



**Politically Charged Art**  
Multi-ethnic portraits mix  
more than color at Interstate  
Firehouse Cultural Center  
See story, page A5

**General Election Nov. 4**  
Last Day to Register:  
Oct. 14  
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# The Portland Observer

'City of Roses'

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## Week in The Review

### McCain Defends VP Pick

Republican John McCain said Tuesday he's satisfied that Sarah Palin's background was properly checked out before the Alaska governor joined the Republican ticket. See story, page A2.



### Obama Leads in New Polls

A new USA Today/Gallop poll in the race for president shows Barack Obama with a 50 percent to 43 percent lead over John McCain among registered voters. A new CBS poll shows him up by 8 points, 48 percent to 40 percent. See story, page A2.

### Evacuees Wait to Come Home

Gulf Coast residents who evacuated ahead of Hurricane Gustav grew increasingly anxious to return home, but authorities said Tuesday they would have to wait. Checkpoints popped up around New Orleans to keep the city empty of residents so work could get under way to restore power and other critical services.

### Fire Closes Oregon Capitol

The Oregon State Capitol was closed Tuesday after a weekend fire damaged the governor's Ceremonial Office and other areas. The fire started early Saturday on the terrace outside the governor's second-floor office suite, where construction supplies and materials were stored for a renovation project.

### Mexican Police Held in Death

Six Mexican officers have been placed under house arrest on suspicion of homicide after an Oregon man died while in police custody in the resort city of San Jose del Cabo. A state deputy prosecutor said authorities will investigate whether the police officers played a role in the death.



### Tiger's Wife Expecting Again

Tiger Woods said his wife Elin is expecting in late winter without being more specific on a due date. Woods' first child, daughter Sam, was born last year.

### Weapon Fired at Bus

Someone fired a weapon at a TriMet bus just after 1 a.m. as the bus drove near the intersection of North Albina and Killingsworth Street. No one was seriously injured. A window on the bus was cracked and investigators think the damage may have been caused by a paintball gun or slingshot.

### Missing Hikers Found Safe

A party of missing hikers made it back safely Tuesday after some of its members spent a night in the woods near Horsetail Falls in the Columbia Gorge. Rescuers said that the party of acquaintances from a Mormon church in Beaverton set out Monday on a 10-mile day hike but split up because they were traveling at different speeds.



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

## Jazz on the Mississippi

Harold Williams Two of the Diversity Institute (from left) joins community leaders Rance Spruill of the Albina Youth Opportunity School, DJ OGOne of Jammin 107.5 and John Jackley of the Portland Development Commission to promote the first ever "Jazz on the Mississippi" entertainment event coming Thursday, Sept. 11 to Mississippi Avenue between Beech and Shaver Streets. For more information, see display advertisement on page A3.

## Parents Warned on Kids Drinking

### Warning labels added to liquor store shelves

The Oregon Department of Human Services with the support of Oregon Partnership and the Oregon Liquor Control Commission have kicked off a campaign to educate adults about the dangers of furnishing alcohol to minors.

New stickers, bottle hangers and posters are being distributed at Oregon liquor stores to let parents know that allow-

ing teens to drink at home is not okay.

The campaign describes how kids frequently take alcohol from home supplies and reinforces the message that parental disapproval is the most important reason kids don't drink.

It also drives home the fact that it's illegal for adults to host

underage drinking parties — even in your home.

A recent Oregon Healthy Teens Survey shows that about a third of 8th graders in the state have consumed alcohol in the past 30 days as have about half of 11th graders.

The Survey also shows that 31 percent of 8th grade drinkers and

37 percent of 11th grade drinkers prefer hard liquor.

"People who buy or provide alcohol for a minor could go to jail and pay a fine of \$1,000 or more," said Steve Sander, OLCC training analyst and program coordinator. "Kids are 'shoulder tapping' — asking adults to buy alcohol for them. One way to reduce underage drinking is to educate the grownups who are buying it."

The "Face it, Parents" campaign is managed by Oregon Partnership and designed to reduce underage drinking by targeting parents.

For more about "Face It, Parents," visit faceitparents.com.

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— Steve Sander, OLCC training analyst and program coordinator



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

New stickers and bottle hangers educate parents about the pitfalls to allowing teens to drink at home. Promoting the educational campaign are Rudy Williams (left) of the Oregon Liquor Control Commission and Pamela S. Erickson of Public Action Management.

## Verdict Finds Workplace Racism

Jury awards  
\$19 million to  
auto salesmen

A federal jury in Portland has awarded \$19 million to four former auto salesmen after ruling they were victims of racism at work.

Carlos Barfield, Marcus Arnold, Jahaeel Hardy and Kent Paul sued in 2006 after they said managers and other workers at the Thomason Toyota dealership in suburban Gladstone encouraged racist remarks that management failed to stop.

The Aug. 27 verdict was against the dealership's former owner, the New York-based Asbury Automotive Group, which bought a majority stake in Thomason and its nine new-car dealerships in 1998.

The dealership is under new ownership and called Toyota of Gladstone.

Asbury sold the dealership before the lawsuit was filed in 2006.

Keith Dozier, co-counsel for the four men, said the verdict was a triumph of the jury system.

"You can't come into the state of Oregon and treat people badly and make money off them and expect that you're not going to get caught," Dozier said.

Several witnesses claimed that a supervisor repeatedly described himself as a "redneck" and threatened to put a bullet in the head of anyone who complained.

"Am I the only redneck here?" one Thomason employee reportedly said. "All I do is take Viagra and redneck pills every morning."

Another employee "talked about how his parents are rednecks and they don't like blacks and they used to burn crosses," according to witness statements.

Another dealership employee used racist epithets, according to witness statements.

A dealership employee intentionally steered a white customer away from one of the plaintiffs because the customer "was a redneck and didn't want to deal with him because he is black," according to witness statements.

The four plaintiffs, who are black, claimed they lost car deals because of their race.

The African American Chamber of Commerce had been part of the community horsepower supporting the lawsuit, according to Roy Jay, chamber president and chief executive officer.

The chamber gathered information from various sources that substantiated the claims in the lawsuit.

"It is unfortunate in this day and age that African Americans and other minorities are faced with a growing level of discriminatory and racial injustices in the workplace," Jay said.

He added that the mistreatment of the black employees is offensive to a local African American population that spends millions of dollars purchasing new

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