

Bicycle Shop Grows with Community

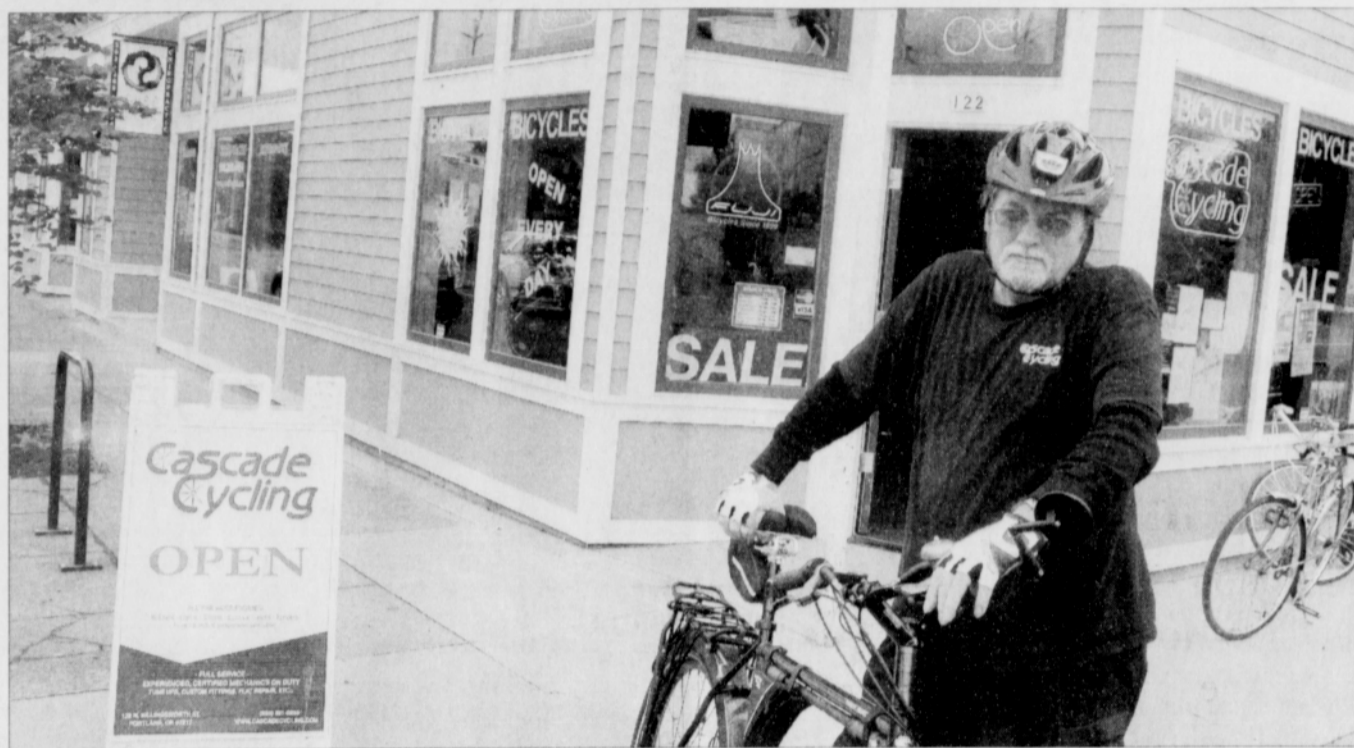
Cascade Cycling is a business that just had to happen.

The full service bicycle shop, which opened in August 2006, sits along a major bicycle lane of traffic on North Vancouver Avenue and Killingsworth Street in an up and coming area.

The owner of this great bicycle shop, Ben Bartlett, lives in the area and used to commute to his job in downtown Portland via Vancouver Avenue almost every day.

When he noticed that a building was being renovated on the corner of Vancouver and Killingsworth, he borrowed money, quit his job, found the best bicycle mechanics around and opened the bicycle shop.

Cascade Cycling carries bicycles for just about everyone from eight to eighty-four. There are easy-boarding bicycles with



Ben Bartlett is open for business at his Cascade Cycling shop at the intersection of North Vancouver Avenue and Killingsworth Street.

a low center of gravity and easy internal gearing for those who want added stability; light weight single speeds and everything else in between.

The main emphasis is on providing bicycles that fit one's needs and personality. There are low cost commuter bikes, custom and touring bikes and the fastest folding bicycles on the planet for those that use bicycles along with alternate forms of transportation.

Cascade Cycling has mechanics on site seven days a week. They often build custom bicycles to fit a customer's body size and specific needs. They fix flats, do tune-ups and give technical information.

The shop also carries all the supplies necessary to make your ride a good ride or they can order it.

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

In Loving Memory

Vannessa Ann Baker

Vannessa Ann Baker was born to the union of Jewelene Banks and Lablase Blocker on Sept. 1, 1954 in Vancouver. She later moved to Portland with her mother and sister Rhonda. Her mother later married Claudius Banks Sr., who raised both children as his own.



Vannessa attended Humboldt and Highland Elementary schools. After graduating from Cleveland High School in 1972, Vannessa continued her education at Pacific University, graduating in 1976 with a degree in sociology.

Her degree led her to Albina Head Start and later moved to Self Enhancement, Inc., in 1992 where she was a dedicated and faithful employee until

her passing on June 17, 2008.

Vannessa loved gardening and telling jokes.

She was preceded in death by her mother Jewelene Banks, her father Lablase Blocker and grandmother and grandfather, Simone and Viola Watson.

She leaves to mourn and cherish her memories her husband Vernon Baker; father Claudius Banks Sr. and wife Greta; two daughters; Angela Benson and Jessica Ellis; six sisters, Rhonda

Bayer of Tacoma, Stephanie Banks, Cathy Banks of Portland, Celeste Escalera of Las Vegas, Nev., Deborah Blocker of Oakland, Calif. and Lola Blocker of New York; five brothers, Claudius Banks II, Chris Blocker, Antwan Blocker, Craig Blocker, all of Portland and Sonny Conley of Las Vegas; grandchildren Samiah, Corey and J'Nia, Traveonte and Miss Shandrea; numerous aunts and uncles and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and many friends.

Celebration of Life

Christor Lewis

A celebration of life musical for Christor Lewis, who passed away June 5, 2008 in King Wood, Texas, will be held Friday, Aug. 29 at 7 p.m. at the Highland Christian Center, 7600 N.E. Glisan St.

He was the founder of the Portland gospel group "Disciples in Song" and a participant in many other choirs in the city.

Auto Dealer, Father Defied Adversity

Otis Gkant

Funeral services were held Monday at Vancouver Avenue First Baptist Church for Otis Gkant, one of the first black car dealers in Oregon.

He was born in Shaw, Miss., to Louis and Iola Gkant. At the age of 7, the family moved to Venice, Ill., where he later married his childhood sweetheart Lorraine Washum. To that union was born Vannessa Gkant.

To further his career, he moved to San Diego, Calif. and later married Ali Robinson and had his second child, Marilyn in 1958. He later returned to Portland, where three more children, Maxine, Walter and Otie were born.

At age 31 he entered the car dealership business and was part of the Auto Dealers Union. During a period of adversity and turbulent times, he made the decision to go into business for himself and in 1967 launched the successful O.G. Motors Co. and remained in business until 2001, 34 years.

In 1974, he married Helen Massey; they were married for 17 years. In 1978, he gave his life to the Lord and faithfully attended Vancouver Avenue Baptist Church and became a church deacon.

It was said of Otis that he was a good father, a hardworking and successful businessman, a faithful and trusted deacon, and a man; who despite adversity, defied the odds.

He leaves to mourn his children, daughters Vannessa Gkant of St. Louis, Mo., Marilyn Dixon of Portland, Maxine Lawrence of Portland and Otie Williams of Redford, Mich.; a son Walter A. Gkant of Harrisonburg, Va.; brothers Bobby Felts and Mike Felts; an aunt Rubie Jackson and husband Lorenzo Jackson of St. Louis; an uncle Wardel Dennis and wife Virginia of Detroit; Helen Massey and Lana Matthew; and a host of grandchildren, great grandchildren, relatives, friends and the community at large.

Arrangements by Cox & Cox Funeral Chapel.



Church Leader Remembered

Johnnie Mae Hastings

Funeral services were held Monday at Allen Temple Church for Johnnie Mae Hastings who died Aug. 19, 2008.

She was born Nov. 11, 1932 to Van and Luvenia (Elliott) Alexander in Louann, Ark. She was the 16th child born to this union which yielded four sets of twins.

She united with New Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church in Louann at an early age and moved to Portland in 1949. She was a graduate of Jefferson High School in 1950. She later enrolled in a nursing program at Clark College and became a Licensed Practical Nurse. She worked many years at Holiday Park Hospital.

Johnnie Mae had many hobbies but the one she loved and

enjoyed most was fishing.

She was an active member of Ada Chapter Eastern Stars since the 1970s, holding titles such as secretary, past matron, member of the executive board and the grand building committee.

Johnnie Mae was a faithful member of Allen Temple Church for many years and was on the Stewart board.

She was also an active member of Volunteers of America and has received several awards.

Johnnie Mae leaves to mourn her daughter Rhonda (Hastings) Roundtree (Ray); grandson John Newell III; granddaughter Victoria Newell; great grandchildren Romel and Sir James Newell; and a host of nieces and nephews. She will be dearly missed by many.

Arrangements by Cox & Cox Funeral Chapel.



Finish Line Automotive, LLC

where honesty and quality matter

Jason Sharp

1033 NE 82nd Ave
Portland, OR 97220

Phone: 503-254-1216
FAX: 503-261-7361
E-mail: Finlineauto@aol.com

NORTHWEST VOICE OF CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH

Bishop H.L. Hodge, Ph.D.
Pastor/Teacher/Revivalist



What: "The Voice Speaks"

A Different Location

Where: Now at Emmanuel COGICU
4800 NE 30th Avenue, Portland, OR 97211

When: Sundays 8:00 A.M. Worship Service

Wednesdays 7:00 P.M. Bible Study

Bishop Hodge and Congregation invite everyone to join us at our appointment with Jesus.

We Reach, Teach, & Preach in Jesus' Name!!!

To inquire about our Training Ministry call 503-863-6545 or email: hodgehspks@msn.com

Life of Service Party

Portland residents and business leaders Paul and Geneva Knauls will be honored for a life of service during an "Elegant Evening with the Beyons" on Saturday, Sept. 6 from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Shilo Inn Suites, 11707 N.E. Airport Way.

The Sweet Harmonies of the Beyons is a local R&B/Gospel group. Admission is \$30 in advance or 35 at the door.

State Farm®
Providing Insurance and Financial Services

Home Office, Bloomington, Illinois 61710



Ernest J. Hill, Jr.

Agent
4946 N. Vancouver Avenue, Portland, OR 97217
503 286 1103 Fax 503 286 1146
ernest.hill.hsb@statefarm.com
24 Hour Good Neighbor Service®



Michael Tillery

Broker

503.975.8004

michael@bridgetownrealty.com

Please call me, your neighborhood specialist, for any of your Real Estate needs. My success is built on a commitment to quality service.



BRIDGETOWN REALTY



It's not your standard funeral home...
it's the *new* standard in funeral homes.

TERRY FAMILY FUNERAL HOME

In a business where things seemingly stay the same, a change has taken place. A change that may raise the bar on the level of service a family can experience from a funeral home.

You see, when we went into business we aspired to be so far and away the best that a new level of excellence was to be created. We would like you to know that we've achieved our goal.



2337 N Williams Ave
(503) 249-1788 • www.terryfamilyfuneralhome.com

IT'S HAPPENING EVERY SUNDAY AT
MATT DISHMAN COMMUNITY CENTER
FREE SOUP & SALAD BAR @ 2PM
COMMUNITY CHURCH SERVICE @ 3PM

SPONSORED BY

ROYAL PRIESTHOOD MINISTRIES

IN DISHMAN'S AUDITORIUM
77 NE KNOTT

WWW.ROYALPM.ORG



Pas. Kevin Jenkins



Sis. Patrina Jenkins

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!!! JUST COME AS YOU ARE!!!
ENJOY GOOD FOOD, GOOD MUSIC AND GOOD LESSONS

Advertise with diversity in The Portland Observer
Call 503-288-0033 ads@portlandobserver.com