paul Mazzio Quartet, followed by Dan Faehnle at 2 p.m. and Kelly Broadway with Mike Wofford at 4 p.m.

Holloway will star with the great Leroy Vinnegar on bass, Mel Brown on drums and Geoff Lee on piano, during the concluding 6 p.m. performance on Sunday.

PGE's Our Neighborhoods First team will be on hand with its neighborhood display, an electric vehicle and Bobby Brown, an accomplished bead worker and long-time PGE employee. Brown will demonstrate her bead making, which features distinctive African-American designs.