



**Singer Fuses
Rock, Soul**
Alice Smith
comes to town
See Arts and Entertainment, inside

**Street Name
Change Sought**
Cesar Chavez for
Interstate Avenue
See story, page A3



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Week in The Review

Nike Race Suit Settled

Nike reached a \$7.6 million settlement in a race discrimination lawsuit filed by 400 black employees at the Chicago Niketown store. The lawsuit, filed in 2003, claimed managers used racial slurs and withheld promotions to black employees. Nike denied the allegations.

Diagnosed with Cancer

ABC "Good Morning America" anchor Robin Roberts, 46, has been diagnosed with breast cancer and will be undergoing surgery Friday. Roberts examined herself and found a lump on her breast the same day she had done a report on former "GMA" movie critic Joel Siegel, who died of colon cancer last month. See story, page B5



Goldman's get Book Rights

A federal bankruptcy judge Monday awarded the rights of O.J. Simpson's canceled "If I Did It" book to the family of the late Ronald Goldman to satisfy a \$38 million wrongful death judgment against the former football star. The judge's decision pushed aside complaints from the family of Simpson's ex-wife, Nicole Brown Simpson whose lawyers had sought a greater share of possible profits from the book. See story, page A2.

Teen Found Strangled

Fifteen year old Dani Countryman from Texas was found dead in a Milwaukee apartment on Saturday. According to police the cause of death was strangulation. Countryman was visiting her sister and set to return to Texas just hours later. A neighbor told police that she saw two men carrying a body around 5 a.m. Saturday morning.

Recruits Offered \$20,000

The U.S. Army has hit a new high or low by offering \$20,000 their biggest bonus ever for people willing to enlist and ship out within the next month. The service requirement for the bonus is a two year enlistment. The Army was the only military branch unable to reach its June recruiting quota.

Rapper Dropped from Tour

Rapper Twista has been dropped from a concert tour organized by McDonald's due to the fast food giant's objection to his controversial lyrics. The Chicago born, Twista, also known as Carl Terrell Mitchell, was surprised to learn that he is no longer included in the concert line up.



A Source of Pride



PHOTO COURTESY OF OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The dome that now tops Dawson Park's gazebo used to adorn the building at the corner of North Williams Avenue and Russell Street, as shown in this 1962 photo. The neighborhood was a main street for several African-American-owned businesses before the buildings were demolished to make way for Interstate 5 and the expansion of Legacy Emanuel Hospital.

Dawson Park changes with historic neighborhood

BY RAYMOND RENDELMAN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Events this summer show that Dawson Park remains an important site for the African-American community despite its connection to devastating urban-renewal projects and the dispersal of its adjacent population by gentrification.

City officials unveiled an improvement plan for the north Portland park last week during a kick-off event that attracted a performance by local R&B singer Liv Warfield. In addition, the African-American Health Coalition will hold its fifth annual "Wellness Within Reach" walk at the park on Saturday, Aug. 18.

Portland's black community has mostly moved away from the blocks near the park, bounded by Williams and Vancouver Avenues and just two blocks from Russell Street in what was once a Main Street for the local population.

However, many vestiges of the black community's self-support systems remain nearby. Along with the health coalition, Dawson Park is shouting distance from the Urban League of Portland, an organization whose history includes a relentless fight against Portland's past housing-segregation policies.

The park, named in honor of Episcopal minister John Dawson, who was an advocate of child welfare and civic improvement in the 1920s, once was held a cow pasture, a baseball field used by the Immaculate Heart Church and a frequent stopping place for small circuses and medicine shows.

By the late 1940s, it became an unofficial town square for the African-American community, and grew even larger when hundreds of black workers were displaced by the flooding of Vanport, a World War II housing project with 40,000 people.

As a flash point for race riots in the 1960s, the area lost any favor with city officials, who allowed Memorial Coliseum and Interstate 5 to bulldoze the south and west sides of the neighborhood.

Today, city park planners are trying to remain sensitive to the area's roots, like the park's gazebo, an architectural feature that came to the site in 1978 when a nearby building that once held it was demolished for a proposed expansion of Emanuel Hospital that did not take place once Congress failed to provide the funding.

In addition to Portland Development Commission funds for gazebo restoration, the city is planning to spend over \$1.1 million to add more historical markers and reinstate a fountain play area that was removed following safety concerns.

"It is a fully developed park already, but this is just the next step

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PHOTO BY RAYMOND RENDELMAN/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Lee Roberts hangs out under the gazebo in Dawson Park in north Portland. Before 1978, the gazebo's roof topped a building in the heart of an African American business community that has long since been displaced. Roberts says he has witnessed many neighborhood transformations since he regularly walked through the park as a teenager.

An Officer and a Beauty Queen

Portland native
supplements army
career with
pageantry

BY SARAH BLOUNT
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Joelle Rankins Goodwin has spent most of her career as a military intelligence officer in the United States Army, but none of that prepared her for her first experience parading in front of 200 people while wearing a swimsuit.

From soldier to assistant professor at the University of Oregon to beauty queen, this Major focused her sights on winning the title Mrs. Oregon 2008—a statewide competition for married women taking place this October in Clackamas.

Goodwin, 43, a former Rose Festival princess from Lincoln High School, currently holds the title of Mrs. Eugene America 2007. She says it took guts to join the pageant life.

"Entering into a pageant is kind of

like being an athlete and training yourself," she said. "I think it takes a lot of courage just to get up on the stage. It takes confidence, and that's not something I'm lacking."

While it may seem unusual for a Major to compete as a beauty queen, Goodwin says military affiliations are not uncommon in the pageantry world. "I'm surprised with how many people are associated with the military," she said. "You find a lot of respect for military members."

Goodwin has been married three years to her husband Bob. Between the pair they have three children: Ian, 12, Daniela, 10 and Sam, 17.

I think it takes a lot of courage just to get up on the stage. It takes confidence, and that's not something I'm lacking.

—Joelle Rankins Goodwin

Last year, Goodwin came very close to winning the title of Mrs. Oregon 2007, until she reached the obligatory onstage interview portion. That's the part of the pageant where contestants must think quickly on their feet to answer an open-ended question.

"If you could be president for a day," the interviewer asked, "what would you do?"

Goodwin said that being president didn't mean waving a magic wand to make war and sickness go away.

"I'd take my day to enjoy the White House and take it all in," she answered.

But in the end, her response was no match for the following contestant, who Goodwin said gave an answer that was spot-on.

Contestant Kimberly Takla said she'd wave the so-called wand anyway, magically making sickness and war go away.

Sickness did not go away that evening, but Takla did become Mrs. Oregon 2007. Goodwin finished as first runner-up.

Having been bested by magic,

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Portland native Joelle Rankins Goodwin will vie for the title of Mrs. Oregon, a statewide pageant for married women, held this October in Clackamas.

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