

50¢

38
years of
community serviceThe
City of Roses

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**Art Driven to Extremes**

Mixed media art by Serena Barton and Bonnie Meltzer at Onda Gallery. See inside, page A10

Advocate Takes Charge

Paige Coleman is the new interim director of the Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods. See inside, page A3



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Community Calendar

Annual Community Garden Tour
Saturday, July 19, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., take a tour of six community gardens via van and car pool; call 503-823-1612 to reserve your seat.

Camp SCRAP

July 21 thru July 25, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., children ages 6-10 will learn new skills from local artist at Camp SCRAP; activities include tile mosaics, bike part wind chimes, and reuse art projects all week, with field trips to several local recyclers. Call 503-294-0763 for discounts and scholarships.

"Field Day - A Day in the Life of the Water Bureau"

Thursday, July 24, the Water Bureau invites the public to participate in this free event featuring the operation and maintenance of Portland's drinking water system, for more information call 503-823-7637.

West African Dance

Saturdays, currently thru July 26, from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Richard Sokpor, a former member of the National Dance Company of Ghana will instruct classes for age 14 and up at the Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center, 5340 N. Interstate Ave. To register, call 503-823-4322 or just drop in!

'Viva La Raza' Rebel Reading

Wednesdays, currently thru July 30, at 7 p.m. at the Bread & Roses Center, 819 N. Killingsworth St., discover the stolen history of defiant organizing by farm workers, students and Chicana feminists in the telling of their dramatic story; for more information call 503-240-4462.

MHCC Par Excellence Golf

Tuesday, Aug. 5, starting at 7:30 a.m., at the Stone Creek Golf Club in Oregon City, spend the day golfing for a good cause the event benefits the Mt. Hood Community College Scholarship Fund; \$150 fee includes green fees, cart, and more; for more information call 503-491-7206.

Student Exchange Host Needed

The nonprofit international student exchange program, AFS-USA is currently seeking local volunteers to host students in high school; volunteers are also needed as liaisons to work locally with families and their hosted students; to learn more visit afs.org/usa/hostfamily.

Guide to Summer Stargazing

The second Monday of each month the Mt. Hood Community College Planetarium Sky Theater guides stargazers through the mysteries of the universe, shows are at 7 p.m. and 8 p.m.; \$1 admission, for more information visit planetariumskytheater.com or call 503-491-7297.

Interstate Farmers Market

The Interstate Farmers Market with its rich variety of quality fresh local produce, baked goods, cut flowers, artisan cheese, meat and fish, is held each Wednesday through Sept. 24 from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. just off Interstate Avenue between Overlook Park and the Interstate Kaiser West Building.

Breaking the Cycle

Every 1st and 3rd Friday of the month, at the Calvary Christian Church, 126 N.E. Alberta, Brother Eric Carson, invites men of all walks of life to join a safe and confidential men's forum examining issues and struggles that arrive in life, networking together. For more information, call 503-422-8573.

Student Summer Jobs

Portland Public Schools has positions open for high school students to work as custodial helpers. For information, call 503-916-3544 or visit hr.pps.k12.or.us.

Historic Albina Dome Refurbished



Serena Stoudamire Wesley (left), Albina Rotary president, celebrate the rededication of the Dawson Park Gazebo, and Harold Williams, local business owner and community activist. The structure once adorned a building on North Williams and Russell in the heart of a former African American business district.

Represents proud past for African Americans

Area residents are invited to celebrate the rededication of the Dawson Park Gazebo during a community concert featuring local musician Patrick Lamb on Wednesday, July 16 from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

The park is located on the corner of North Stanton Street and North Vancouver Avenue.

The beautiful dome and brick flooring of the Dawson Park Gazebo were salvaged from the Hill Building, last located on North Russell Street during the early 1970s in the last days of a significant business district for the African American community before displacement by the expansion of Emanuel Hospital.

The dome was placed in Dawson Park in 1978. The Hill Building was built in 1890 and was once a cornerstone of the former city of Albina. The Dawson Park Gazebo serves as a reminder of the Albina of yesterday.

The Portland Development Commission financed all the gazebo's renovation and improvements using tax increment proceeds from the Interstate Corridor Urban Renewal Area.

The renovated gazebo enhances and protects the historic dome and brings focus to the cultural significance of the dome.

All of the renovation was carefully planned with Portland Parks & Recreation; the Albina Rotary and Eliot Neighborhood Association community partners; who have encouraged and supported the renovation of the gazebo.

Billy Webb Elks Lodge to receive a \$1 million face-lift!

Preserving historic African American heritage

The National Association of Minority Contractors of Oregon (NAMCO) announced its plans to remodel the Billy Webb Elks Lodge on Tillamook Street in Northeast Portland. NAMCO will work with Hoffman Construction, CJ Jackson Construction, Portland Development Commission, IBEW local 48, Walsh Construction, Legacy

Health System, Stacy Witbeck General Engineering, NW Natural Gas and other local partners on the project. Built in the early 1900's, the historic Elks Lodge was known then as the YWCA and today is one of the few remaining African American owned buildings. The Elks Lodge, currently owned by the local lodge membership, serves as a place for events, birthday parties and wedding receptions; however, the entire building is in need of immediate repairs and NAMCO has willingly stepped forward to organize a team that can assist with renovations.

Contractors for



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
Jennifer Dishman in front of the North Tillamook Street Elks Lodge



The Colored YWCA shortly after its construction on North Williams and Tillamook streets in 1926.

Billy Webb Elks Club History

Built as The Colored YWCA in 1921, the building was first constructed as a portable structure like a portable classroom.

In 1926, Mrs. E.S. Collins a white woman donated \$12,000 to build a permanent YWCA. Some city officials tried to block construction. The feeling was that black females didn't need a YWCA.

The YWCA was managed by a

black woman's group

The building had a gym, boys and girls lockers, stage and office.

All of the black social clubs used the Y for their social functions, including the Black USO for service men and woman.

Dick Bogle, former city commissioner, and Mrs. Hepburn, were chaperons at teenage dances.

NAACP meetings were held here.

Several women's groups, such as the Oregon Federation of colored Women, used the facility for scholarship teas. Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, located at Northeast McMillan and Larrabee, used the site to host formal dinners.

Today the William Avenue YWCA is called the Billy Webb Elks Lodge IPBOE.