

METRO

The Portland Observer



The Greatest Show is Here

Ringmaster Kevin Venardos and circus diva Danette Sheppard usher in Ringling Bros. And Barnum & Baily Circus.

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SECTION B

Community Calendar

Rummage Sale and BBQ

Walker Temple will host a rummage sale and barbeque luncheon on Sept. 11 at 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 5023 N. Michigan Ave. The community is encouraged to attend. For more information, call 503-287-7232.

AIDS Walk 2004

Help save lives by participating in AIDS Walk 04 on Sunday, Sept. 26, presented by Nike. This 5k event starts at 8:30 a.m. at Pioneer Courthouse Square and ends at the same location. Activities run through noon. For more information, call 503-223-9255.

Gallery of Visual Arts

View art from talented local artists of all ages throughout the month of August at the Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center, 5340 N. Interstate Ave., from 9 a.m. - 6 p.m., free.

Alberta Farm Market

Marketing healthy, affordable, high quality food, the Alberta Cooperative Grocery offers seasonal produce from local growers, ready-to-eat food and weekly entertainment. Open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. daily, located on 1500 N.E. Alberta St. For more information, call 503-287-4333.

Experience Cultural on Alberta

Come to Alberta Street and discover a thriving urban community at the annual community fair on Sept. 18 for an outpouring of street spirit, with a parade, music, food and a dazzling display of arts and crafts. Learn more at www.artonalberta.org.

Get Fit, Stay Healthy!

Sankofa 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. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. For more information, call 503-285-2484.

Home Improvement

The largest show of its kind on the West Coast featuring the latest trends, the newest products and expert advice for remodeling, new construction and home improvement is coming to the City of Roses Sept. 23-26 at the Oregon Convention Center. Visit www remodelshow.com for ticket information.

Choose To Adopt

A free information meeting for prospective adoptive parents is 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.

Creative Space For Dance

Aurora dance studio, 5433 N.E. 30th (& Killingsworth), offers an array of classes for children, teens and adults at all levels of ability. Call 503-249-0201 or visit online at www.hevanet.com/auroradance for additional information.

Work For Change

Community Advocates invites those interested in protecting children from abuse to become an event volunteer, event outreach, technology expert, graphic artists or office support team member. For more information, call 503-280-1388.

Home Improvement

The Community Energy Project holds free workshops on water conservation and weatherization. For more information, call 503-284-4962.

Aquatic Fitness

Providence has a full schedule of fitness classes including water exercising at the Providence Aquatic Center, 4805 N.E. Glisan. For a schedule, call 503-215-6301.

Reclaiming Your Vote



VOICE program organizer Cassandra Villanueva (left) and David Dean, a volunteer, celebrates his right to vote by registering for the approaching general presidential election and urging others to do the same.

BY JOHANNA S. KING
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Most people upon release from a state institution are pummed with information regarding the things they cannot do. The VOICE Project (Voter Organizing for Increased Civic Engagement) is sending ex-offenders a proactive message on their renewed civic duty, the commitment to register and vote.

Oregonians leaving the criminal justice system need to know that they can vote, said Cassandra Villanueva, staff coordinator of the Western Prison Project, a seven state organization dedicated to criminal justice reform.

She said voting is one avenue for these individuals to make a difference and reconnect to their local communities.

In Oregon, voting rights for ex-felons are automatically restored upon release from confinement or completion of parole, although not every state is as generous concerning its civic freedoms to citizens. Other states in the West Coast region that also allow ex-felon's the right to vote include Washington, Utah, Idaho and Montana.

Making it a vital point to inform

formally incarcerated individuals of their right to register and vote is the backbone of The VOICE Project.

"We are sponsoring major outreach efforts to educate as many ex-offenders as possible about their right to vote and register those who wish to vote," said Villanueva. "Unfortunately, many people out there are not aware of this right. That's where we come in at, to

inform the uninformed."

As the Nov. 2 General Election draws nearer, the organization's efforts to educate the public is growing more intense. Resources such as brochures and posters are being sent to parole and probation offices, social service agencies and many groups are also conducting

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Ginny McCarthy helps oversee the re-development of the old Shriner's Hospital grounds on Northeast 82nd and Sandy.

Historic Corner

to Fill Housing Need

Construction begins on grounds of Old Shriner's Hospital

BY JAYMEE R. CUTI

A historic location along Sandy Boulevard finds new use as construction begins for a multigenerational, affordable housing community.

The landscape on the corner of Sandy Boulevard and Northeast 82nd Avenue has changed. The Shriner's Hospital adjacent to the Grotto has been replaced by a construction site, the future location of Columbia Knoll, a major housing community for moderate-income residents and seniors.

"This is such a positive thing for that area, said Ginny Mc Carthy, a spokeswoman for the project. "For one thing, it's going to be providing more housing options and a new environment with beautiful grounds."

Ground broke in July for a senior facility known as Heights at Columbia Knoll. The interactive, affordable senior housing com-

I see situations where residents in the senior building will teach crocheting, storytelling, and reading to the kids.

— Ginny Mc Carthy

munity is designed for 208 one and two bedroom apartments.

A multi-family residence known as The

Terrace at Columbia Knoll adds 118 one, two and three bedroom apartments. An on-site day care center for resident families and employees' children sets this project apart from other development.

Also unique to Columbia Knoll is the opportunity for inter-generational interaction, McCarthy explained.

"I see situations where residents in the senior building will teach crocheting, storytelling, and reading to the kids. I think that as a real plus," she said.

McCarthy says she plans for the demographic of the housing community to reflect the surrounding population.

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Victims of Violence Honored

Community to march on Saturday, Sept. 11

They were both victims unexpectedly caught in the crossfire of violence. Gunshot wounds innocently took the lives of northeast Portland residents Asia "Bell" James and Isaiah Strickland.

Neither of these two individuals had any reason to be killed nor any involvement in the painful acts of violence that were mistakenly targeted at them.

In honor and remembrance of James, Strickland and all victims of violence, Allen Temple Church Ministries is hosting a series of community activities on Saturday, Sept. 11 to help put an end to gun violence.

The day will begin at 10 a.m. with a march titled: Senseless Violence Leads to Silence starting from the north side of Irving Park, 707 N.E. Fremont St., and ending at Alberta Park on Northeast 20th and Killingsworth.

A park event for kids directly follows from 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. with free hot dogs, games, and music provided.

Volunteers and donations are being graciously accepted. To help, call Pastor Leroy Hayes of Allen Temple Church at 503-287-0261.