

BLACK HISTORY MONTH EVENTS

University Park Center Celebration Saturday, Feb. 23

The University Park Community Center will be sponsoring an African American Celebration on Saturday, Feb. 23, from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. at the center, located at 9009 N. Foss. There will be arts and crafts for children, along with traditional foods, theater, games, dance and live performances. The event is to celebrate Black History, both in North Portland and around the world. Admission is free to the public.

A Bridge Builders Celebration Saturday, Feb. 23

The Bridge Builders will be holding their 6th annual Black History Month Celebration and the Prospective Gents Club Rite of Passage on Saturday, Feb. 23 with the theme, "A Change is Gonna Come" at the Melody Ballroom, 615 SE. Alder Street at 7:30 p.m. Call 230-7505 or 439-6821.

A Rosa Parks Play Tuesday, Feb. 26

Lewis and Clark College will be presenting a play on the life of Rosa Parks entitled "A Catalyst in the New World" on Tuesday, Feb. 26 at the Agnes Flanagan Chapel. This play is a one-woman show, performed by award-winning speaker Shandra Terry. It reenacts the famous bus boycott that sparked the Civil Rights Movement. For more information, call Ray Warren at 768-7051.

A Legacy of Building Peace Tuesday, Feb. 26

The University of Oregon in Eugene will be having an exhibit that includes the Victory over Violence youth display. The Gandhi, King, Ikeda exhibit will be continuing its world tour with a stop in Eugene for one week only. For more information, call 541-465-4957 or email a representative at clmax@efn.org.

Poetry Slam Wednesday, Feb. 27

Portland's best poetical duo called "Good Sista/Bad Sista" will be performing at the Poetry Slam with DJ Opus X on Wednesday, Feb. 27 at Berbat's Pan, SW. 3rd and Ankeny. There are two more qualifying slams left. Poets can sign up at 7:45 p.m. and the event begins at 8 p.m.

African American Artisans Wednesday, Feb. 27

In recognition of Black History Month, Home & Garden Television (HGTV) will present a profile of outstanding African-American artists who share the passions and philosophies that inspire their work. HGTV viewers will witness these extraordinarily gifted artisans create signature pieces for their clients' homes. For more information, go online to www.hgtv.com.

African Art Exhibit in Vancouver Through Feb. 28

An exhibition of African art, "Masks, Music and Motion: Community Healing Among the Yoruba of West Africa," will be shown throughout Feb. at the Washington State University Vancouver Library. The exhibit features Yoruba sculpture, masks, clothing and photography from the private collection of Mary L. Johnston in Florence, Ore. Call 360-546-9469 or 360-546-9575.

Homes of the Underground Railroad Sunday, Feb. 29

In recognition of Black History Month, Home & Garden Television (HGTV) will take viewers on a fascinating journey to discover the secrets of the Underground Railroad, telling the stories of seven remarkable homes along this historic route. The show will premiere on Sunday, Feb. 24 at 9 p.m.

Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center Through March 2

The Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center is currently having two gallery exhibitions to

celebrate Black History month until March 2. Featured in the Entry Gallery will be jazz inspired photographs and portraits by Dick Bogle, and in the Main Gallery will be the Rastafarian inspired paintings of Roscoe Croskey. IFCC is located at 5340 N. Interstate Ave. Call 823-IFCC or visit www.ifcculturalarts.org.

Emotional Play on Black Women Through March 10

The Broadway play "for colored girls who have considered suicide when the rainbow is enuf" was America's first significant exposure to "the choreopoem." With a strong connection to African traditions, the choreopoem emphasizes intense emotions through poetry, and focuses on music and

dance to communicate emotion. The play will be held at the Newmark Theatre at the Portland Center for Performing Arts, from Feb. 19 - March 10. Call 274-6588 or visit www.pcs.org.

Black Pioneers of the Oregon Country Through March 13

The End of the Oregon Trail will feature the exhibit "Black Pioneers of the Oregon Country" until March 13 in honor of Black History Month. An exhibit that includes photos, biographies and stories of black pioneers are part of the program. Open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., the interpretive center is located at 1726 Washington St. in Oregon City. Call 657-9336, ext. 0 or go online to www.endoftheoregontrail.org.

OREGON'S ELECTRICITY RESTRUCTURING PLAN

What you need to know about your new energy options.

For customers of Portland General Electric and Pacific Power, new energy options take effect March 1, 2002.

Why is this happening?

Legislation requiring electricity industry restructuring was signed into law in 1999. As a result, customers of Portland General Electric and Pacific Power will soon have a variety of options to choose from. For example, if the environment is important to you, there is an option that earmarks a portion of your bill for restoring fish habitat or for supporting renewable resources. There is also an option in which your electricity rate would be based on when you use your power. Your new options will vary according to your energy provider.

What if I don't want to change?

You don't have to. You may select a new energy option or do nothing and stay with your existing service.

As a residential customer, can I buy electricity from other companies?

No. The law requires residential customers to continue to buy electricity from the company that serves them now. However, your existing utility will be providing you with a number of new energy options from which you may choose. In addition, business customers may be able to choose an alternative Electricity Service Supplier.

How will I find out exactly what these new options are and how much they will cost?

In the coming weeks, you'll receive a special brochure in the mail that will explain your new choices in further detail and provide you with complete information about pricing, environmental impact, and benefits. If you do decide to choose one of the new options, we'll tell you how.

Will rates still be regulated?

Yes, all residential rates offered by PGE and Pacific Power will continue to be regulated by the OPUC, which regulates rates to ensure that customers receive reliable service at a reasonable cost.

What makes this different from deregulation in California?

There are a number of ways Oregon's approach to restructuring differs from California's attempts to deregulate. For example, unlike California, Oregon's utilities will not be required to sell their electricity generating plants. In addition, Oregon's utilities will continue to be allowed to acquire power through long-term contracts.

When do I have to act?

Residential customers don't have to do anything now. Look for a special brochure in the mail that will explain your new options in greater detail. You can also find out more on the Web at www.MyPowerOptions.com.



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