

# METRO

The Portland Observer



## Theater Hosts Harlem Choir

Performance scheduled in Longview

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SECTION B

### Community Calendar

#### Write Around Portland

Are you interested in becoming a facilitator for Write Around Portland's volunteer-run ten-week workshop? The workshop is for low-income adults, homeless or mentally disabled people or others who face barriers to writing workshops. Contact Jill Tuleya at 503-796-9224.

#### Pamper Yourself

The Emmanuel Temple Women's Dept. invites women to a "Pamper Me" gathering on Saturday, April 8 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. to relax and enjoy one another's company while getting pampered with free skin and hair care consultations, foot and hand massages and wellness information. The event takes place in the multipurpose room of the church at 1033 N. Sumner St.

#### I-5 Bridge Planning

The public is invited to evaluate ideas to reduce I-5 bridge congestion on Wednesday, April 12 at Hudson Bay High School in Vancouver and Thursday, April 13 at the Red Lion Inn-Jantzen Beach in north Portland. Both sessions, sponsored by the Columbia River Crossing project team, will take place from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m.

#### Turn Clay Into Art

Get your hands dirty at the PCC non-credit class Intro to Clay, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Saturdays from April 8 through June 17 in room MAHB 108 at the PCC Cascade Campus, 705 N. Killingsworth. Cost is \$219. For more information, call 503-978-5205.

#### Habitat for Humanity Fundraiser

Enjoy a great barbecue and music at "Gospel Lunch" at Beale Street NW BBQ, 10721 N.E. Sandy Blvd. on Sunday, April 9 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Suggested donation is \$5, and 15 percent of food sales goes toward Portland's Habitat for Humanity's home building efforts in Louisiana.

#### Discovering Treasures

Bring your treasures to Holladay Park Plaza for the 3rd Annual Antique Appraisal Fair on April 11, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 1300 N.E. 16th Ave. RSVP is appreciated, by calling 503-280-2216.

#### Jefferson Alumni Basketball

On April 14 at 6 p.m. Jeff alums will play a total of three games: late 80s versus early 90s; late 90s versus 2000s; winners' championship. Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$3 for students. For more information, call 503-916-5180, extension 1352.

#### Royal Blues Rummage Sale

Grant's Royal Blues Chamber Ensemble hosts a rummage sale with than 33 families on Saturday, April 8 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Rose City Park United Methodist Church, 5830 N.E. Alameda Ave..

#### Remodeling Workshop

Metro offers free workshop, household lead test kit and home improvement manual for do-it-yourselfers working on homes built before 1978. Saturday, April 8 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Historic Kenton Firehouse, 8105 N. Brandon Ave. No registration required, for more information call 503-988-4000.

36  
years  
of  
community service

## Negro League Comes to Portland

Mobile museum illustrates a rich history of black baseball

The second annual mobile museum dedicated to Negro Leagues, presented by Roadway Express and its partner, the National Negro League Baseball Museum, comes to town April 12 and 13.

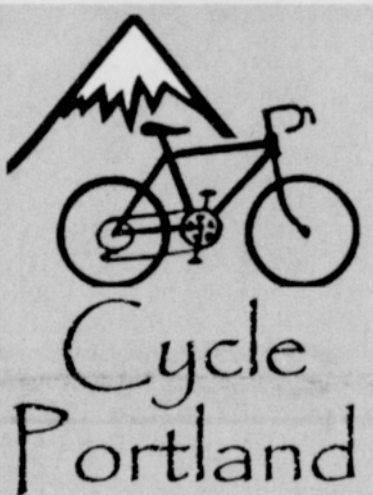
Before Jackie Robinson suited up as a Brooklyn Dodger, African Americans thrived in their own Negro National League, founded by Andrew "Rube" Foster in 1920. The league originated in the late 1800s and continued until its decline in the early 1960s. Athletes crisscrossed the country, playing every venue imaginable in the pre-Civil Rights era, and appealed to all Americans with their gifted athleticism and crowd-pleasing showmanship.

Major League Baseball eventually recruited the finest black players from teams like the Lincoln Giants, Newark Eagles and Montgomery Grey Sox Players. Other players faded from the game, and some relocated to Canada, but their contributions live

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Before black men were allowed in Major League, they thrived in their own Negro Leagues. Find out more at the traveling exhibit "Times of Greatness" April 12 and 13 at PGE Park.



BY SARAH BLOUNT

About 150 members of the bike community gathered in Eugene last weekend to discuss a serious cause: how to put the "funding" in fun.

The goal of the first ever Oregon Bike Summit was to find ways to turn Oregon into the "Cycling State", much like Kentucky owns bluegrass and Texas conjures images of the lone star.

I found out we have a long way to go, if we want to catch up with the old school and hardcore cyclists of Vermont and Maine. And it'll be years before we can match France's reputation, where every man, woman and child aspires to be a Tour de France champ.

But we've got a lot, and former chairman of Oregon Parks and Recreation John Blackwell put it best — "we need to exploit what we have."

So the bloggers, cycling advocates, bike shop owners, festival organizers, city employees and other movers and shakers met to figure out how to do that best.

Congressman Peter DeFazio (the only bike mechanic in Congress) delivered the summit's keynote address. Standing at the podium in a plaid shirt and jeans, DeFazio's speech had me envisioning beautiful bike paths in secluded, woody settings amid snow-capped mountains. Toward the end of the speech I had to pull myself back down to earth, and into that Hilton conference room, just in time for everyone to break into groups to brainstorm marketing, resource and website ideas.

Some plans were tossed around, including a great idea to link city and county transportation websites to make it easier for cyclists to navigate the entire state.

A couple of hours later most of us were satisfied with enough bike info, inspiration and free flashing lights, and we filed back into the world to put our new ideas into practice. Some returned to their jobs, where they make the effort to knit cycling culture into the mainstream. Others, like myself, got back onto our bikes, giving life to the Italian phrase "beneath every happy person lies a bicycle."

Sarah Blount is a reporter for the Portland Observer.

## Boxing Champs Remembered at Knott Street

The city honored heroic legends

Some of Portland's proudest sports history came to life last Friday at the old Knott Street Gym, now known as the Matt Dishman Community Center. Mayor Potter and Commissioner Dan Saltzman honored the famed Knott Street Boxing Team, which included ten Amateur Athletic Union champions in the glory years of the 1950s, 60's and early 70s. The local honor follows their induction into the Oregon Sports Hall of Fame last October.

"When you consider our accomplishments, we're certainly the most successful amateur team in the history of Oregon sports," said 1964 national AAU champion A. Halim Rahsaan, the former Bill Cross. "We should have been in the Hall of Fame a long time ago."

A framed proclamation by Mayor Potter was unveiled, recognizing the team's "commitment to fostering community relations, youth outreach and racial equality at a time when discrimination was still widely accepted and propagated in the United States."

There isn't another amateur boxing club in the country that has produced ten national champions. Knott Street's A.A.U. gold medal



PHOTO BY ISAAH BOUE/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER  
Ray Lamkin (left), Mayor Tom Potter and A Halim Rahsaan honor Oregon Sports hall of famer Wade Smith (seated in center) last week in a ceremony for the Knott Street Boxers.

winner included Tommy Thomas (1956), Pete Gonzales (1961), Johnny Howard (1961, 1963, 1966) Wade Smith (1962, 1963) and Michael Colbert (1968, 1972).

Jody Harris and Louis Johnson competed in

the 1964 Olympic Games in Tokyo. Nine of the ten boxers were trained and coached by Chuck Lincoln, a former Golden Glove champion who later fought professionally as a welterweight, middleweight and light heavyweight.

## New Avenues in Waldorf Education

BY SARAH BLOUNT  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A growing movement of "Waldorf-method" schools across the nation blends the benefits of holistic education with traditional and accessible public schooling.

Historically, Waldorf Schools have reached children of white, middle to upper class parents who can afford the tuition of small classrooms and alternative philosophies. Waldorf education is best described as developmentally appropriate — children are taught based on their readiness, not their age or grade level.

Social and financial barriers have restricted equal access, but that has changed in the past decade; approximately 50 public and charter schools across the country have blended Waldorf and public education, and the Portland Village Charter School will be the first of its

kind in the metro area. The tuition-free, publicly funded school opens this fall, aiming to meet the demand for Waldorf education within the public system, while achieving ethnic and economic diversity. The hybrid school will balance art, music, drama and imagery with lessons present in the public school system, with an aim to meet state assessment standards. The school board is scouting locations in outer southeast and north Portland, specifically because they lack many educational opportunities, said board member Seth Truby.



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER  
The Portland Village Charter School will join traditional Waldorf schools in the area.

They're looking at closed district school buildings for the K-3 school, and will add a grade each successive year until they reach K-8.

The board found inspiration in other Waldorf-method school, notably the Urban Waldorf School of inner city Milwaukee, Wis., where more than ninety percent of students are African American. Their sister institution, the Eugene Village School founded in 2000, is a Title I school that reaches low-income students, more than half of which are eligible for free or reduced lunch.

"One of our missions was to diversify Waldorf education," Truby said. "Part of our aim was to come to communities without many innovative options."

The Waldorf-method school will be unique within the Portland Public Schools system, in a way that breaks down the traditional classroom structure.

"There'll be sort of a breathing rhythm throughout the day," Truby said. "Moments of quiet work mixed with engaging activity. It's generally what children are like anyway."

Another key difference is the main lesson block. Rather than traditional class structure, children are taught a particular subject or theme in every course, over a four to six-week period. Students

also use sources other than textbooks, and actually create their own books to keep.

"Teachers teach materials, then ask students to create stories and drawings in a blank paper book, said board member Gaye Harris.

"Essentially it's like starting art school at age six," she said. "By the time they've been doing it for a number of years they become remarkable artists."

"Students keep books for years, and feel a

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