



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Health Walk at Dawson Park

Adwoa Thomas (from left), Maggie Gibson, Charlie Wilson, Doris Dines and Vera Harris meet at the Dawson Park finish line during Saturday's Health Walk by African American Health Coalition. The annual event included a 1.5 mile loop and 5K walk, along with music, food and fun.

Obama Camp Push: New Voters

continued ▲ from Front

voters in Oregon while Republicans account for 33 percent. The rest are registered as third-party or nonaffiliated voters.

The Obama campaign has opened nine offices across the state and has thousands of volunteers working to maintain its voter registration gains to ensure that Oregon's stays in the Blue State column for the November election.

The surge in Democratic registration could give a boost to others on the Democratic ballot as well, in particular Senate candidate Jeff Merkley, the state House speaker trying to unseat Republican Sen. Gordon Smith this fall.

"When we elect Sen. Obama president, we want to make sure we have the votes in the U.S. Senate to carry out his policies," said Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., who took part in Monday's Obama briefing. "Speaker Merkley will be one of those votes in support."

Hill, meanwhile, called Oregon "a huge part of our overall strategy for winning," but said it was too early to say whether Obama would be returning to Oregon to campaign this fall. The Illinois Democrat made several campaign swings through Oregon in the primary election.

Similarly, Republican contender John McCain's spokesman, Rick Gorka, declined to comment on whether McCain's future travel plans might include a stop in Oregon

Taking a Seat with History

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came to see the candidate at Memorial Coliseum—the first time it was full since the Blazers won the playoffs and later the 75,000 people showed up for Obama at Waterfront Park.

Citing failures of the Bush administration, Boyer looks forward to the changes Obama champions, and is encouraged by the inspiration his candidate has generated in younger generations.

Boyer is happy to see an African American presidential candidate nominated, but also has great faith in Obama's ability to effect

positive change, saying, "He's very intelligent, a scholar. He's a very progressive young man, having worked in areas of organizing and civil rights law. Being young, he's up-to-date, too."

Ross is one of Oregon's committed delegates to U.S. Sen. Hillary Clinton, but he too is excited about being a witness to history.

He applauds a decision by Obama to place Clinton's name in nomination as an honor for her close race to become the first woman nominated for president.

As a person with Hispanic roots, he hopes the convention

will help him build ties for his Latino voter outreach efforts. He will also record day-by-day information for public consumption on his blog, mosesross.com.

Obama delegate Minor is most excited by the chance to bring the nation a message about the need for family-wage jobs, job training, affordable higher education, universal healthcare and sustainable retirement programs.

"I hope I can carry word, from Oregon to the powers that be, that this state, this economy, needs some help," she says.

Minor says, "Obama has the ability to pull a good team to-

gether. That's what I'm excited about."

She urges Obama supporters to get active now—canvassing, urging friends and family to attend rallies and make phone calls—as the Oct. 14 deadline for voter registration for the Nov. 4 election approaches rapidly.

Those interested in witnessing the convention with other Obama supporters at local gathering spots can get more information under "Upcoming Events" by visiting the website or.barackobama.com.

As Boyer says, "It's history-making time."



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Omar Murphy, 11, gets ready for school with a haircut by Tarrance Atkins of Headquarters in Cuts we Trust, 1465A N.E. Prescott St.

Obama Acceptance Speech Party Scheduled

The community is invited to celebrate the nomination of Sen. Barack Obama for President as he makes his acceptance speech in Denver during a healthy, alcohol-

free event at Hands On Medicine, a primary care clinic at 5311 N. Vancouver Ave.

A tent in the parking lot behind the building will accommodate

the Thursday, Aug. 28 celebration, scheduled to begin at 5:30 p.m. and hosted by State Rep. Chip Shields and Shelda Holmes, State Sen. Margaret Carter,

County Commissioner Jeff Cogan and Metro Councilor Rex Burkholder.

RSVP on the web at chipshields.com

Haircuts for Kids

Kids ages 6 to 15 are invited to get ready for school with free haircuts on Tuesday, Sept. 2 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Self Enhancement, Inc., 3920 N. Kerby Ave.

SEI and some of Portland's finest barbers are giving back to

the community by sponsoring and donating their time and labor for the event.

Raffles, prizes, food and drinks will be provided. Participants are urged to arrive with no products in their hair.

In Loving Memory

Lorri Marzette Rice Ellis

Funeral services for Lorri Marzette Rice Ellis, a former Portland resident who died on June 24, 2008 in Sacramento, Calif., were held June 19 at God's Next Level Ministry in Sacramento.

She was born Feb. 28, 1958 in Portland. Her mother was Dorris Sylvester.

She and her brother, Keith were adopted by Willis Rice. A younger brother, Marcus, joined the family several years later. Her life was further enriched 36 years later with the introduction of her "twin" brother Luther.

She found her true mission in life after becoming a member of God's Next Level Ministry under the leadership of a Pastor Martinez. But her need to serve and love was not exclusive to her church.

Lorri loved her family, including her grandfather John H Sylvester Sr., who preceded her in death. Survivors that will miss her vibrant spirit include her mother, Dorris L. Brown and stepfather Eugene Brown of Beaumont, Calif.; her father Willis R. Rice of Portland; grandmother Thelma M. Sylvester of Portland; brothers Keith Rice of San Jose, Calif., Luther Turner of Brooklyn, N.Y., and Marcus Rice of Los Angeles; and several other family members and friends.



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