

FOCUS

Hip-Hop Showcase - As part of the upcoming festival Musicfest NW, Jus Family Records presents a showcase of hip-hop artists on Friday, Sept. 9 at the Roseland Theatre at 8 p.m. Featured players will include E-40, Bosko, Cool Nutz, Maniac Lok, Potluck, E-Dawg and special guest DJ Chill. The Roseland Theatre is located at 8 N.W. 6th Ave www.musicfestnw.com.

Arm Wrestling Competition - Shoe Gazer Arm Wrestling competition at Tiny's Coffee 2033 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. every Friday from 8-10 p.m. Both men and women are encouraged to attend.

Discovery Museum - The World Forestry Center recently opens its doors to a new Discovery Museum, featuring exciting, interactive exhibits on forestry. Visitors have a chance to go on a white water raft ride without getting wet, smoke jump into a wildfire without getting singed and stroll across a 20-foot high tree top canopy walk. For more information, visit www.worldforestry.org.

Sponge Bob at the Zoo - Now through Labor Day, the Oregon Zoo will present Nickelodeon's SpongeBob Square Pants-the thrill ride. The cost is \$4.50 in addition to admission. For more information call 503-226-1561 or visit www.oregonzoo.org

Laugh Factory - Comedy returns every second Wednesday of the month at the upscale Bacchus Restaurant, thanks to EEI International.

Trippin' through Town - Take a trip through time to find the hottest poetry, hip-hop and soul influencing Portland on Wednesdays at the Ohm. \$7 cover. 31

ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

N.W. First Ave.

On the Radio - Groove to soul and hip-hop with Kevin Berry from 7 to 9 p.m. Mondays at 90.7 FM/KBOO. Check out the Community Potpourri talk show from 7 to 8 a.m. Mondays, Wednesday and Fridays at 1480 AM/KBMS. Count your blessings with Melodies from Heaven from 6 to 10 p.m. Mondays through Fridays at 1290 AM/KKSL. Tune in to African American Health Radio Wednesday nights on 1290 AM/KKSL.



Cool Nutz and Bosko



Gypsy Classes - Caravan Studios offers classes in belly dance, African dance and more. Visit www.gypsy caravan.us.

Have a Ball - Kids will have a ball at OMSI's new Innovation Station by exploring the human side of technology. For more information, visit www.omsiedu.



Amusement At Oaks Park - Oaks Park in southeast Portland offers rides, picnic grounds, roller-skating and family games in the shade of 100-year-old oak trees on the banks of the Willamette River. Rides and roller-skating are open daily.

Time to Jam - Jam Night, Portland's ever-popular comedy and variety show is at Christian Performing Arts Center, 8131 N. Denver Ave. Shows continue every Friday Night starting at 9 p.m. with dinner by Mondemaj Catering next door to the show at 6:30 and 7:30 p.m. Dinner is \$13 and tickets are \$7 for adults and \$4 for children under 12. For dinner reservations, call 503-286-2590.

Songwriter 'Smashing the Ceiling' Magdalen Hsu-Li to perform at WSU-Vancouver

As an internationally acclaimed songwriter, painter and cultural activist, Seattle's Magdalen Hsu-Li is redefining the female musician and changing standards in the American music industry.

Her next local performance will take place Friday, Sept. 9 at 7 p.m. at Washington State University in Vancouver. The show is free to the public and will include a lecture program entitled "Smashing the Ceiling - The Intersection of Race, Gender, and the Arts."

Hsu-Li's latest CD release "Smashing the Ceiling," features intelligent, soaring vocals and piano ballads reminiscent of Tori Amos and Bend Sinister, exploring issues of love, loss and finding one's identity. It was re-



Magdalen Hsu-Li

"When I was writing the songs on this album," she said, "I felt I was experiencing a quantum leap or personal gestalt. There were so many breakthroughs that happened personally, emotionally, musically and spiritually. And I am a person that is all about breaking barriers."

Hsu-Li was born in a small southern town among a handful of Asian families, experiencing extreme racism and prejudice on a daily basis while battling cross-cultural conflicts. Through her music, she's triumphantly channeled her harsh beginnings into a positive, uplifting and electrifying force that's shared the stage with Ani DiFranco, Macy Gray, Melissa Ferrick and Margaret Cho, among many others.

Ray Charles Post Office Named

(AP) - The warm voice of Ray Charles filled the Los Angeles neighborhood near his recording studio during an Aug. 24 ceremony christening a post office in his name.

"My hopes are that the naming of this post office facility is only the first of many tributes for a man who started from nowhere to end up a national treasure and global phenomenon," said Rep. Diane Watson, D-Calif., who sponsored the federal bill to rename the post office.

Charles died in June 2004 of acute liver disease at age 73. His death ended a 58-year career in which he combined rock 'n' roll with gospel and soul to create a new style for hits such as "What'd I Say," "Hit the Road Jack," "Georgia on My Mind" and "I Can't Stop Loving You."

Born Ray Charles Robinson, he lost his eyesight at 7, was an orphan at 15 and struggled for nearly



A photo of Ray Charles is displayed inside the Ray Charles Post Office during an official naming ceremony in Los Angeles. (AP photo)

20 years with an addiction to heroin. He quit the drug cold turkey in 1965.

His life story was chronicled in the 2004 film "Ray," which earned a best actor Oscar for Jamie Foxx.

The Ray Charles Station is lo-

cated just blocks away from the recording studio and business office where Charles produced "Georgia on My Mind" and his final album, the Grammy-winning "Genius Loves Company."



The Amtrak 'Empire Builder' transcends a mountain pass.

Amtrak Renovates Empire Builder

The Amtrak "Empire Builder," long one of America's favorite trains, has a fresh new look.

The train that travels through some of America's greatest scenery between Chicago, Portland and Seattle has introduced refurbished rail cars, new on-board services and improved passenger amenities.

First class passengers - those with sleeping accommodations, which include dining car meal service - are welcomed aboard with a complimentary glass of sparkling

wine or cider. On the second day of the trip, they're invited to attend on-board wine and cheese tasting events in the lounge car.

Coach passengers are offered at-seat food and beverage service.

In the dining car, several special menu items have been created to closely match the original recipes of the Great Northern Railway. At supper time, along with the delicious regular Amtrak menu items, passengers will be invited to enjoy special entrees

recalling the train's lore: Braised Salmon Shank with horseradish and cauliflower puree, Great Northern Baked Ham with sweet citrus sauce and English Beefsteak Pot Pie with braised tomatoes and white mushrooms.

The interiors of the sleeping cars have received extensive renovations. The bedrooms have newly designed and modern-looking toilet and shower units. The interiors of the coach and dining cars have also been refurbished.

89.1

CATCH IT LIVE
Kool & the Gang
 with Morris Day and The Time

ON SALE NOW
 Friday, September 16th at 7pm

\$35 and \$45 tickets available at the Coyote Club desk, www.starticketsplus.com or by phone at

800-585-3737

Must be 21 or older to attend.

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