

# METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

## Community Calendar

### Mt. Hood Registers for Summer Term

MHCC is currently registering students for summer classes beginning on Monday, June 23. Continuing and returning students who have attended MHCC during the last year may register by calling 503-491-6000.

### Canoe Tours of Northwest Rivers

Portland Parks and Recreation will offer half-day and full-day trips of the Tualatin, Columbia and Willamette Rivers all summer long. The quiet and graceful river trips will offer participants to take a close-up look at nature and wildlife. They are designed for paddlers of all experience levels. For more information and a complete list of dates, call 503-823-5132.

### Spiderman Visits the Zoo

Marvel Comics' Spider-Man will make a special visit at the Oregon Zoo from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, June 7 and Sunday, June 8 to pose with children. Visitors can also learn about the zoo's own arachnids in the insect zoo. For more information, call 503-226-1561 or visit the zoo's website at www.oregonzoo.org.

### 'Grease' Sing Along at the Kennedy School

McMenamins Kennedy School will host two showings of "Grease" sing along style. Attendees are encouraged to dress as their favorite character and compete for the best costume prize. The shows will take place on Saturday, June 7 at 5:30 p.m. and on Sunday, June 8 at 2:30 p.m. at 5736 N.E. 33rd Ave. Admission is \$3. All ages are welcome.

### Ebony Ski Club Party

Interested in skiing or snowboarding? Interested in skiing or snowboarding scholarships for children? You might be interested in attending the Ebony Rose Ski Club New Member House Party and Mixer on Saturday, June 7 from 9 p.m. until the people go home at 422 N.E. Going. For more information, call 503-287-5105.

### Sabin Sidewalk Show and Sale

On Saturday, June 7 at the Starbucks Coffee House on Northeast 15th and Fremont, there will be a sidewalk show and sale to benefit the Sabin Elementary School art program. Students will show off their talents by painting on easels, there will be student art for sale and a silent auction on selected pieces. Following the kickoff the sidewalk sale will continue throughout the summer.

### Wonders of the Summer Sky

On Monday, June 9 the Mount Hood Community College Planetarium Sky Theater will present a 45-minute live show to help sky watchers locate prominent constellations, planets and star clusters in summer evening skies. Tips will also be given on observing Jupiter, Saturn and Mars. Two shows will take place at 7 p.m. and 8 p.m. with admission set at \$1. For more information, call 503-491-7297.

### Summer Nature Day Camp

Portland Parks and Recreation will host two weeklong summer day camps in June for children aged 5 to 12 years. Kids will get first-hand experience with nature through hiking, scientific observations, games, forest crafts and story telling. Cost is \$180 per week. For more information and to register, call 503-823-5132.



A woman walks past the Memorial Coliseum. The facility has seen little use since the Rose Garden opened in 1995 and now the city will decide what should be done with it.

## Memorial Coliseum Recycle

With its glory days behind it, Memorial Coliseum may find new use as a shopping center

The public has a chance to weigh in about the future of the historic Memorial Coliseum before the City Council makes a decision late in the summer.

Maintaining the coliseum as an events venue would cost approximately \$8.5 million. Since Memorial Coliseum became nearly obsolete when the Rose Garden opened in 1995, the city has sought after ideas for new uses of the coliseum. The mayor is forming an advisory committee to help evaluate some of the plans proposed for the property.

One of those ideas would transform the site into retail space, as the Oregon Arena Corporation proposed, with space for two large retailers and two floors of parking.

Many are concerned that retail space may not uphold the flavor of the historic public site, but the city will consider the an option that could bring hundreds of jobs to Portland.

More preservationist-minded options include converting the coliseum into a three or four level community center and athletic club with swimming, ice skating, court sports and fitness activities for Portland residents and a venue for local, regional and national competitions.

City Commissioner Jim Francesconi said he had more questions before he supported any of the proposals, but he eliminated the consideration of a community center.

"A community center needs to be in a community," Francesconi said. "The community center with the swimming pool seems very, very expensive. I need to know about the private sector committing money in the deal."

The public meeting for the Memorial Coliseum reuse project is at 6 p.m., Wednesday, June 18 at One Center Court in the Memorial Coliseum's Georgia Pacific Room.



Ebony Sloan-Clarke (right) talks with DaQuante Allen, 16, at Tualatin Valley Centers' Leo Ni Leo clinic for troubled adolescents. A mental health therapist, Sloan-Clarke said cultural traditions often keep black people from seeking help for mental health issues.

## Confronting Mental Health Issues

Stigma, tradition and culture make it difficult to get treatment

BY WYNDE DYER  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

With the racism, stereotypes and oppression African Americans face every day, who wouldn't be angry or depressed?

But employees who provide mental health and addiction services for Tualatin Valley Centers report that adult African Americans are far less likely than adult Caucasians to be treated for depression or anxiety disorders.

"Mental health care is more geared towards the white middle class," said TVC therapist Ebony Sloan-Clarke. "That's one barrier right there, but more importantly, most African Americans don't even recognize signs of depression because societal pressures make depression a way of life."

As an adolescent counselor at Leo Ni Leo, a TVC treat-

ment center for troubled youth in northeast Portland, Sloan-Clarke sees the effects of race and socioeconomic status

each day when she meets with her clients.

She said many factors filter into most African American's unwillingness to receive treatment for mental health or chemical abuse issues.

More than most cultures, Sloan-Clarke said African American's tend to see getting treatment as admitting there is a problem and accepting the social stigma associated with mental illness.

"People are afraid of being labeled as crazy," she said. "Through our history of oppression African Americans have been taught to be resilient."

If we accept help it's like we're not coping. If you're having

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*Through our history of oppression African Americans have been taught to be resilient. If we accept help it's like we're not coping.*

— Mental Health Therapist Ebony Sloan-Clarke on why African Americans are less likely than Caucasians to get mental



John Oda, clinical supervisor for Tualatin Valley Centers on Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, said his clinic reaches out to African Americans to let them know they can find help for mental health issues inside his doors.

## Royal Tradition

Priscilla Isaacs of Franklin High School was crowned Queen of the Portland Rose Festival Thursday. Isaacs is an active member of the southeast Portland school's student government. She has participated in varsity cheerleading, track and dance team.

Isaacs plans to attend Portland State University and would like to go into public relations, communications or broadcast journalism.



Priscilla Isaacs

## Improved Bus Service Promised

TriMet has plans for added services in north and northeast Portland. The TriMet Board approved a five-year transit plan for transportation service to grow and improve throughout the city.

In the 2004 fiscal year, TriMet plans to open the Interstate MAX Yellow Line, extend frequent service for earlier in the morning and later in the evening on Lines 4, 6, 8 and 72, serving Fessenden, Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, Northeast 15th Avenue and Killingsworth/82nd Avenue. Line 75, serving Lombard/39th Avenue will be upgraded to a frequent service line, with pick-ups every 15

minutes or better. The new plan will also improve access to jobs in the Rivergate and Swan Island area and add bus shelters and 14 Transit Tracker signs to several lines throughout North and Northeast Portland.

"It gives our regional partners a roadmap so they can leverage our investments and build on them to further enhance access to transit," said TriMet General Manager Fred Hansen.

TriMet also plans to make improvements in Gresham, Beaverton/Hillsboro and Tigard/Tualatin.