

METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

Community Calendar

Ladybug Nature Walos

Parents can discover the natural world with their pre-schoolers every Friday morning. A naturalist will hand out magnifying glasses, bug boxes and other tools to explore the soil, water, bark, flowers and animals in Portland's parks. Join the group each Friday at 10 a.m. in Hoyt Arboretum. There is a \$2 charge for each child, but adults are free.

King Elementary Chili Benefit at Nature's

Nature's on Fremont will host a Chili Benefit for King Elementary School on Saturday, Feb. 22 from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. Come to 3535 N.E. 15th Ave. and by a bowl of chili, cornbread and a soda for only \$4. For information, call Jerome at 503-288-3414.

Free CPR Classes

The American Heart Association is offering free CPR classes on Saturday, Feb. 22 at OMSI, Clackamas Community College, and Vancouver's Northwest Regional Training Center, 11606 N.E. 66th St., Suite 103. A Spanish language CPR class will be held at the same time at Centro Cultural, 1110 N. Adair, in Cornelius. Register online at <http://local.americanheart.org> or by calling 1-800-452-9445.

Jefferson High Community and Parent Meeting

Area residents are invited to get questions and comments addressed about the current Portland Association of Teachers bargaining sessions with the Portland Public School District, Portland Association of Teachers and a Bargaining Team member will be on hand to answer questions at a community and parent meeting for the Jefferson High School Cluster on Monday, Feb. 24 at 7 p.m. in the Jefferson High School Library, 5210 N. Kirby.

Afro-Cuban Drum Masters

In celebration of Black History Month, Washington State University in Vancouver will host Cuban Drum masters from Havana at 6 p.m. in the Multimedia Classroom Building, room 6 at 6 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 24. Tours of the new multimedia facility will also be conducted. For traveling directions or for more information, call 360-546-9567.

Hospice Training Available

Kaiser Permanente provides free hospice training to volunteers willing to give physical and emotional support for terminally ill patients in the Portland area and provide respite for their caregivers. The training is in Portland on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. through Feb. 27. For more information, call Kaiser hospice volunteer coordinator Juanita Oliver at 503-499-5285.

Mardi Gras celebration set for Kennedy School

Guests 21 and older can celebrate Mardi Gras with a celebration complete with masks and beads, live jazz, beverage specials and a New Orleans-style fare on Thursday, Feb. 27 at McMenamins Kennedy School, 5736 N.E. 33rd. The Black Swan Classical Jazz Band, an eight-piece ensemble with a piano, trumpet, trombone, tuba, drums, banjo and saxophone will play in the historic gymnasium beginning at 7 p.m. and lasting until 10 p.m. Admission is \$7 per guest. For more information, call 503-249-3983.

Gospel Music Store Opens

Live entertainment scheduled for Saturday grand opening

BY WYNDE DYER
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Northeast Portland residents with an ear for gospel won't have to travel far to get some tunes when Vision Gospel Sounds and More opens at 407 N.E. Mason on Saturday, Feb. 22.

The tiny store, on the corner of Mason and Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., plans to stock a full selection of the latest in local, domestic and international gospel CDs, tapes and videos. By doing so, owners Nancy

Smith and Melvin Bailey hope local gospel fans won't need to drive to the outskirts of southeast Portland or Beaverton to satisfy their yearnings.

"We have a large religious community here," Bailey said. "It will be very advantageous to have a facility of this kind readily available."

When Bailey moved to Portland from Atlanta, he was shocked to see so many religious organizations in north and northeast Portland but no place to get religious music.

It was through his wife that Bailey met Smith, a gospel singer herself, and became interested in her plans to make gospel music more accessible to the African American community.

"This store has been a vision of

mine for more than five years," Smith said. "When I get up in the morning and turn on my music it's the sound of God that gives me the power to get through the day. We need to get gospel out in the town."

In addition to stocking gospel music, the pair plans to retail Christian literature, Sunday school teaching materials, religious artifacts, choir robes, ministerial apparel and a whole gamut of spiritual products.

They will also make it a priority to promote traveling gospel artists, many of whom Smith knows from attending the National Gospel Music Workshop each year with 30 to 40 thousand other gospel enthusiasts.

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PHOTO BY WYNDE DYER/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
Nancy Smith and Melvin Bailey welcome customers to their new "Vision Gospel Sounds and More" store on the corner of Northeast Mason and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. A grand opening for the store will be held Saturday, Feb. 22 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. with live gospel entertainment, refreshments and more.

The Daniels Memorial Mime Team was just a sample of many performers and choirs that entertained at the 19th Annual Gospel Music Extravaganza Saturday at the Highland United Church of Christ. The event celebrates the joy of song in the African American Community and honors Black History Month.



PHOTOS BY DAVID PLECHI/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Church and Mime



Beer-Wine Tax Could Save Program

Lawmakers propose tax to restore funding for 'Medically Needy'

Northeast Portland Rep. Jackie Dingfelder and Springfield Sen. Bill Morrisette are planning to sponsor legislation to raise taxes on beer and wine to save the state's Medi-

caly Needy Program. Earlier this week, the House approved a bill that would temporarily rescue the Medically Needy program, but only for the final five months of the current biennium. The Dingfelder-Morrisette measure would make that rescue permanent.

Some participants in the Medically Needy program have said they will die or suffer rejection of heart and kidney transplants if they lose access to the prescription drugs

Given the plight of the medically needy and the magnitude of the budget deficit, a slight increase in the taxes on beer and wine makes sense.

— State Sen. Bill Morrisette

they need. Others face recurrence of seizures or intractable pain without medications the program provides.

"Given the plight of the medically needy and the magnitude of the budget deficit, a slight increase in the taxes on beer and wine makes sense," Morrisette said. "Oregon's beer tax is 44th lowest in the nation and hasn't gone up in more than a quarter of a century."

The current Oregon wine tax ranks 23rd in the nation, and hasn't risen in 20 years. The Dingfelder-Morrisette proposal contains exemptions to the tax for small breweries and wineries.

"Our proposal is a reasonable option for restoring funds to critical programs and services," Dingfelder said.

lion a biennium for critical programs to save lives, alleviate suffering and prevent more-expensive problems in the future."

The bill calls on the state to leverage about \$43 million of the money to obtain \$65.4 million in a federal match for continuation of the Medically Needy program, which provides prescription drugs for low-income senior and disabled citizens.

Budget cuts have forced an end to the program in the current biennium and Gov. Ted Kulongoski has omitted it from his 2003-2005 budget.

Commercial Kitchen Comes to OAME

Minority and emerging businesses can use site and meet health codes

The Oregon Association of Minority Entrepreneurs held the Grand Opening of the OAME "Carl Talton" Commercial Kitchen on Friday.

Located in the OAME building at 4134 N. Vancouver, the kitchen was dedicated to Portland Development Commissioner Carl Talton who led the effort to build the public facility.

Sam Brooks, OAME founder, president and chairman of the board, noted that the Commercial Kitchen gives minority, women and

emerging small businesses a place to prepare food consistent with Oregon law.

Brooks said the kitchen is needed to test market products without the investment in new equipment, reducing the risk of entrepreneurs of losing their life savings as they determine if a sufficient market exists for their product.

It's also expected to provide many advantages and benefits to food service businesses by lowering their operating costs and rental or lease payments because space is shared between food service providers. Overhead costs are all shared along with telephone services; meeting rooms, fax services and other technical assistance.

The kitchen will be available to certified food handlers for rent on an hourly basis, 24 hours a day,

seven days a week.

Free consulting on the areas of marketing, accounting and other business matters are also provided.

OAME was founded in 1987 to promote and develop entrepreneurship and economic development for ethnic minorities and thereby reduce racism and discrimination.

Funding from the North and Northeast Portland Enterprise Zone Community Contribution Fund and a grant from US BANK made the Commercial Kitchen possible.

For information on Oregon Association of Minority Entrepreneurs services and opportunities contact the OAME at 503-249-7744, or at www.oame.org.

For further information on the Commercial Kitchen, contact Modena Perry at 503-249-7744.

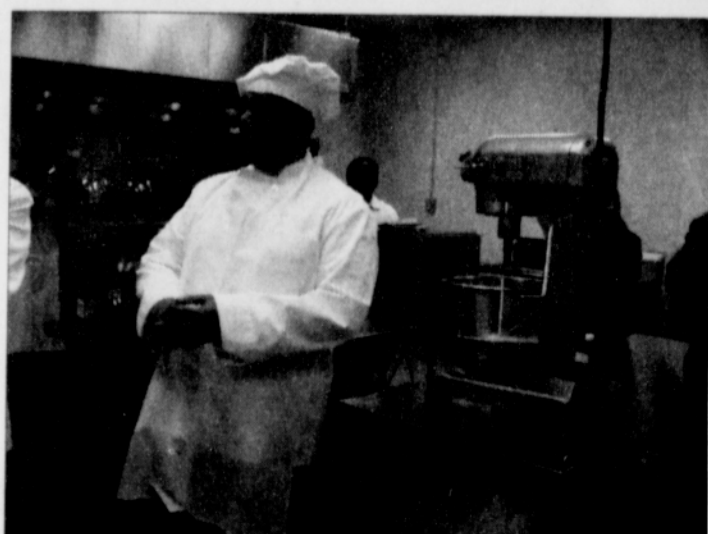


PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
Portland Development Commissioner Carl Talton wears a chef's hat for the grand opening of a commercial kitchen named in his honor. The facility will be available for public use at the Oregon Association of Minority Entrepreneurs, 4134 N. Vancouver.