

# METRO

The Portland Observer

Happy  
Father's  
Day

The Portland Observer  
joins the many families  
honoring dad on Sunday

35  
years of  
community service

SECTION B

## Community Calendar

### Black Gay Pride Festival

From Wednesday, June 15, through Sunday, June 19, Brother to Brother will be hosting various events for the gay black community, including fund-raisers, HIV testing, a BBQ and a Black Out Party at Moon Star Bar and Grill. For more information, call 503-471-7991 or visit [www.broto.bropdx.org](http://www.broto.bropdx.org).

### Adoption Information

Prospective parents looking into adoption can attend a meeting on Wednesday, June 15 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Belmont Public Library at 1038 S.E. 39th St. The session will acquaint clients with the philosophy and services of Open Adoption and Family Services. For more information, call 503-226-4870 or visit [www.openadopt.org](http://www.openadopt.org).

### Jefferson High Reunion

Help is needed to plan a 10-year reunion in late August for the Jefferson High School Class of 1995. Wenedell Raiford is encouraging his old classmates to contact him about attending and making plans for the event. For more information contact [jenleley77@yahoo.com](mailto:jenleley77@yahoo.com).

### Friends of the Trees

Come to the Friends of Trees for Neighborhood Coordinator Training on Saturday, June 11 starting at 9 a.m. in an effort to organize tree plantings. To register, call 503-282-8846 extension 25. For more information, visit [www.friendsoftrees.org](http://www.friendsoftrees.org).

### Black Museum of Oregon

Leaders of the Black Museum of Oregon will hold a membership and committee meeting at Reflections Coffee House, 446 N.E. Killingsworth, on Saturday, June 11 at 3 p.m. to discuss the future of the museum. For more information contact Mr. King J. 503-284-0617.

### African Drums and Dance

The North Star Ballroom hosts ongoing classes on Tuesday and Wednesday's. Tuition is either \$15 drop in fee or \$75 for 6 weeks. Ghanaian rhythms will be presented through beginning and advanced drumming and you can also work up a sweat at their African Aerobics class. North Star Ballroom is located at 635 N Killingsworth Ct. For more information, call 503-283-2080.

### Bradley-Angle House

The Bradley-Angle House needs volunteers to help its outreach against domestic violence. Women of color and bilingual women are encouraged to call. For more information, call 503-282-9940.

### Women Mentors

Women in Community Service are seeking volunteer mentors for female offenders at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility. Mentors provide support and encouragement to women transitioning from prison back into the community. Mentors must be female, 24 or older. Training is provided. Call 503-570-6614 for more information.

### Children's Museum Activities

Portland Children's Museum will hold a variety of art activities for children throughout the month, including mediums using mosaic, African arts and culture and garden stepping-stones. For more information, call 503-223-6500 or visit [www.portlandchildrensmuseum.org](http://www.portlandchildrensmuseum.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.

# Encouraging Kids to Love Books

## Summer reading encouraged

BY KATHERINE BLACKMORE  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

By the last day of school for the year, children are already daydreaming about their plans of playing outside until the sun sets or watching as much television as humanly possible. For most, the last thing on their minds is curling up with a good book, especially after doing homework for nine months.

But SMART (Start Making a Reader Today) encourages families to keep their young children reading over the summer, and with good reason.

Reading not only keeps their budding minds sharp, but helps keep families together.

"It is so important not only for the bond between the parents and the children, but so that they can make progress academically and feel confident about reading, which will trickle into other subjects," said Linda Riedman, marketing manager for SMART. "School can be a lot of pressure for kids because they know they'll be corrected or have tests. This will be a time to have fun with reading."

SMART has been in fruition for 13 years in Oregon, serving over 90,000 children since 1992. The non-profit's main vision is to enhance reading skills and attitudes among students in kindergarten through third grade.

Each volunteer is assigned to read with two children for one hour a week, each child having two different volunteers. The children are given two books a month to take home, keep and continue to read. More than 1.2 million books have been given out over the years.

"We've seen their excitement. We're hoping they have these books in their home and can read to their brothers and sisters or with their parents and family," Riedman said.

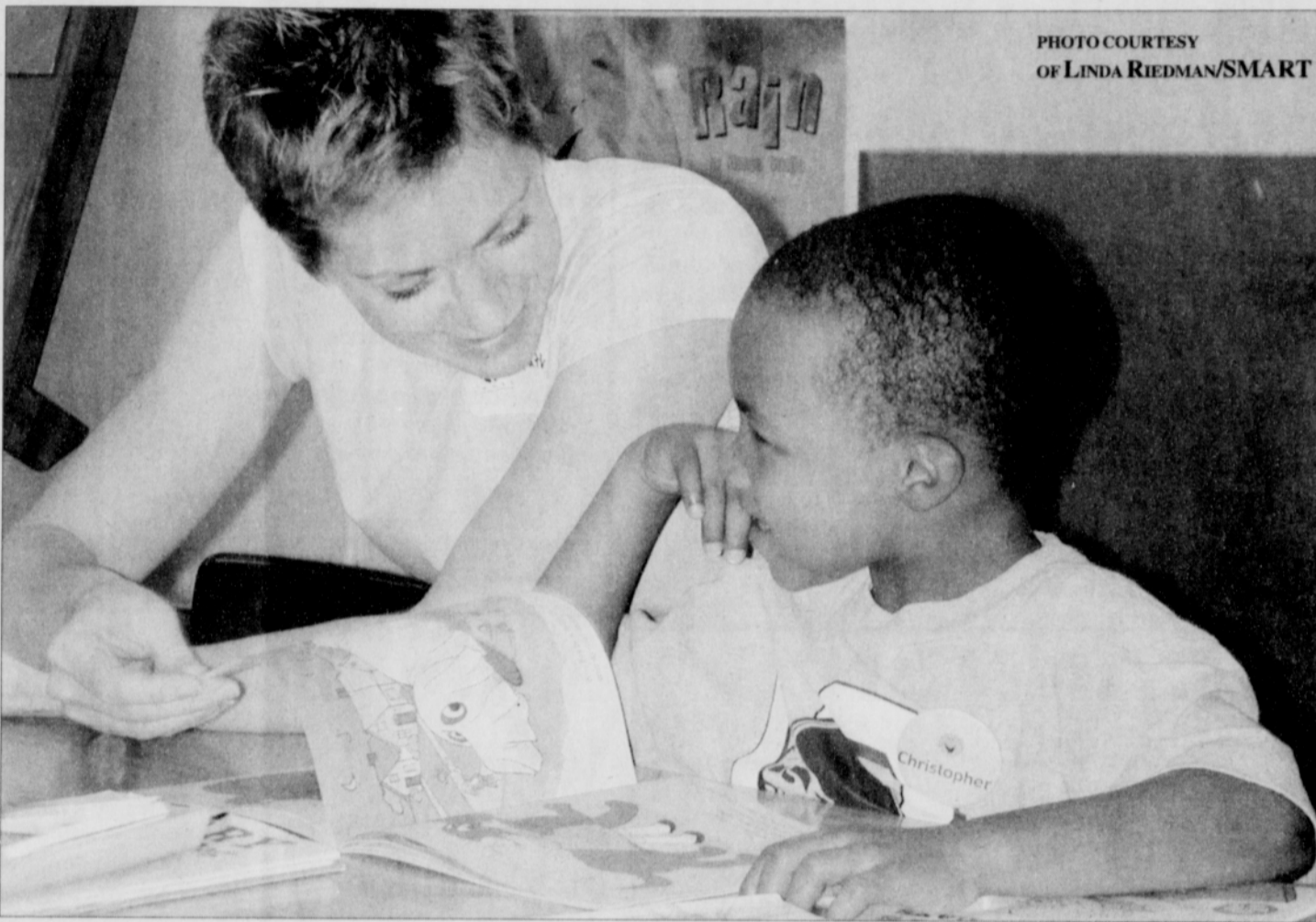


PHOTO COURTESY OF LINDA RIEDMAN/SMART

A local child gets precious one-on-one attention from a SMART (Start Making a Reader Today) volunteer.

"It's all about getting children to love books."

And getting children to love books means more reading over the summer, which means better reading ability when they go back to school in the fall.

"We've seen that third grade is a turning point where children stop learning to read and they start reading to learn. By third grade, it's important that they know how to read to learn about all kinds of different subjects. They comprehend at a deeper level," Riedman said. "When they don't know how to read at that level, they fall behind. A lot of kindergartners are coming to school unprepared, with no exposure to books or the general alphabet. It's a pretty critical time."

Having educated children not only helps

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## SMART summer reading list recommendations

- "Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day" by Judith Viorst
- "Giraffes Can't Dance" by Giles Andreae
- "Imogene's Antlers" by David Small
- "Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse" by Kevin Henkes
- "My Mama Had a Dancing Heart" by Libba Moore Gray
- "No Jumping on the Bed!" by Todd Arnold
- "Sam Gets Lost" by Mary Labatt
- "Snowmen at Night" by Carolyn Buehner
- "Stellaluna" by Janell Cannon

Some SMART tips for encouraging your child to read include: allowing your child to choose an appropriate book that they're interested in; talking about the book you share together; rereading a favorite book; creating a comfortable, caring environment for your child to figure out new words; and overlooking mistakes if it doesn't interrupt the flow of the story to keep frustration levels low.

## Author, Historian to Perform

### Black Pioneers host event

Oregon Northwest Black Pioneers will host a cultural performance by award winning author Velma Maia Thomas on Saturday, June 25 at 7 p.m. at Salem's historic Elsinore Theatre. Thomas will perform selections from her book and CD "No Man Can Hinder Me: The Journey from Slavery to Emancipation through Song."

"This is a unique chance to experience the traditional music that African American slaves sang to sustain and encourage one another," said Willie Richardson, chairperson of the Oregon Northwest Black Pioneers. "Through the work of Velma Maia Thomas, their enduring spirit lives on, a testament to the ability of the people to overcome anything - at all costs and against all odds."

Thomas is an ordained minister, historian, genealogist and the author of three books on American Black history, including "Lest We Forget," a collection of historic papers, memoirs, personal effects, and photographs. The book chronicles the plight of an estimated 100 million Africans from their rich pre-slavery culture to their enslavement in American South. Thomas is also the creator of the nationally acclaimed Black Holocaust Exhibit in her hometown of Atlanta, Ga.

A gala reception and book signing with Thomas is scheduled before the performance at 6 p.m. The event is the first annual fundraiser of the Oregon Northwest Black Pioneers, an educational dedicated to preserving the historical contributions of African-American Oregonians.

General admission is \$30 for the performance and \$60 to include the reception with the author. For tickets call 503-375-3574 or online at [www.ticketwest.com](http://www.ticketwest.com)



Velma Maia Thomas



PHOTO BY NICOLE HOOPER/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER  
Getting a proof of payment receipt from a downtown parking meter will cost more starting July 1.

## Parking Rates and Hours to Increase

Downtown on-street parking rates and hours of operation will change on July 1. The short-term rate will increase from \$1 to \$1.25 an hour and the long-term rate will increase to match the short-term rate. In addition, the hours of parking meter operation will be extended from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

The added revenue is mostly dedicated to paying \$15 million in revenue bonds that serve as the city's share in the design and construction of the

Portland Mall Revitalization Project. The City Council approved the new parking fees last August.

Portland's downtown meter rates still remain considerably lower than the two nearest major cities on the west coast. Seattle charges \$1.50 an hour and San Francisco charges \$2 an hour.

Informational brochures and signage have been applied to all the downtown SmartMeters to inform parkers of the changes.

## Local Pastor Admits to Sexual Abuse

Rev. Roy Tate, 54, an African-American pastor at Christ Memorial Church of God in Christ, testified Monday in Multnomah County Circuit Court that he had sex with a 16-year-old member of his church 16 years ago.

Tate claimed he did not know the age of the teenager and never bothered to ask, assuming she was a senior in high school, about the same age as his daughter at the time.

The young woman, now 32, is suing the national denomination, Church of God in Christ, Inc., for not punishing Tate for his actions and for failing to warn those in the congregation about him. She claims that Tate repeatedly raped her while she was a sophomore at Jefferson High School between 1989 and 1990. She's asking for \$10 million in damages.

Tate admitted that he was under the authority of the national denomination when these events transpired. He's been the pastor of the north Killingsworth Street church since it was founded in 1981.

The family accusing Tate left Christ Memorial soon after the sexual abuse came to light.

But things didn't stop there. He was accused of mishandling church money and inappropriate behavior with other women, charges he has denied. The accusations caused the church's membership to drop from 75 to approximately a dozen. Eventually, eight members of the church went to Bishop A.R. Hopkins to demand something be done about Tate.

A church tribunal found Tate guilty in 2003 and he was ordered suspended as pastor for three years. He refused to step down, claiming that the majority of the church's membership didn't agree to put him on trial. He remains as Christ Memorial's current pastor.