

METRO

The Portland Observer

**Film Documents
Famed Fighting Unit**
Evening showing at
Jefferson High
See story, page B3



37
years of
community service

SECTION B

Community Calendar

Girl Scouts Screen Video

Sunday, Feb. 11, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., at the Kennedy School Theater, the Girl Scouts will raise funds for its Family Giving Program with the screening of the locally produced video "A Circle is Round."

Disability Resource Fair

Saturday, Feb. 3, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., families with newborn children to age five experiencing developmental or physical disabilities, mental health or chronic health conditions are invited to a free resource fair. A bus will leave Friends of the Children, 65 N.E. Stanton at 12:30 p.m. to attend the event at the Expo Center. For information, call 503-238-6346.

Doll and Teddy Bear Show

Saturday, Feb. 3, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., learn the art of identifying vintage and rare Barbie dolls with expert Georgia Seibel. The Doll and Teddy Bear Show will be held at the National Guard Armory, just south of Marine Drive on Northeast 33rd.

Say Hey Meet and Greet

Thursday, Feb. 8, from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m., Partners in Diversity will host a Say Hey, NW meet and greet reception to welcome new professionals of color to Oregon and Southwest Washington, at Self Enhancement, Inc., 3920 N. Kerby Ave. Call 503-516-3505 or email nakashimav@mac.com.

Portland Diabetes Expo

Saturday, Feb. 3, the Diabetes Expo will provide free screenings, seminars, free products, and food samples, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Oregon Convention Center; 777 N.E. Martin Luther King Blvd. Admission is free.

Valentine-A-Grams

Extra-special Valentine gift boxes loaded with delicious goodies and with 100 percent of the \$24.95 cost benefiting the Meals-On-Wheels program can be ordered through Monday, Feb. 5. Call 503-736-6325 or visit loavesandfishesonline.org.

Camp Fire Candy Sale

Local kids from Camp Fire USA will be outside many storefronts in Multnomah and Washington counties through Feb. 5 selling delicious candy boxes. The proceeds help with summer camp expenses. Call 503-224-7800 or visit portlandcampfire.org.

Men's Wellness Screening

Saturday, Feb. 10, Legacy Emanuel Hospital, Lorenzen Center, host Men's Wellness screening, 8 a.m. to Noon; health-screening tests are available for a fee of \$10, to schedule a required appointment contact 503-335-3500.

PCC: Recruiting Fair

Saturday, Feb. 10, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Portland Community College Cascade Campus Student Center Building-Dining Room, 705 N. Killingsworth St., host the free instructional fair to inform part-time faculty candidates of available opportunities. For more information contact 503-978-5862.

Black History Foundation

The Black History Museum of Oregon is seeking the brilliant minds of concerned individuals to help in restructuring the museum foundation's committee. Call 503-284-0617 for more information.

Weight Loss Series

New Seasons Market at Northeast 33rd and Killingsworth Street will host free weight loss classes on Feb. 28, March 28, and April 25 from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Community Support

The African American Health Coalition, a non-profit that touches the lives of millions of African Americans each year, reminds you to support your community organization. All donations, grants, and gifts are tax deductible. For more information, visit aahc-portland.org.

Diabetes Support Group

Legacy Emanuel Hospital hosts a diabetes support group the first and third Thursdays of every month, from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m., in Room 1027.

Parenting Classes

Newborns don't come with instruction manuals but parents and parents-to-be can attend classes through Providence Health Systems to learn about a variety of topics from pain and childbirth to breastfeeding to infant CPR and much more. For a schedule of events, call 503-574-6595 or visit: providence.org/classes.

Volunteers Passionate About Helping

Founder of mentoring group honored

Chakila Scott-Riley has been named Outstanding Portland General Electric Volunteer Youth Mentor for 2006 for her creation of a youth empowerment program at King Elementary School in northeast Portland.

Scott-Riley is passionate about helping young people. When the PGE customer service representative realized that students needed positive role models, she wanted to help. After talking with school district officials, she launched a program she dubbed Sisters Having to Exceed.

Targeted for the third and fourth grades, between two and 10 girls meet in a classroom once a week after school over a three-month period for an hour of mentoring.

Her "young ladies," as she calls them, try new experiences, share their concerns and discuss the importance of such things as exercise, eating healthfully and talking respectfully to their parents and other adults.

"It is so rewarding," said Scott-Riley. "I can see them becoming more mature, more aware of what's going on around them. And their behavior has changed. I believe they have more respect for themselves. With someone to listen to them, they feel like their voices really do count."

"Chakila has been an amazing presence at King," said Tree Davis, manager of King School's Uniting Neighborhoods program. "Chakila focuses on preventing the circumstances that are barriers to young women in general and specifically to young women of color coming from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. I have



Chakila Scott-Riley meets with King Elementary girls for after school mentoring. She leads the nonprofit Sisters Having to Exceed group, a program designed to provide girls with positive role models.

been awed and impressed by all she has done here."

A north Portland resident, Scott-Riley "has decided that she is her sister's keeper," said Michelle Guinn of PGE's business services department.

"For some of these girls, Chakila is the first positive female role model they know personally," Guinn said. "She teaches them to always give 100 percent and that what you put into something is what you get out of it."

Scott-Riley has also recruited other volunteers to reach out to still more girls. The program's third year began this fall with plans to expand it to include older girls at Ockley Green Middle School, serving students in north and northeast Portland.

Created to reward this community spirit, the Outstanding PGE Volunteer Awards program recognizes employees and retirees who have demonstrated steadfast commitments to their

communities throughout the year.

During 2006 alone, PGE volunteers logged approximately 90,000 hours with their favorite nonprofit organizations.

Other Outstanding PGE Volunteer recipients include Steve Cox, community affairs specialist; Obie Hoodman, retiree; Ken Renne, retiree; Theresa Taafe, southern region operations manager; and Phyllis Town, administrative assistant at Boardman Power Plant.

Talented Artist Puts Community First

Steve Cox of north Portland is a talented artist whose dedication to building stronger communities has led to his recognition as an Outstanding PGE Volunteer Award for 2006.

Cox is part of PGE's Community Affairs team, but his commitment to the community goes far beyond the work he does for his employer.

His can-do attitude and creative thinking is a welcome asset to such local volunteer organizations as Cracked Pots, a nonprofit group that sponsors grassroots, sustainable art projects; Northwest Pilot Project, a program for senior citizens; and children in the Big Brothers Big Sisters Northwest program.

"Steve is amiably unrelenting!" said Tess Beistel, co-founder of Cracked Pots. "He believes in change, in the value of art, in the importance of treating our planet with care. He acts to foster these beliefs and consistently touches the public with his skill, enthusiasm and good will."

Brendon Bassett of Big Brothers Big Sisters Northwest said Cox helps



Steve Cox is committed to making proactive art for the home and garden from recycled, reclaimed and reworked material. He has installed several of his own creations in his Kenton backyard.

his Little Brother develop tools to make positive choices about life.

"His Little Brother has shown tremendous growth in the time they've been together," Bassett said.

Environmental issues are another

one of his passions. Cox is proud that his efforts as a crew leader for Friends of Trees have led to the planting of 250 trees around the city. And recently, he has become a community activist in his own Kenton

neighborhood as he lobbies for the reduction of noise generated by the Portland International Raceway.

Without a doubt, Cox is a busy guy. But as he said, "I love feeling like I'm making a difference."



Suzan-Lori Parks

Pulitzer Prize Playwright Coming to Portland

Portland Arts & Lectures presents Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Suzan-Lori Parks on Thursday, Feb. 8 at 7:30 p.m. at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall. Tickets are \$26 and are available by visiting

literary-arts.org.

Mixing hip-hop riffs with dark comedy, Parks' play "Topdog/Underdog" tells the story of two brothers, Lincoln and Booth—one a skilled three-card Monte player, the other an eager student of the game.

The success of the play landed Parks in the national spotlight, and in 2002 she became the first African-American woman to win the Pulitzer Prize for Drama.

Parks' first novel Getting Mother's

Body (2003) was hailed by Pearl Cleage as "a story whose characters are as mysterious and sexy as lace curtains billowing at the bedroom window."

Parks also wrote the screenplay for Spike Lee's film Girl 6 (1996) and for ABC television's 2005 adaptation of Zora Neale Hurston's Their Eyes Were Watching God.

The evening with Suzan-Lori Parks is underwritten by the English Department at Portland State University.