

METRO

The Portland Observer

Clyde Drexler Newest Member of Basketball Hall of Fame

See Sports, page B6

SECTION B

Community Calendar

Wild Animals

The Oregon Zoo opens Himalamazon, a simulator thrill ride that soars riders through a Himalayan climate above the soil of the Amazon, on May 1. Tickets are \$4 in addition to zoo admission.

Safety Day

Oregon Safe Kids Day features exhibits, prizes, safety tips and hands-on activities for kids and parents at the Oregon Zoo from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. May 8. For information, call 503-373-1540 ext. 227 or visit www.oregonzoo.org.

Enjoy Nature

Get outdoors with Metro's slate of springtime activities with a bird walk at Smith and Bybee Lakes Wildlife area in north Portland from 9 to 11 a.m. April 17 and a painted turtle walk from 12:30 to 2 p.m. April 17. To register and for more information, call 503-797-1850.

Fundraise for PALS

The Police Activities League, which serves youth in Portland and Gresham, is sponsoring its 8th annual PAL Campaign for Cops Helping Kids dinner auction benefiting PAL at 5:30 p.m. May 8 at the Multnomah Athletic Club. For more information, call 503-823-0250.

Dinos on Trial

Dinosaurs are back in Portland with T. Rex on Trial, an exhibit at OMSI. Explore the evidence and decide for yourself if T. Rex was a predator or a scavenger. The hands-on exhibit runs through May 9.

Compelling Story

"A Hundred Little Hitlers" will be signed and discussed by author Elinor Langer at Barnes and Noble, Lloyd Center, at 7 p.m. Friday, April 16.

Benefit Laughter

ComedySportz hosts a benefit show for the Portland Tillamook Cooperative Preschool at 5 p.m. Saturday, April 17 at 1963 N.W. Kearney Street. Tickets are \$10. For more information, call 503-236-8888.

Bunny Love

The Oregon Humane Society is open Easter Sunday, April 11, for Easter bunny adoptions and a lesson on how bunnies make great pets. The Easter Bunny will be there from 1 to 4 p.m. For more information, call 503-285-7722 or visit www.oregonhumanes.org.

Hospice Training

Kaiser Permanente is offering free training to adults interested in providing physical and emotional support to terminally ill patients. The trainings are on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6 to 9:30 p.m., from April 27 through May 13. For more information, call 503-499-5285.

BloomFest

Easter Seals Oregon announces BloomFest through April 10, asking volunteers to coordinate and sell fresh-cut tulip bunches for \$5. For more information, call 503-228-5108 ext. 317.

Interest in Adoption?

A free information meeting for prospective adoptive parents held the third Wednesday of every month from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Belmont Public Library, 1038 S.E. 39th Ave. For more information, call 503-226-4870 or visit www.openadopt.com.

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, 6707 N.E. MLK Blvd. For more information, call 503-285-2484.

High Fashion IN EBONY



The Ebony Fashion Fair will feature the most exquisite styles like this yellow embroidered silk jacket designed by Oscar de la Renta worn over matching silk brocade cigarette pants.

Sharp fashions for men are part of the Ebony Fashion show repertoire such as this red wool tweed double-breasted suit (above center) designed by Laura Biagiotti complemented with a turtleneck striped sweater and red shoes.

Portland's chapter of The Links, Inc. will build support for scholarships while enjoying the high styles of fashion like this leather design from Eurreuno featuring full leg pants, pinstriped blouse with turquoise beaded sweater and wide cummerbund belt. A saucy brimmed hat completes the ensemble.

Largest traveling fashion show to descend on Portland

Varied and exciting designs arrive in Portland with "Color Splash," the 45th annual Ebony Fashion Fair, sponsored by The Links, Inc.

The benefit raises scholarships for local African Americans by attracting area residents to a fantastic show on the changing trends of fashion. Expect extravagant styles by world famous designers such as Bob Mackie, Givenchy, Oscar De La Renta, Valentino and African-American designers B. Michael, De Alexander, L'Amour, Wayne James and Kevin Hall.

Thirteen magnificent models, eleven

women, including a full figure model and two men will showcase the provocative designs.

The Fashion Fair takes place at the Portland Convention Center at 8 p.m. Friday, April 16. It's the world's largest traveling fashion show and is produced and directed by Eunice W. Johnson, a premier fashion authority.

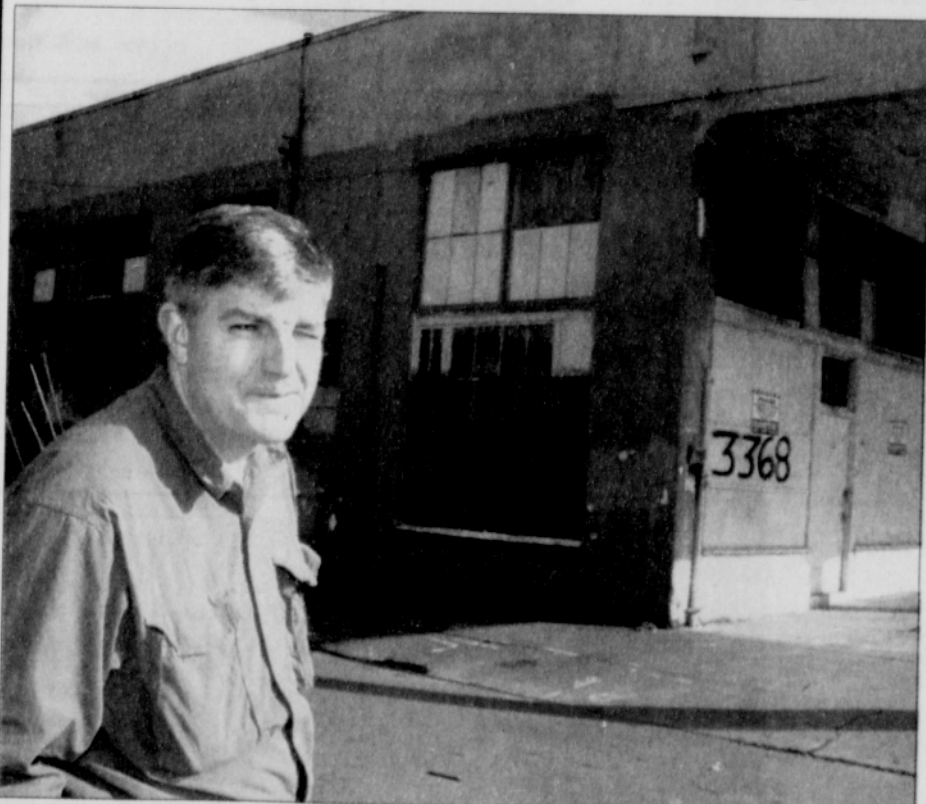
Fifty scholarships are given to outstanding seniors throughout the Portland metro

area. The goal of this year's event is to raise \$30,000.

Tickets are \$45 for general admission and \$75 for patrons. Tickets can be purchased at a variety of northeast Portland locations, including Geneva's Shear Perfection, 5601 N.E. Martin Luther King Blvd., Domonique's Hair Salon, 222 N. Killingsworth and One Stop Record Store, 1615 N.E. Killingsworth St. and all Ticket Master outlets.

City Acquires Blighted Grant Warehouse

Once toxic site to become community asset



Mike Warwick, Eliot neighborhood resident for 26 years, awaits revitalization of the blighted Grant Warehouse property in inner northeast Portland.

BY JAYMEE R. CUTI

THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Eliot and Fremont neighborhood residents knew something wasn't right with Grant Warehouse 10 years ago when smoke spewed from the boarded building and rumors whirled about homeless people taking up residence there.

But little did they know that the neighborhood eyecore that stunted neighborhood revitalization efforts at Northeast Martin Luther King and Fremont was a site contaminated with dangerous toxic chemicals.

Now, through a combined and tenacious effort between the City of Portland, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Portland Development Commission, the site has been acquired for redevelopment and key players are passing the credit along to the neighborhood.

The transformation began in 1998, when members in the community led an effort to refocus the city's Brownfield cleanup program from large projects in the downtown area to small projects in the low-income

areas of north and northeast Portland.

For 20 years, Erwin Grant's 16,200 square feet of property was used to recover precious metals from liquids, ore and process waste and may have been used to extract lead from batteries. The EPA determined that the property posed an imminent threat to human health and the environment. Samples of dust and air collected at the site and blood samples from a homeless encampment occupying the building tested positive for high concentrations of heavy metals and lead.

"We've been working with the Eliot neighborhood since about 2000, keeping them updated at neighborhood meetings about the federal court proceedings to acquire the property," said Christine Hermann, development manager for the PDC. "It had a really negative and blighting impact on the Eliot neighborhood and surrounding neighborhoods."

After completing the emergency re-

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