

# METRO

The Portland Observer



**O'Neil Says 'Don't Shed Any Tears'**  
94-year-old passed over in Hall vote  
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SECTION B

## Community Calendar

### Crowned Jewels

A fundraiser to benefit African American women for breast cancer awareness will be held Tuesday, March 14 at Portland Center for the Performing Arts Newmark Theatre, 1111 S.W. Broadway. A private reception is at 5 p.m., followed by a preview performance of Crowns, a gospel musical based on the book Crowns: Portraits of Black Women in Church Hats. \$50 donation.

### Get Wet Indoors At Portland Parks

During March, spring break extended hours are scheduled at Columbia, Matt Dishman, Mt. Scott and Southwest Community Center pools. Open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. with open swim times starting at 1 p.m. Register for spring classes by calling Portland Parks and Recreation at 503-823-5130.

### 28th Annual Shamrock Run

Shamrock Run held at Waterfront Park, Sunday, March 12. Online registration now open at [www.ontherunevents.com/shamrock](http://www.ontherunevents.com/shamrock). Group rates available. Register with four or more and save \$4 entry fee.

### Portland's International Women's Day

Celebrating its 31st anniversary Sunday, March 5, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Portland State University Smith Center Ballroom, 1825 S.W. Broadway. Event is free, but donations are accepted. For more information, visit [www.piwd.org](http://www.piwd.org).

### Linnton Weekend Market

Reopening for its third year, Saturday and Sunday, March 4 and 5, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Linnton Community Center Gym, 10614 N.W. St. Helens Rd. (Approximately 1/2 mile past St. John's Bridge, west on Highway 30.)

### Canine 101 Class

"Problem Pooch" group discussion for anyone who has just entered pethood or is considering adopting a dog. Classes offered Saturdays, March 4 and 18 at 11 a.m. at the Oregon Humane Society, 1067 N.E. Columbia Blvd. Suggested \$10 donation and please leave pets at home. For more information call 503-285-7722 or visit [www.oregonhumane.org](http://www.oregonhumane.org).

### Community Baby Shower

Soroptimist International of Gresham will collect new or gently used clothing, disposable diapers, baby wipes, diaper pails, pacifiers, shampoo, bath towels and car seats. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday March 4, at Gresham Fred Meyer. For pick-up service, call Vickie Kavanagh at 503-294-5941.

### Free College Outreach

The first Saturday of each month, from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m., high school students can get free help from Oregon State University on preparing for any college at the Matt Dishman Community Center, 77 N.E. Knott St.

### Business Meeting

North/Northeast Business Association meetings are on the first Monday of each month from 6 p.m. 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.

**36**  
years of  
community service

## Thieves Up Ante on Car Prowling

### New target is identity theft

Officer Dave Dobler has been with the Portland Police Bureau for almost two decades. When it comes to car prowls, he has seen it evolve into something more than petty theft.

Although the crime of breaking into cars to get at its contents remains prevalent, identity theft has taken the crime to new heights. Today, vehicle registration and insurance documents are the common items of interest to many car prowlers.

"Ten years ago, that was really rare," said Dobler, a crime analyst in the police bureau's southeast precinct. "But it has gone from loose change and CDs, to whatever has your name and address on it. It's almost surprising if you don't see these documents among the items taken in a car prowler."

The 19-year veteran said he has seen it so much, he carries his insurance and registration documents in his wallet. He warns those who leave mail and other paperwork in their cars to be more responsible because being a victim can have devastating results.

"It's a pain to fix your window for \$200," he said. "But it's even worse spending a year trying to fix your credit. Getting personal information is worth a lot more than loose change these days."

Dobler added that it's becoming more common to see insurance and vehicle registration documents as the lone items taken in a car prowler.

"You're required to carry these documents by law, but that doesn't mean you



PHOTO BY ISAIAH BOUIE/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A car prowler prevention tip sheet is placed on a car windshield in southeast Portland by Rosanne Lee, crime prevention coordinator for the Office of Neighborhood Involvement. Officer David Golliday (center) and Southeast Uplift Neighborhood Program member Victor Flaming (right) join in the public education campaign.

### Car prowler prevention tips

- If possible, don't leave valuables in your car.
- Beware of what you leave in plain sight.
- Carry legal documents in your purse or wallet.
- Roll up your car windows and lock your doors.

have to leave it in your vehicle," he said.

And for those who think unlocked car doors will keep thieves from breaking a window, Dobler said: "These car prowlers have gotten so good at breaking windows, they never even check to see if the doors are unlocked."

In 2005, Dobler and other precinct officers partnered with crime prevention coordinators from the Office of Neighborhood Involvement, Police Bureau cadets and neighborhood association volunteers walked the streets on four Saturday mornings placing car prowler prevention fliers on vehicles throughout the 21.2-square-mile precinct. They distributed up to 3,000 fliers per mission.

Officers working the night shift also walked the same area looking in cars for items that would attract thieves. If items

were found, officers used license plate numbers to find out who the owners were, and sent letters notifying them that they could be potential victims of a car prowler.

According to Police Bureau crime statistics, their efforts didn't go unnoticed. The number of reported car prowls in the precinct dropped almost 20 percent, going from 3,675 reported cases in 2004 to 2,961 in 2005.

"The project has been very success-

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## Support Grows for Grant Field Upgrades

### Big school lacks major sports fields

BY SARAH BLOUNT  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The sports fields at Grant High School in northeast Portland are muddy, dark and patchy; the seating is paltry and sporadic. It's not a very inviting place for young athletes to play, and in fact, they mostly don't. Instead they're bussed across the river to play at Lincoln High School.

But Grant, one of Portland's largest high schools, may soon see revitalization to its sports facilities. The volunteer organization Friends of Grant Football is rallying community support for a number of improvements.

"Everywhere we travel schools have these kinds of facilities," said Lloyd Lindley, Grant parent and volunteer spearheading the effort.

A Citizen Advisory Committee is conducting a public process to determine whether there is community support for improvements. The committee is tabulating comments and responses from the nearly 200 people who attended a recent open house. They also mailed questionnaires to 4,000 households and met with all



PHOTO BY ISAIAH BOUIE/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Volunteers propose replacing grass with all-weather turf, along with other improvements to the sports fields at Grant High School in northeast Portland.

nearby neighborhood associations.

The group proposes four packages, either operating independently or together.

The first package would include an all-weather turf system at Grant Bowl in Mark Cotton Field. The improvements would include added seating, built into the bowl's eastside bank,

installation of fencing in landscaped areas on Grant Street and 33rd Avenue, handrails and guardrails at the top of steep banks, and the opening public restrooms in the nearby swim center.

The next package adds an all-weather surface on the baseball and soccer fields, or alternatively fixes and grades the existing grass.

The third package would pay for turf enhancement at Grant's Holyrood Field and add a new field for women's fast pitch softball and Little League.

Package four adds lighting for night games on the main athletic field.

To help move any of these efforts forward or for more information, contact Lindley at 503-224-9188.

## Lending Focus to HIV/AIDS

### Group reaches out to young people

A local African American civic group will do its part to empower the community on HIV/AIDS awareness.

The Delta Sigma Theta sorority invites area residents and young people to join them in an International Day of Service

Program on the HIV/AIDS epidemic on Saturday, March 11 at Self Enhancement, Inc., 3920 N. Kerby Ave. The goal is to educate, empower and include youth in HIV prevention.

Cherrell Edwards, 21, will serve as keynote speaker and share her experience with HIV. She will also host a Youth Focus interactive discussion. Instead of looking at the disease as a burden,

Edwards, sees her affliction as a gift that allows her to share her life with others to promote awareness and prevention of AIDS.

An international fashion show and delicious food from around the world is also planned.

All activities are free. Registration and check-in begin at 10:30 a.m. The program is from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.



Cherrell Edwards