

Local Grad Competes for Scholarship

Speaks about AIDS in the community

On Saturday, July 14, all eyes and ears were fixed on two petite figures in San Jose, Calif., as their voices resonated during an oratorical competition sponsored by the Improved Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the World.

Each contestant, including Portland resident Arya Patryce Morman, had paid their dues to arrive at the regional event, enabling them to compete Aug. 2-5 in Jacksonville, Fla., for a chance to win a \$10,000 national scholarship.

The competition requires students to compose, memorize and

recite without error a 10-minute speech. They are judged on their poise, pronunciation, composition and knowledge of a selected subject.

Morman, a 2007 graduate of De La Salle North Catholic High School, chose to present a personal account of how she lost her father to AIDS and the inner strength that she had to find through prayer and a positive attitude to overcome depression and the stigma associated with HIV/AIDS.

Fortunately, Morman and her mother, Rev. Renee Ward, were spared from contracting the virus, however her father, Joseph Lewis Morman did not and died on June 4, 1998. Since Morman's death, both have worked to educate the community about HIV/AIDS and its im-



act on the African American community.

"Arya has represented our region well," said Melva Holmes, local director of the contest, "and we are confident that she will secure the national title based upon her presentation. This contest is the same one that Oprah Winfrey won in her youth."

Donations to support Morman's upcoming travel and educational expenses are being accepted at any Bank of America Branch (Arya Patryce Morman). For more information, call 503-548-7537.

Arya Patryce Morman will travel to Jacksonville, Fla. to compete for a national title and a \$10,000 scholarship.

Construction to Impact MAX

Five MAX stations in downtown Portland will close at 7 p.m. on Friday, July 27 through Sunday, July 29 to make way for light rail construction on the Portland Mall.

The stations to be closed are Pioneer Square North at Morrison Street, Pioneer Square South at Yamhill Street, Portland Mall at Southwest Fourth Avenue, Portland Mall at Southwest Fifth Avenue and the Yamhill District station.

TriMet will provide shuttle buses around the closed MAX stations about every 15 minutes. Eastbound riders can board a shuttle bus at the Southwest Ninth Avenue at the Library. Westbound riders can pick up a shuttle bus at Southwest Third and Morrison.

Red and Yellow Line trains will not run west of the Willamette River, stopping at the Rose Quarter. Riders heading downtown can either transfer to a Blue Line train or board a shuttle at the Rose Quarter.

For more information visit www.trimet.org.

Free Course Promotes Learning

Humanity in Perspective, a free two-semester, college-level course for low-income adults, begins its seventh year in Portland this fall.

The Oregon Council for the Humanities, which offers the program in partnership with Reed College, is accepting applications for the program through Monday, Aug. 20.

Applications are available on the council's website oregonhum.org or by calling Jennifer Allen at 503-241-0543.

The humanities group sponsors the course to promote the intellectual and personal growth of students, to spark their interest in civic and community life, and to encourage students to continue their education.

Students explore ancient and contemporary masterpieces in literature, philosophy and history. Writing instruction is also integral to the coursework.

A student from last year's course says the experience helped her get out of a shelter a couple of nights a week.

"I found a whole new world that I could read, write, and study, and most of all feel important. I found a place that I didn't know existed and totally fell in love with," she said.

The fall term begins Sept. 24. Classes meet twice weekly, over a seven-month period, on Monday and Thursday evenings at New Avenues for Youth in downtown Portland. Reading and writing assignments are roughly equivalent to those of a first-year humanities survey course at Reed College.

Tuition is waived; books, on-site childcare and bus tickets are also provided free of charge.

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