

METRO

The Portland Observer



Blazer Great Relishes Hall Induction

Clyde Drexler joins 'Dr. J' in elite group

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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 on 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.

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.

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!

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. 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.

Home Improvement

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

Homebuying Reality

Local seminars help potential homeowners

Wells Fargo has teamed up with Realty Trust to help inform the public that home buying makes sense and this is the time to do it.

"A lot of people have misconceptions," said Wells Fargo Branch Manager Darryl Symonds. "Knowing you have access is half the battle."

The Sharing Advantage Program, demonstrating a partnership between the lending and housing community, brings monthly home buying seminars to community members.

"We can take someone who is on the fence and tell them to forget what they heard about closing costs or bad credit preventing them from buying a home, and instead tell them, this is why you should buy," said Symonds of the seminars.

The program draws in nonprofit organizations such as churches, community centers and boys and girls clubs, to demystify the intimidating process of buying a home.

The next two Wells Fargo Homebuyer's Seminars are on Saturday, Sept. 18 from



Herbert Williams (from left), a broker with Realty Trust, partners with Wells Fargo home mortgage consultant Charles Funches and branch manager Darryl Symonds for a Homebuyer's Seminar this Saturday at Mallory Avenue Christian Church.

PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEIGHTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

10:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. at Mallory Avenue Christian Church, 126 N.E. Alberta St., and from 1:30 to 2:45 p.m. at St. Jude Holy

Crusade at Northeast 53rd Avenue and Prescott.

For more information about upcoming seminars, contact Herbert Williams,

a broker with Realty Trust at 503-416-2040 or Symonds at 971-409-6730.

PCC Looks Ahead at New Opportunities



PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEIGHTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Demolition begins on the last of two old structures on the Cascade Campus of Portland Community College in north Portland. Crews last week used a wrecking crane to knock down the old wing of Terrell Hall for new facilities. Also planned is the October demolition of the Fragmeier Building for the future Moriarty Arts and Humanities Building on the corner of Killingsworth Street and Albina Avenue.

College year begins Sept. 27 with new buildings, programs

Portland Community College will open its doors to students on Monday, Sept. 27. Despite three years of budget cuts, students can expect plenty of opportunities to get a top-rate education as the college system has successfully carried out a major expansion of facilities on its campuses with

five new buildings.

The college's new district president, Preston Pulliams, will be on hand to welcome new and returning students. In addition, the Cascade Campus in north Portland has a new campus president with Algje Gatewood.

PCC turns 43 this year. The college began offering classes in 1961 at the old Failing Elementary School in the Ross Island area with a dozen students earning diplomas the following year. The college is a local success story, now serving more than 83,000 full- and part-time students in a multi-campus system.

"Portland Community College's national reputation for excellence is what attracted me to the job," said Pulliams. "I attended a national community college conference here 11 years ago and was very impressed with Portland and the college. I look forward to sharing the PCC story this year and in the years to come."

Thanks to the 2000 voter-approved \$144 million bond measure for new space, technology and building repairs, PCC has expanded its facilities by 370,000 square feet and has so far invested \$100 million in bond program funds.

Hundreds of people have been in on the expansion effort. Staff and construction contractors are busily readying the facilities, moving offices, laying carpet, outfitting smart classrooms, installing phones and other activities to welcome students.

The PCC Cascade Campus, serving north and northeast Portland, will bring three new buildings on line this fall. The \$15 million investment includes a building devoted to technology studies, a building to house programs such as fire science, criminal justice

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Columnist Shares 'Life on my Own Terms'

New CD touches on abuse, healing

Award-winning newspaper columnist S. Renee Mitchell not only writes prose for The Oregonian, she is also a playwright, an actress and a self-published poet who has performed her original work in Portland, Washington, D.C., and New York City.

"I enjoy writing a column for a living and it pays the bills," says Mitchell, a single mom of three children. "But poetry is really what feeds my spirit."

This summer, Mitchell decided to take the advice of many of her admirers who have heard her perform. This month, she officially releases her first spoken word CD under the stage name, Nae!Nay! Black On Track

Records, a Portland company that produces primarily hip-hop artists, put together the original soundtrack.

"The music alone is bumping," says Michael Hampton, CEO of Black on Track. "But Nae!Nay!'s powerful, and sometimes seductive, delivery really takes hip hop to a whole 'nother level."

Most of the 10 singles on Mitchell's CD, titled Life On My Terms, flow from personal experience. Brown vs. Board of Education talks about how 50 years after the groundbreaking ruling that outlawed segregation in public schools, Mitchell still encounters some whites who still harbor racist views about the intelligence of black people. The chorus reminds us of how much progress is still needed: "Integration hasn't cured racism or closed the achievement gap and

that's a fact. The Brown ruling changed America, but it didn't change minds."

Mitchell's emotional poem, Deafening Silence, deals with black-on-black crime. Earlier this year, she performed the piece to a standing ovation at a community forum on gang violence. And the powerfully haunting lyrics of "Hit Me" are about surviving verbal abuse. "You don't have to hit me to hurt me," Mitchell writes. "My internal pain lasts eternally / You don't have to say those words to make yourself heard / You're giving me treatment that I don't deserve / You don't have to hit me."

"People have asked me why I chose to talk about some very painful, personal things that I've experienced," Mitchell says. "But I believe that's the only way you can truly begin the healing process. People call it



S. Renee Mitchell

courage. I call it self-preservation."

Not all of the CD's poetry is serious, though. Mitchell has a few fun pieces, such as the comical "Don't Touch My Hair," and

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