

METRO

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

Community Calendar

Sudan Forum

A forum discussing the genocide in Sudan with Akbar Muhammad, representative for Louis Farrakhan is from 5 to 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 18 in room 122 at Terrell Hall on the PCC Cascade campus at 705 N. Killingsworth.

Yuletide Celebration

Portland's newest holiday tradition is attending the Oregon Symphony's Broadway-style Yuletide Celebration at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall with tap-dancing Santas from Dec. 17 through 21. Tickets range from \$29 to \$72. For tickets, call 503-228-1353 or 800-228-7343.

Get Schooled

Learn how to help to improve schools and jobs at a forum with State Superintendent of Public Instruction Susan Castillo and President of Oregon's AFL-CIO Tim Nesbitt at 7 p.m. Jan. 13 at the Hollywood Senior Center, 1820 N.E. 40th. Free and sponsored by the Multnomah County Democratic Party.

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.

Creative Space For Dance

Aurora Dance Studio, 5433 N.E. 30th (at 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.

Birth Ready

Whether you need childbirth preparation classes, or just a refresher, Providence Health Systems has a workshop for you. Prepare for pain, take a weekend seminar or prepare big sisters and brothers-to-be throughout the summer by visiting www.providence.org/classes or call 503-574-6595.

Learn to Swim

Fall Swimming Lessons are available at Columbia Pool, 7701 N. Chautauqua Blvd. and Matt Dishman Pool, 77 N.E. Knott. For information, call the Portland Parks Aquatic Division at 503-823-5130.

Women in NAACP

Women in NAACP meets from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. the first Saturday of each month at the American Red Cross Building, 3131 N. Vancouver. For questions, call 503-249-6263.

Love that Pooch

Problem pooch classes are a must take for anyone who may be new to the world of pet parenthood or is interested in considering adopting a new friend. Come to the Oregon Humane Society to find out why your dog does those silly little things. Meetings are every first and third Saturday of the month at 11 a.m. For more information, call 503-285-7722.

On His Game

Talking hip hop and politics with Cool Nutz

BY DON SIMPSON
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Cool Nutz and Jus Family, the record label he co-owns with his friend and music producer Bosco, are not just the impetus of the ever-growing Portland hip-hop scene, they are integral players in the northeast Portland community.

"Everything we've done, from POH-HOP to our work with kids, has never been just about Jus Family or me, it's always been about the development and growth of the whole hip-hop scene," Cool Nutz explains. "We've always wanted to craft young black men and women, and other minority people into successful promoters and musicians."

As a lyricist, Cool Nutz, whose real name is Terrance Scott, is definitely not afraid to deal with the issues.

"When I write a song, I'm thinking about making a song that's going to get people's attention and be provocative," he said. "There should be something on the record that's bigger than just the music. People want to hear something that actually means something."

With the elections and politics still fresh in his mind, it seemed primetime to get some of Cool Nutz's opinions on the issues we should be thinking about:

Portland Observer: Let's start with local issues in Portland. Can anything be done about social issues such as homelessness and affordable housing?

Cool Nutz: The politicians that are supposed to be speaking up for us don't care about our quality of living. A big issue to them right now is how to develop northeast Portland and make the real estate lucrative enough for them to make money. Black people have moved out of northeast Portland and more



Cool Nutz, a northeast Portland local, poses in front of his DBA (Doing Business As) van. DBA is the name of a band he formed with hip-hop scenesters Bosco and Poppa LQ.

upper middle class people have moved in. White people used to be scared to go into certain parts of

taxes to make it less affordable for the people that have lived there all their lives to stay.

the top of (politicians') lists. If you can get 10,000 people downtown talking about how you need to get

commission will have to address it; they can't keep talking around it.

[The city is] always improving the roads and developing something, but they don't have money for books or sports programs or keeping people off the streets or providing low income housing. This opens up a whole can of worms. We're spending gazillions of billions of dollars in Iraq but we have a bad economy. There are so many other things that this money could be spent on; it's

If you can get 10,000 people downtown talking about how you need to get more money in the system for the homeless or find them affordable housing, then the mayor or city commission will have to address it.

—Cool Nutz

Portland, and now they're walking their dogs and pushing strollers. Then they can raise the property

Getting books and better education for kids and getting homeless people off the streets, just aren't at

more money in the system for the homeless or find them affordable housing, then the mayor or city

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Alex Bertschi-Wrigley, 8 (left) and Kamren White, 11, play with the "Build A Computer" activity in OMSI's new Innovation Station exhibit.

Innovation Station

Hall explores humans behind technology

The Oregon Museum of Science and Industry invites visitors to experience Innovation Station, a new permanent exhibit in the museum's historic Turbine building. Innovation Station encompasses more than 20 technology-themed exhibits, plus a new and expanded Vernier Technology Lab and the popular Inventor's Ball Room—a wild, interactive exhibit that has nothing to do with dancing, and everything to do with the process of

innovation.

"Technology has become so ubiquitous, people are often not even aware of it," said Ray Vandiver, OMSI vice president of exhibits. "We're pulling back the curtain with Innovation Station to show the human side of technology and the boundless creative opportunities even simple systems will inspire."

Free Flu Shots Offered

High priority populations can still get a flu shot at clinics offered by the Multnomah County Health Department.

Clinics are scheduled Wednesday, Dec. 15, from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. at King Elementary SUN School, 4906 NE 6th Ave.; Thursday, Dec. 16, from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. at James John Elementary, 7439 N. Charleston Ave.; and Tuesday, Dec. 21, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Immigrant & Refugee Community Organization, 10301 NE Glisan St.

The vaccines are reserved for people who are 65 years old or older, people who live in nursing homes or other chronic-care places, pregnant women, children aged 6 to 23 months old, people who have or take care of a baby under 6 months old, children aged 6 months to 18 years and take aspirin daily and adults and children with a chronic health condition like heart or lung disease, diabetes, kidney disease, blood disorder, or a weakened immune system, including HIV/AIDS.

The cost is free to needy residents, with donations accepted. Call 503-988-4200 to make a reservation.