

METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

Community Calendar

Bones and Brews

This festival may sound violent, but it's really just about beer, barbecue, music and neighborhood fun on Flanders Street between 13th and 14th Avenue, on Sept. 6 and 7. Admission is \$5.

Multnomah Daze

The summer's heat wave may put your head in a daze, but bring your body down to Multnomah Days, a street fair, quilt show, parade and music fest, from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 16, on Capital Highway between the bridge and 35th Avenue.

Zoofari

The Oregon Zoo invites you to a behind-the-scenes night tour on Sept. 12 to learn more about animal care. For registration, call 503-220-5738 or visit www.oregonzoo.org.

Flower Days Bloom

Kruger's Farm presents Flower Days from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., on Aug. 23 and 24. Build a bouquet or tour the farm at 17100 NW Sauvie Island Road.

Heated Discussion

The World Forestry Center presents Talking Fire, a series covering the mystery, science and personalities of fire. The first discussion is on historic fire lookouts from 9 a.m. to noon, Sept. 20 at Cheatham Hall at the World Forestry Center, 4033 SW Canyon Road. Free. For more information, call 503-228-1367.

There Goes the Neighborhood

Reacquaint yourself with the blossoming, diverse community surrounding Interstate Avenue at the Inaugural Interstate Avenue Fair from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 16 and noon to 4 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 17.

Abalone Baloney

Kids in grades 4 and up come together to share excellent books and learn about each other from 7 to 8 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 10 at the Hollywood Library, 4040 NE Tillamook St.

Pageturners

Engage in stimulating conversation about books and exchange perspectives as you get to know your neighbors at the Hollywood Library, 4040 NE Tillamook St. Read Mrs. Dalloway by Virginia Woolf and The Hours by Michael Cunningham, and talk about it on Wednesday, Sept. 18, from 7 to 8 p.m.

Race for the Cure

The Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation Oregon and Southwest Washington celebrates the Komen Portland Race for the Cure on Sunday, Sept. 14 at Waterfront Park. If you would like to volunteer for the event, visit www.raceforthecure-pdx.org or call 503-553-3676.

Wellness Within Reach

Wellness Within REACH Walk will draw more than 500 people to the streets of northeast Portland at 8 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 6. The fundraiser organized by the African American Health Coalition encourages you to register by sending a \$15 check to 2800 N. Vancouver Ave, Ste. 100. For more information, call 503-413-1850.

Neighborhood Culture

Oregon Symphony performs at Irving Park at 7 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 23 at Northeast 7th Avenue and Fremont at 7 p.m. For more information, call 503-823-PLAY.

Activists Work for a Better Tomorrow



Ruth Beale is media spokesperson for the public interest group Oregon Action. She plans to attend a Freedom Ride for immigrant rights later this month.



Ruth Alice Anderson is president of Oregon Action and chair of the group's prescription drug committee.

Oregon Action aims for social change

BY JAYMEE R. CUTI

THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Oregon Action bites off some pretty nasty topics. Fighting institutionalized racism while advocating for food stamps, prescription drugs, immigrant rights and the living wage would send some groups off in too many directions.

But no cause is too great for this tightly knit, no nonsense activist organization. Volunteers will meet with legislators, conduct original large-scale research and organize protest rallies — all in a day's work.

The statewide organization with offices on Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard was born from Oregon Fair Share in the 1990s. Various chapter members form committees to work on topics at hand, particularly those concerning institutionalized racism.

"A lot of racist law makers took advantage of post-9/11 xenophobia," said Ruth Alice Anderson, president of Oregon Action and chair of the prescription drug committee in Portland.

The group draws its support from seniors, other activists, philanthropists and those affected directly by causes at hand.

A recent karaoke night fundraiser brought in \$1,800 in donations. The money supports events such as Lobbyist Day, where Oregon Action members met with legislators in Salem to champion causes affecting

the poor and people of color.

"We don't just go down there to stand on the steps and shout. We have appointments with legislators," said Rosy Foster, an Oregon Action member.

The group is garnering support for a prescription drug bulk-purchasing bill that they say will save thousands of dollars.

They describe it as the "Costco approach" of buying in bulk from pharmacies and passing the savings to the state.

The group also is conducting research on the fairness of the food stamp application process. It wants to know how applicants are treated differently — whether they are from urban or rural areas, are native

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Business Venture Slated for Market Site



The Alberta Street Market at Northeast 9th Avenue and Alberta will be torn down and replaced with a two-story building, providing space for a new market, sushi restaurant and other uses.

BY LEE PERLMAN

THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Local business entrepreneur Jack Chung is moving ahead with plans to replace the Alberta Street Market at 915 N.E. Alberta with a two-story, multi-use building.

Work on the new structure is scheduled to begin immediately. Plans call for a new market and a satellite location for the popular Yuki sushi restaurant, located on Northeast Broadway at 14th Avenue.

Chung would also like to see the building provide space

for community services, such as a beauty salon or insurance agency.

"There should be an insurance agency to serve people in the area. There isn't one anywhere on Alberta," he said.

This is Chung's second major business development for north and northeast neighborhoods in just the last few weeks.

He recently acquired and renovated the Shamrock Tavern on North Interstate Avenue and renamed it the Interstate Bar and Grill. A grand opening celebration for the restaurant is scheduled for Saturday.

Symphony, Local Talent to Perform

A community performing arts event, followed by a performance by the Oregon Symphony is at Irving Park, Northeast 7th Avenue and Fremont, on Saturday, Aug. 23. The arts fair starts at 3 p.m. and the concert begins at 7 p.m.

"Our goal is to reach all parts of the community, to showcase the broad diversity of cultures and tradition of the people who live in the neighborhoods around the park," said a spokesperson on the planning committee.

For more information, call 503-823-PLAY.



The Lewis and Clark Explorer Train gives passengers a breathtaking gaze into Oregon's history.

Explorer Train Brings Oregon History to Life

BY JAYMEE R. CUTI/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Oregon natives and newcomers alike have heard the lore of a small exploratory group sent west during an expedition in 1805.

Meriwether Lewis and William Clark led the expedition into territory that was unknown to early Americans, from Missouri to the Oregon Coast. They met with more than 50 Native American tribes and discovered hundreds of unfamiliar plants and animals.

The final stretch of their long journey can now be followed with ease in the Lewis and Clark Explorer Train. The train leaves Portland's Union Station at 7:30 a.m., Fridays through Mondays until Sept. 15.

"Imagine seeing the same sights first visited by Lewis and Clark 200 years ago, only now it's from the comfort and convenience of the train," said State Rep. Betsy Johnson.

The train, holding 166 passengers, travels from Portland to Astoria, where the original explorers set up camp for the winter.

Clark's servant, York, and Sacagawea, a Native American interpreter for the expedition, had a say in where the camp settled, marking the first record of a woman and slave voting in America.

The four-hour tour follows the Columbia River, and announces various historical points of interest along the way.

Tickets are \$48 round trip for adults. For more information, call 503-325-6311.