

Focus

Youth Art Show Opens

Arts Academy students from north and northeast Portland will kick off a gala reception and fundraiser at Waterstone Gallery, 424 N.W. 12th Ave., on Saturday, April 17 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. The "Why the Moon is Free: A Youth Art Show" by students from Beach Elementary, Ockley Green Middle School and Jefferson High School will also be exhibited at the gallery throughout the month. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased by calling 503-289-3399.

Blasting through Hip-Hop Boundaries

The hype surrounding dead prez's freshman album "Let's Get Free" rivaled acclaimed hip-hop albums by A Tribe Called Quest and OutKast. The album was also equated to Public Enemy in its fiery, observant political statements. Dead prez' new album, "RBG: Revolutionary But Gangsta," contributes to hip-hop's timely and timeless messages with a shift in focus from the 'hood to street knowledge. It crosses the boundaries of hip-hop with elements of soul, blues, reggae and rock. "Unbroken" is a testament to the fact that we've been through the worst that life could throw at us but we're still here, we still survived," said 'M-1' of dead prez. For more information, visit www.deadprez.com.



Hip-hop emcees and activists 'M-1' and 'stic.man' comprise dead prez.

The Portland Observer
World of Autos
REVIEWS ON EXCITING NEW VEHICLES BY THE WORLD'S LEADING MANUFACTURERS

2004 Nissan Quest 3.5S Minivan

The introduction of the all-new 2004 Nissan Quest makes a dramatic statement in the market, sharing nothing from its previous models. Although it has taken a long time for Nissan to market its own distinctive product for this line, it could be one product that brings them to becoming a major competitor. It started as one of the smallest minivans and now has become one of the largest inside and out.

The all-new cutting edge design and plenty of extras draws the attention of the vehicle shoppers. Nissan Quest could hold up to the familiar long-standing competition of Honda Odyssey or Toyota Sienna with its "performance oriented" product line. The vehicle provides features like: fold-flat middle-row captain's chairs, power-adjustable foot pedals and Nissan's unique Skyview Roof. The instrument panel is a single cage cluster and information screen in the



Tested vehicle information: price: \$25,980, engine: 3.5 liter, V-6 and the transmission 4-speed automatic.

middle, which increases the outward visibility. The design theme for the interior is "Urban Loft." The use of the interior space has dramatically improved for the comfort of all ages not just to hold small children or car seats. The seats are more comfortable for the growing child. The second and third row seats folds flat providing the space to carry large payloads.

The increase in horsepower brings the Quest in line with other Nissan products emphasizing performance and handling. The entire product line is all about driving experience. The engine power comes smoothly with a quiet engine sound. Quest comes with multi-link suspension and front and rear stabilizer bars. The handling of this minivan might leave one thinking they are driving a sport car.

The Nissan Quest offers the vehicle shopper a minivan worth taking for a test drive. They believe that minivans do not sell unless they are safe. They have made a vehicle that will provide safety for all three rows of passengers.

Hoppity Hop

The Oregon Zoo welcomes spring with a Rabbit Romp from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, April 10. The romp features a candy egg hunt, games, face painting and photos with the Mad Hatter's Tea Party by the Young People's Theater Project. For more information, call 503-226-1561.

Spring Fest

The 10th annual Spring Beer and Wine Fest is at the Oregon Convention Center on April 9 and 10. The theme, A Taste of the Best, introduced another level of culinary education with cooking demonstrations, besides sampling more than 150 beers, ciders, meads, wines, Scotches, bourbons, martinis and gourmet foods. For details, visit www.springbeerfest.com.

Neville Brothers at Chinook Winds

The Neville Brothers bring their Mardi Gras Mambo and New Orleans Big Easy sound to Chinook Winds Casino and Convention Center in Lincoln City, May 7 and Saturday, May 8.

Peacejam Diverse World Retreat

Oregon and Washington youth aged 12-20 and adult supporters are holding Peacejam: Youth Leadership for a Diverse World retreat at Camp Adams in Molalla. The registration cost is \$75. Scholarships are available. For more information, call 503-275-0663.

Benevolent Queen helps Community

Darcelle XV is having a benefit extravaganza premiere glamour drag queen show for the Linnton Community Center at 7 p.m. Sunday, April 25. Tickets are \$20 for legendary performances at the Community Center, 10614 N.W. St. Helens Rd. For more information, call 503-286-4990.

Ebony Fashion Extravaganza April 16

The Portland Chapter of The Links presents its annual fundraiser, the Ebony Fashion Fair at the Oregon Convention Center at 6 p.m. April 16. Tickets are \$45 to \$75. For more information, call 503-286-426.

Ongoing and Upcoming Music

The Blue Monk on Belmont plays live jazz. For a schedule, visit www.thebluemonk.com. Interstate Bar and Grill has mature live music at 4234 N. Interstate. The Black Notes play Thursdays at the Candlelight Room. Mel Brown plays jazz at Jimmy Maki's on Tuesdays and Thursdays and Fridays and Saturdays at Salty's on the Columbia. A Community Unity Breakfast is every third Thursday at SEI at 7:30 a.m. Skip Elliott Bowman Jazz Trio plays Saturdays from 10 a.m. to noon at Hannah Bea's, on northeast Shaver. R&B and live funk bands perform weekends at the Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center.

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