

METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

Community Calendar

Holiday Shopping

Hail Mary Gallery, 1609 N.E. Alberta St., is holding a holiday bazaar from noon to 6 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays and noon to 4 p.m. Sundays through Dec. 24. For more information, call 503-281-6096.

Home Improvement

The Community Energy Project holds free workshops on water conservation and weatherization. A self-help weatherization workshop is from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 8 at Montavilla Community Center, 8219 N.E. Glisan. For more information, call 503-284-4962.

Chimps Gone Wild

Jane Goodall brings enthusiasts closer to nature with "Wild Chimpanzees," through May at the Omnimax Theater, 1945 S.E. Water Ave. Tickets are \$8.50. For more information, visit www.wildchimpanzees.org.

Get In Shape

Providence Health Systems offers Westside fitness classes at 4015 S.W. Mercantile Dr. in Lake Oswego. Classes include step, ball and bar, cardio mix, cardio step, gentle-paced fitness, group strength training and Tai chi, to name a few. For a full schedule, call 503-574-6595 or visit www.providence.org/classes.

No Excuses

Pacific Northwest Regional Blood Services asks Oregonians to run out of excuses when it comes to donating blood. The agency is holding its annual MLK Day Blood and Marrow drive on Saturday, Jan. 17 from 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the American Red Cross, 3131 N. Vancouver Ave. For more information, call 503-528-5476.

Wild Oats Wellness

Wild Oats Wellness Center presents free workshops at 3535 N.E. 15th Ave. (at Fremont) in upstairs studio A. Pre-register at 503-281-3262.

A Healing Song

Sankofaa Health Institute offers a free diabetes support group from 6 to 7:30 p.m. every third Thursday at Alberta Simmons Plaza, 611 N.E. MLK Blvd. For more information, call 503-285-2484.

NAACP Meetings

The Portland Branch of the NAACP will hold two monthly executive committee meetings, one on the second Thursday of the month and the Thursday before the fourth Saturday of the month. General membership meetings are held on the fourth Saturday of each month. For more information, call 503-284-7722.



Old Dominion's Syndel and Hungry Mob's Toni Hill make up Siren's Echo, a pillar in Portland's hip-hop community.

Hypnotic beats and subversive rhymes will pulse through Portland's hip-hop scene with the 8th annual Portland hip-hop festival, POH-HOP.

The celebration of sound and culture opens Thursday, Dec. 18 with a full lineup to the ladies of hip-hop sounds, including

local favorites Siren's Echo and Turiya Autry of Good Sista Bad Sista and Womb Dialectic, DJ Deena B and Beyonda.

Autry is the former host of Hella Fresh Fest and Portland's Poetry Slam. She has been a lyrical force making waves in the Northwest and nationally for several years.

The Ash Street Saloon, 225 S.W. Ash St. hosts the first night of this electric creative expression fest.

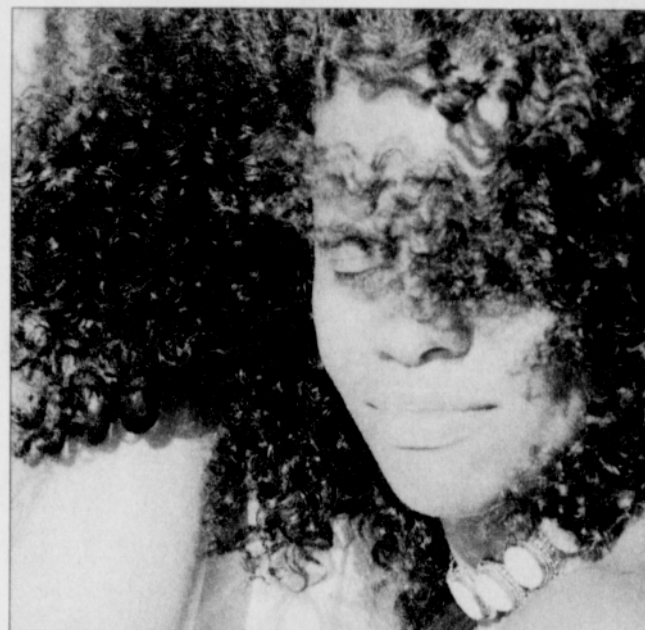
Street beats then continues Friday, Dec. 19 at Berbati's Pan, 10 S.W. 3rd Ave., with many of Portland's and Seattle's leading creators in the hip-hop scene, including

Young Fame: The Movement, the beat-heavy, rowdy o-boy music of Triple Double, Sleep, Maniac Lok and much more.

Both shows begin at 8 p.m. with \$8 covers. For more information, visit www.Jusfamilyrecords.com

Urban Rhythm

Ladies highlight hip-hop showcase



Turiya Autry stands for serious hip-hop sounds. The spoken word artist and slam poet will wail Thursday at Portland's hip-hop festival POH-HOP.

For the Love of Java Neighborhood Pride Brings Café Startup

For the love of their north and northeast Portland neighborhood, father and daughter team James and Eleza Faison have opened A.J. Java, a new coffee shop across from Peninsula Park on North Albina and Portland Boulevard.

Creating a welcoming café atmosphere is the Faison's way to give back to the Piedmont neighborhood.

The Faisons have created a place for positive interactions in the community.

Local business leaders also see the shop as a shining example of how the Portland Development Commission can help boost minority-owned businesses in north and northeast Portland.

The commission helped to expedite a small business loan for the Faisons, opening their doors much sooner than they planned.

Roy Jay, PDC liaison for City Commissioner Randy Leonard, said local government support brings vitality into north and northeast Portland and helps set economic roots for a prosperous and local African-



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Roy Jay (from left), Eleza Faison, Gloria Jackson and James Faison welcome customers to the grand opening of A.J. Java located across from Peninsula Park at the corner of North Albina Avenue and Portland Boulevard.

American business base.

The family-owned business offers Portland Roasting coffee, cappuccino, mochas,

lattes, smoothies, pastries, sandwiches, chips, juice and soda. The café also offers customers Internet access and Wi-Fi Hot Spot.

A.J. Java was named for Eleza's children, Alexander James and Ada Janisse. For more information, call 503-285-1820.



Activist Earns New Voices Fellowship

Josie Margalo Michael realized her dream to become a community organizer and activist with the help of the prestigious New Voices Fellowship, administered by the Academy for Educational Development.

Michael, formerly an accountant for 15 years, beat out 400 other applicants for the fellowship, and was chosen as the only recipient from Oregon. She was nominated by Oregon Action, the statewide community group that works for economic justice out of its offices on Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard.

She will spend the next two years working with Oregon Action, as a community organizer.

"I've been really wanting to switch from accounting and being isolated to talking directly to people. This is like a dream come true," Michael said.

Josie Margalo Michael

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