

METRO

The Portland Observer

Committed to
Cultural Diversity

Community Calendar

Combat Heating Bills

Fight heating costs at the 19th annual Fix-It Fair presented by the city of Portland's office of Sustainable Development. The Saturday, Jan. 7 event, from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Parkrose Middle School, 11800 N.E. Shaver St., will feature workshops and exhibits on lowering utility bills, home safety and more. Free lunch and gift items will be provided while items last.

Free College Help

The first Saturday of each month, from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. high school students will be helped to prepare for any college at the Matt Dishman Community Center, 77 N.E. Knott St., through the efforts of Oregon State University.

African Drumming, Dance

The North Star Ballroom, 635 N. Killingsworth Ct., hosts beginning drumming and Ghanaian rhythm classes on Tuesdays at 6 p.m. On Wednesdays, intermediate drumming is offered in addition to an African aerobics and dance. Chata Addy teaches all classes. For more information call 503-632-0411.

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.

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.

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.

Community Service Women

Volunteer mentors are being sought by Women in Community Service to work with incarcerated women at the Coffee Creek Correctional Facility. Mentors provide support and encouragement for women transitioning from prison back into the community. Volunteers must be females, age 24 and up. For more information, call 503-570-6614.

Aquatic Fitness

Providence has a full schedule of fitness classes including water exercising at the Providence Aquatic Center, 4805 N.E. Glisan. For a schedule, call 503-215-6301.

Business Meeting

North/Northeast Business Association meetings are on the first Monday of each month from 6 to 8 p.m. at Albina Community Bank, 2002 N.E. Martin Luther King Blvd. Morning networking meetings are the third Wednesday of each month from 7:30 to 9 a.m. at the Blazers Boys and Girls Club, 5250 N.E. Martin Luther King Blvd. For more information, call 503-249-0487 or visit www.nneba.org.

Creative Space For Dance

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

35
years of
community service

Passionate about Diversity

Banks named outstanding volunteer

Linda Banks is passionate about diversity, traveling the world and volunteering at home to promote unity, celebrate diversity and work to eradicate racism.

Her employer, Portland General Electric, is recognizing her efforts to give back to the community by naming her an outstanding volunteer for 2005.

Created to reward the community spirit of PGE employees and retirees, the company's Outstanding Volunteer Awards program pays tribute to individuals who have demonstrated steadfast commitments to their communities throughout the year.

Banks was nominated for the award by Karen Ettinger, director

of the Global & Multicultural Resource Center of the World Affairs Council of Oregon, located at Portland State University and sponsored by the college's Office of International Affairs.

A human resources and diversity employee at PGE for 12 years, Banks met Ettinger at a PGE diversity event in 1998.

"Linda's work with the Resource Center is a vital part of our survival," said Ettinger. "She goes out of her way to include us in PGE activities, helps us find funding through PGE and generously donates her time to our programs."

The center has developed several diversity programs for schools, workplace events, cultural fairs and curious individuals. It also has resource and reference libraries geared toward different ages. The center is filled to the brim with cultural bridge boxes, each featuring one of 50 countries that contain educational tools such as maps, lesson plans and treasures such as musical in-



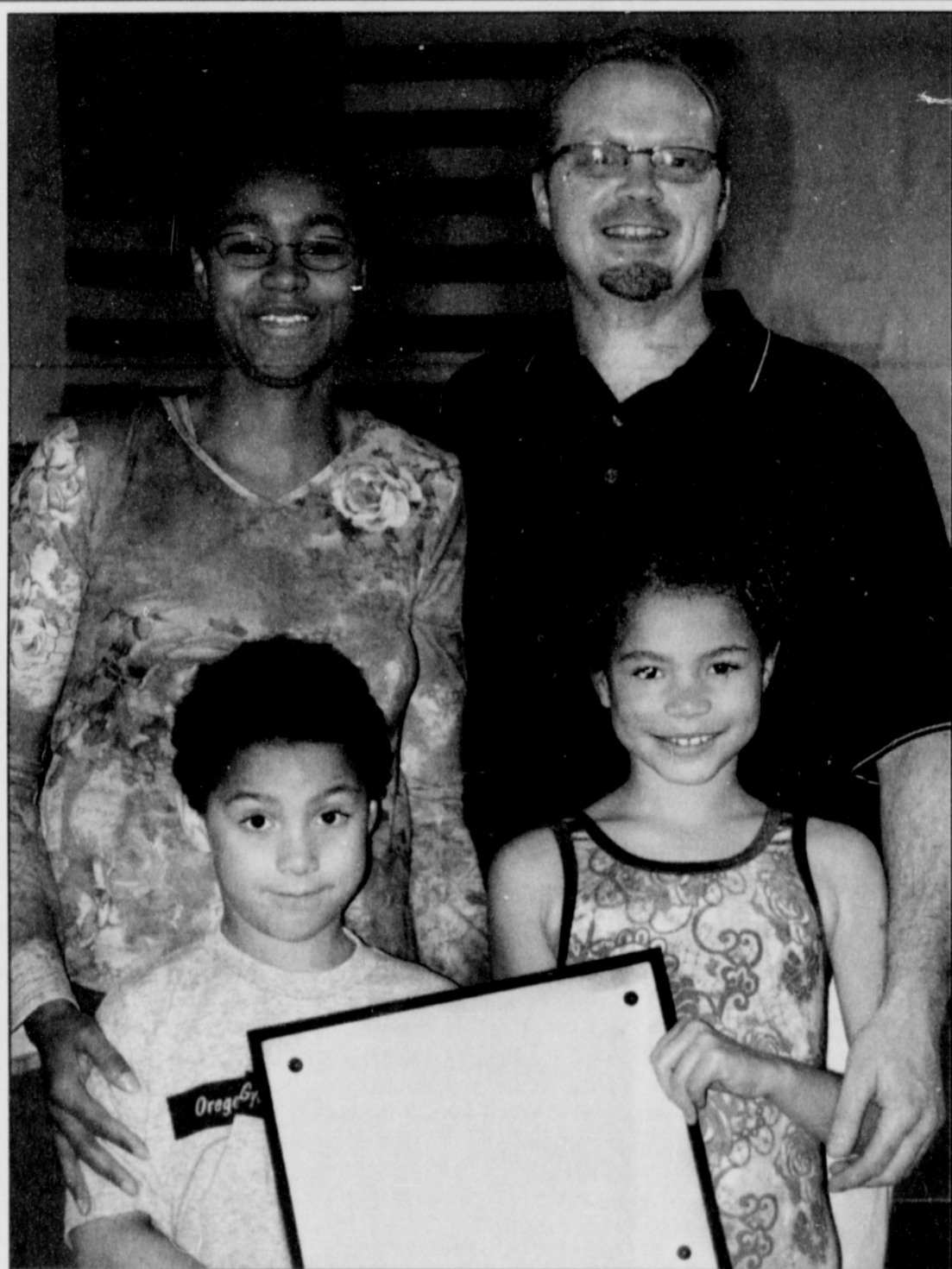
Linda Banks promotes diversity and works to eradicate racism on the job and as a community volunteer.

struments, traditional clothes, toys, games and props.

Banks also has been involved in Cross Town/Cross Culture, which brings together middle school students from diverse districts to talk about their backgrounds and at-home cultures. She created a diversity summit to educate and inform businesses in the Pacific Northwest with PGE as sponsor of the event, held once every other year at the Oregon Convention Center.

"Community involvement is a large part of our company's culture, and we are very proud of our employees' spirit of giving," said Carol Dillin, vice president of public policy at PGE. "Everybody has something to share and time spent working within our communities is absolutely priceless."

In recognition of her award, PGE donated a \$250 Outstanding Volunteer Grant in Banks' name to the Global & Multicultural Resource Center.



Character Counts

Patrick and Maria Harvey stand proudly behind their children Trevor and Tyler who were recently honored at the Oregon Gymnastics Academy for displaying the six pillars of character: caring, citizenship, responsibility, respect, trustworthiness and fairness. The brother and sister team won special praise for donating their hair to Locks of Love, a nonprofit group that helps hospital patients and delivering meals to seniors.

Film Festival at Jefferson

Ken Burns' 'Jazz' featured Monday

Area residents are invited to the Jefferson High School campus at 6 p.m. Monday for a free showing from Ken Burns' award-winning documentary "Jazz."

The film profiles Jazz in the late 1940s and early 50s, with the backdrop of an escalating Cold War, a growing threat of nuclear annihilation, and youth's new appetite in musical tastes, sentimental singers and rhythm and blues.

Featured artists are Duke Ellington and his big band, Louis Armstrong and his "All-Stars," Norman Granz creating thrilling inventive jazz

and more. And as Charlie Parker and others in the jazz community succumb to a devastating narcotics plague, gifted musicians like Miles Davis, Dave Brubeck, Gerry Mulligan and John Lewis find new ways to bring new audiences to Jazz.

This brilliantly directed episode continues Jefferson High School's 5th annual Multicultural Film Festival, a public service film series of informative and family-oriented documentaries that are presented each first Monday of the month.

Investor to Build 'Rosa Parks' Plaza

Petitions to rename Sandy Boulevard

BY KHAYA DARKO
THE PORTLAND
OBSERVER

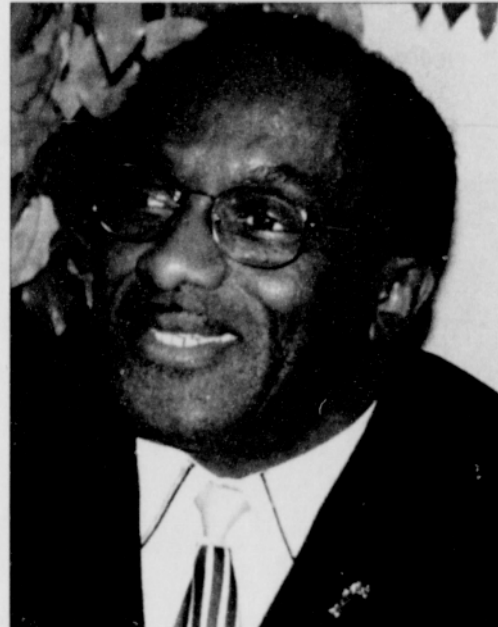
Rev. Willie Banks, a community leader and businessman in the Portland community, has announced plans to build the "Rosa Parks Plaza" apartment building on Northeast Sandy Boulevard. He is also petitioning the city of Portland to rename Sandy as Rosa Parks Boulevard.

Banks said his motivation to honor the civil rights pioneer follows her recent death and the 50th anniversary of her Dec. 1, 1955 arrest in Montgomery, Ala. for refusing to relinquish her seat on a segregated bus and the bus boycott that followed.

"Rosa is a legend of her time and changed the course of history. We will dedicate the property to her and for the benefit of the community," Banks said.

The 63-unit apartment complex is slated for construction this year at 11814 N.E. Sandy Blvd. Banks said he also looks forward to having a water fountain on the premises that honors the battle for civil rights.

Banks is the president of Banks Real Estate Investment Corp.



Rev. Willie Banks is a man on a mission. He plans to build a 63-unit apartment building on Northeast Sandy Boulevard and name the complex after Rosa Parks. He also wants the city to rename the street in honor of the civil rights pioneer.

Local Flu Season Begins

Still time for a flu shot

Laboratory tests have confirmed that flu season has arrived.

Public health officials in the Oregon Department of Human Services are encouraging people to get vaccinated.

"Annual influenza is definitely here," said Dr. Susan Allan, state public health director. "We don't expect flu season to be in full swing for several weeks, so we want people to know there is still time to get a flu shot."

Flu season in Oregon typically peaks in late January or February, and may continue into April or even May. Allan said that Oregon is also monitoring for avian influenza, although no human or bird cases of the H5N1 virus have been identified in North America.

"Avian flu does not currently present any risk of creating human outbreaks," she said. "But 'regular' influenza should be

taken seriously, with estimates that it causes up to 36,000 deaths each year in the U.S."

Allan said it is especially important that any person in one of the following high-priority groups get a flu shot: Children aged 6-23 months, adults aged 65 and older, residents of nursing homes and long term care facilities, anyone aged 2-64 with underlying medical conditions, pregnant women, health care workers who provide direct patient care and caregivers and household contacts of children under 6 months of age.

People seeking vaccinations should check with their health care provider or the county health department. Flu clinic information is also available by visiting the Website lungoregon.org or calling 1-800-SAFENET or 503-988-5858.