

The Portland Observer

'City of Roses'

Volume XXXV, Number 39

Established in 1970
Committed to Cultural Diversitywww.portlandobserver.com
Wednesday • September 21, 2005

Singing the Blues

North Mississippi Allstars take on Portland's Crystal Ballroom

See story inside Focus section



Week in The Review

Hurricane Rita Strengthens

Rita strengthened rapidly to a Category 2 hurricane Tuesday as it raked the Florida Keys with flooding rain and sparked a flurry of storm preparations across the Gulf Coast. Thousands of people were evacuated from the Keys and low-lying areas of northern Cuba. See story, page A2.

9 Americans Killed in Iraq

The war in Iraq passed a sobering milestone Tuesday when U.S. officials reported nine more Americans were killed - five of them members of the armed forces, raising the number of U.S. service members who have died in the country since the invasion to 1,904. A new poll showed dwindling support among Americans for President Bush's handling of Iraq.

Lil' Kim Reports to Prison



Rapper Lil' Kim began serving a 366-day prison sentence Monday for her conviction on charges stemming from a 2001

shootout outside a New York City radio station. The 30-year-old entertainer, whose real name is Kimberly Jones, was convicted of lying about the gun battle to a federal grand jury and in the subsequent trial. See story, page B5.

Senator to Oppose Roberts

Senate Democratic leader Harry Reid announced his opposition to Chief Justice-nominee John Roberts on Tuesday, voicing doubts about Roberts' commitment to civil rights and accusing the Bush administration of stonewalling requests for documents that might shed light on his views. See story, page A2.

Survivor's Odyssey Ends

A 73-year-old diabetic grandmother and church elder who fled Katrina's floodwaters for the safety of a hotel but ended up in prison instead for more than two weeks - all over a bite of food, was released Friday. Family and eyewitnesses insist Merlene Maten's arrest was unwarranted. See story, page A2



Generic AIDS Drug Approved

The FDA has approved the first generic versions of the AIDS medication AZT, a move that could reduce the expense for people in the United States being treated for the disease. AZT, an anti-retroviral drug that is also known as Zidovudine, helps prevent the AIDS virus from reproducing in the body.

Inspired for Positive Change



The Portland Inspiration Project to help troubled youth is the brainchild of Tim Washington Jr. (from left), Xavier Friday and Omari De Groove.

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Trio to lead Million More Movement trek

BY KATHERINE BLACKMORE
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Tired of watching their young African American peers fall between the cracks, three Portland men realized a community transformation was needed.

So Xavier Friday, Tim Washington Jr. and Omari DeGroove decided a road trip to Washington D.C.'s "Million More Movement" was in order.

The gathering, taking place on Oct. 15, will commemorate 10 years since the historic "Million Man March," held at the National Mall in 1995. The event continues

With this whole project, we're trying to change our thinking about each other and ourselves.

—Tim Washington Jr.

to be a call for black men and the community at large to take responsibility for themselves as fathers, husbands and activists in a greater effort for civil rights.

After last year's march, more than 1.7 million black men signed up to vote, memberships to the NAACP skyrocketed and adoption of black children went up, according to www.millionsmoremovement.com.

This year's trek will kick-off the Portland Inspiration Project, a local program designed to help troubled youth get back on track.

The plan is to take 35 young men between the ages of 18 to 25 across the country in five RVs, making a tour through several states, including Illinois, Ohio, Nebraska, Utah, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and New York.

continued ▼ on page A5

Concordia Helps Hurricane Victims

Nine college students get second chance

BY KATHERINE BLACKMORE
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Northeast Portland's Concordia University has taken in nine college students displaced by Hurricane Katrina, providing them with housing, food and most importantly, a chance to continue their education. Three of these students, from Xavier University in New Orleans, shared their experiences in dealing with the catastrophic with the Portland Observer:

Pre-med student Celeste Calvin had already been evacuated for three hurricanes since attending Xavier University in New Orleans in 2002. When she got the news to pack her bag with clothes and get out of her apartment building for Hurricane Katrina, she figured it would only be a couple more days before she was able to return. She'd heard that this storm was nothing to worry about.

"Nobody expected it to be what it was," she said.

After picking up her sister and paying way too much for gas, Calvin was able to drive away before the levees in New Orleans broke and flooded the city. She ended up in



PHOTO BY KATHERINE BLACKMORE/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Celeste Calvin is one of nine students displaced by Hurricane Katrina that were given housing, food and an education at Concordia University in northeast Portland.

Baton Rouge, being forced to go with the guarded flow of traffic.

"Everybody went crazy on the roads," she said.

What would normally be a two to three

hour road trip took 10 hours. Eventually, she made it to Houston, Texas, where she was able to fly out to Portland to reunite with her family and the city she grew up in.

Calvin, like many other Katrina survi-

vors, doesn't know what's happened to her belongings and is scared to go back. She's unable to get any funds from her credit

continued ▼ on page A6

Blues Concert for Katrina Relief

Hurricane benefit helps food banks

Musicians will be singing the blues for Gulf Coast hurricane victims in "Blues for Katrina," a benefit being held by the Waterfront Blues Festival on Sunday, Sept. 25 from 1 to 7 p.m. at Tom McCall

Waterfront Park.

Featured artists will include Irma Thomas, "Soul Queen of New Orleans," backed by an all-star Portland band led by saxophonist, Reggie Houston. Houston relocated to Portland from New Orleans last year after four decades of playing with music legend Fats Domino.

continued ▼ on page A6

Charmaine Neville will perform Sunday at the Blues for Katrina benefit concert at Waterfront Park sponsored by the Waterfront Blues Festival.



PRESORTED
US POSTAGE
PAID
PORTLAND, OR
PERMIT
NO. 1610

University of Oregon
Knight Library
1299 University of Oregon
Eugene, OR 97403-1205