

METRO

The Portland Observer



Literature from the North

Blacks from Canada share fiction, poetry, plays and songs

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SECTION B

Community Calendar

Orchid Show

See hundreds of beautiful and unusual orchids at the Fall 2004 Orchid Show and Sale from Oct. 16 and 17 at the Washington County Fair at the Main Exhibit Hall at 873 N.E. 34 Ave. Admission is \$3 for more information, call 503-649-4118.

Bento for REACH

Enjoy a Bento meal and support REACH, an affordable housing program, for \$5 at New Seasons Market Concordia location at 5320 N.E. 33 Ave. on Saturday, Sept. 11 and Sunday, Sept. 12, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Paddle the Willamette

Celebrate with Willamette Riverkeepers during the Portland Paddle canoe and kayak event from Willamette Park to the Ross Island to the East Bank Esplanade to the Portland Boathouse on Oct. 2 at 8:30 a.m. For more information, call 503-223-6418.

Benefit Show

David's Harp is a program offering opportunities for independence and an improved quality of life for adults with mental illness with a benefit concert at 7 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 23 at Parkrose United Methodist Church, 11111 N.E. Knott. Tickets are \$20 to the 12th Avenue Hot Club quintet that plays blends of '30s and '40s jazz. For more information, call 503-251-4975.

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 September 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.



Portland Wellness Walk Grows

Keith Dempsey (from left), Rose Pickett, Ayanna Stoudamire, Anita Noble, Dora Asana and Lou Radja are workers, volunteers and participants in the second annual African American Health Coalition Wellness Within REACH Walk, held Saturday at Dawson Park. The 4-mile walk drew more than 700 participants, according to early estimates, compared to 512 participants last year. Dignitaries including Portland mayoral and commissioner candidates Tom Potter and Nick Fish were in attendance and Charles Jordan was the grant marshal.

It's now on Interstate but it's still AINSWORTH DRUG

BY LEE PERLMAN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The store with the familiar name is now located at 4027 N. Interstate Ave., but it's still Ainsworth Drug.

Owner Ron Hatch kept the name when he moved his "institution" to the refurbished brick-front storefront in the Overlook neighborhood. Left behind was the corner at 3002 N.E. Ainsworth St., where the business had served nearby residents for more than 50 years.

Hatch has kept the old name despite being pushed into a new location because of rent increases. For one thing, he was thus able to avoid having to get a new phone number. Also, he points out, "Mr. Ainsworth was one of this city's founders. This is not so much a street name as a city name."

Although the new spot is a few miles from the old corner, Hatch says most of his old customers have made the transition. Unlike the original location, the new spot has its own parking lot at North Mason Street. It also has easy access from the new MAX yellow line, and Hatch says some people do arrive that way.

As to the new space, he says, "Everyone's been uniformly impressed."

He has picked up many new customers from the surrounding neighborhood. Unlike the old storefront on Ainsworth, an isolated commercial building in a residential area, Interstate Avenue is a commercial strip housing other businesses, including the landmark Alibi nightclub across the street.

"Yes, there are more businesses around us here, but a half-block to the east and west there's a residential neighborhood," Hatch says. "The people here have never had a drug store so close."

Kaiser medical facilities, a few blocks to the south, doesn't add pharmacy business, because Kaiser has its own pharmacies for Kaiser patients, but Hatch offers other merchandise that can be expected to draw Kaiser people past his doors.

Hatch also has a loyal African-American customer base that he expects to grow in the new location.

The store's pay station allows customers to pay Pacific Power, Portland General Electric, cell phone, satellite dish, Comcast, Northwest Natural Gas, and current City of Portland water bills.

He stocks mailing supplies - envelopes, tape, bubble wrap, pens, notebooks. And there are gifts - ceramics, personal hygiene products, greeting cards, locally produced jellies and jams, scented soaps, cracker jacks, chocolates realistic-looking cat dolls and (no lie) goat's milk.

Ainsworth Drug is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, 10 to 6 Saturdays.

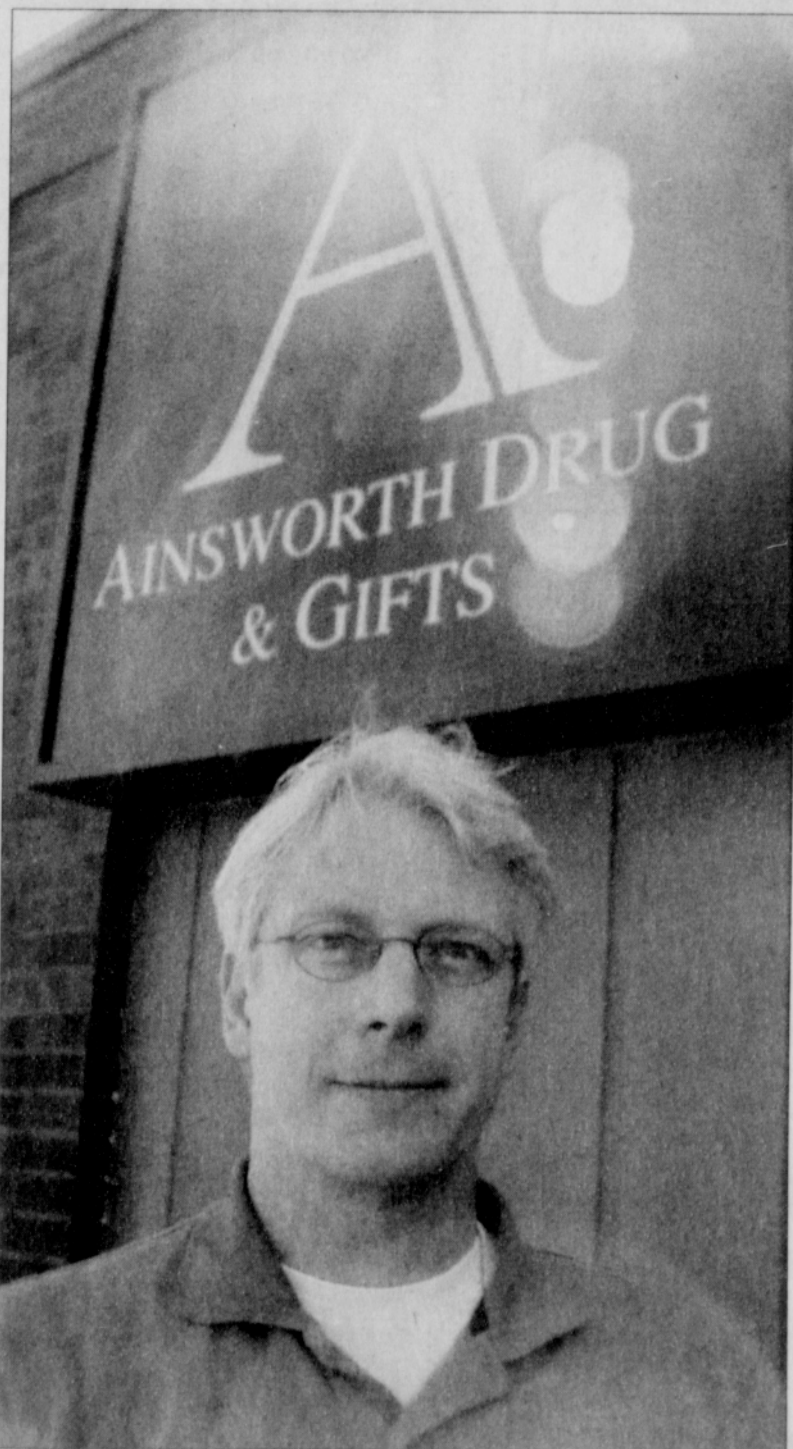


PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Ron Hatch, owner of Ainsworth Drugs and Gifts, reopens his store at a new location on North Interstate Avenue.

AAHC Takes On Mental Health Care

The African American Health Coalition will soon assume a new responsibility.

Besides the variety of programs aimed at gaining and maintaining the health of people of color, the agency will support Project Network, a residential substance abuse treatment center and licensed mental health provider for African-American women in northeast Portland.

Legacy Health Systems is donating Project Network to LifeWorks NW, which is supported by the Coalition, by Oct. 1.

"Project Network is a great example of a successful medical care pilot project that's blossomed into a comprehensive social program that makes a difference in the lives of African-American families," said Cheryl Purvis, director of Legacy Women's Services.

Legacy is donating the Project Network building to the African American Health Coalition (AAHC), and the program and its other assets to LifeWorks NW.

"We're all committed to the same goal—helping these women and their families break the cycle of abuse and get a fresh start as a healthy, functional family," says Corliss McKeever, president of AAHC.

March and Rally

Senseless Violence Leads To Silence

Saturday, Sept. 11th is the 2nd annual march and rally in honor of Asia Bell, and in remembrance to Isaiah Strickland and all others that have been killed or affected by senseless violence. The marchers will assemble and leave from Irving Park on Northeast 7th Avenue and Fremont at 9:30 a.m. at 10 a.m. The march route will then go west on Fremont to Martin Luther King Boulevard, then north to Killingsworth. The march will continue east on Killingsworth to Alberta Park.

The activities will begin at Alberta Park from 11:30 a.m. until 6 p.m. The day will feature speakers, music, mime, dance and poetry. There will be a children's play area with parental supervision required.

Asia Bell James was a 24-year-old mother of four, a community college graduate and a gainfully employed contributing member of our community. On Nov. 29th, 2002, she was senselessly and randomly gunned down while sitting on the front porch of her home with her husband. Her murder has not only affected her family, it affected neighbors and friends throughout Portland. The person who took her life is still at large.

Her husband Tyrone James was also shot in the head and is now legally blind.

Isaiah Joseph Strickland was 17 years old, living life as a normal teenager. He was murdered on Nov. 2, 2003, on 7th and Fremont with about 20 witnesses present. He loved to hang out with his friends, telling jokes and laughing. Isaiah would give his friends his last dollar. One thing special about Isaiah is that he would always tell his friends about Jesus.

As the violence continues to filter throughout our communities we must join together to talk about solutions.

For volunteer opportunities, donations and for more information, call or e-mail Joe "Bean" Keller at 503-493-3533 ext. 24, PerliaBell2@msn.com, 503-421-0078 or ArebaStrickland@971-235-6477 or visit www.blackonblackviolence.com.