

Barbers at the Top of their Game

Champions opens on MLK

All the hard work that went into the opening of Champions Barbershop at 3827 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. has passed, and now the reality sets in. The shop's barbers Jesse Jackson and Andy Harry and owners, Jamaal Lane and Art Williams are hard at work, providing cuts in their upscale, sports-themed shop.

Champions Barbershop opened their doors to their clients providing an attractive and inviting atmosphere for those seeking a "champion level" of grooming services.

The shop also provides a variety of discounts to the community. Last month, they offered \$3 off cuts for PIL students receiving a 3.0 GPA during their first quarter. They're also provided \$3 off cuts for anyone who brought in an unopened toy donation. The contribution of toys was donated to Self Enhancement, Inc. for their holiday needs.

Lane describes that the name

shop's motto, but it's their lifestyle. "Unity, being one, is key for us as barbers," Williams said. "There is an accountability we have for our community and each other. We push each other to live at a higher standard."

Lane explains how the dictionary describes a champion as someone who fights for a cause.

"We professionally cut hair and behind the cutting there's a higher purpose," he said.

On a daily basis, Champions Barbershop customers not only come in to receive a cut, but also for the conversations.

Sometimes full of comedy, the talk is an open invitation to discuss politics, sports, religion and relationships. All of the barbers can share where they've been and where they're going and are dedicated to living a positive standard that can lead others to do the same.

"Our desire is for our shop to impact the community in a way that would leave a legacy," Williams says. "We're very passionate about the young people in our community and we hope to be an



PHOTOS BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Champions Barbershop is a new upscale and sports-themed business at 3827 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Pictured are co-owner Jamaal Lane (from left), barbers Andy Harry and Jesse Jackson, and co-owner Art Williams.



Customers fill the seats at the new Champions Barbershop.

of the shop represents what the barbers strive to be.

"To be a champion, you are considered the best," Lane said. "Like in basketball, there are professional ball players, but there are only a few champions. When you achieve championship level, you're at the top of your game."

Without doubt the community support has shown that these barbers are best at what they do.

Even Portland's very own winners, Portland Trailblazers Greg Oden, Brandon Roy, LaMarcus Aldridge and Martell Webster are regular clients and true supporters of the shop.

"Community Builds Champions. Be One," is not only the

influential and positive example."

Outside of the positive conversations and great cuts, this unique shop also offers livability in a newly renovated building, free wi-fi, coffee bar and a flat screen TV. This place has walls decked out with sports memorabilia, spacious seating and a comfortable area for kid's to play.

"We not only wanted a clean, refreshing place as a barbershop, but we wanted a family atmosphere. Our plans included accommodations for parents and kids," Lane says. "A few of us have wives and children and truly understand family. What better place to have a mix of all the things we love, family and sports!"

Next time you're in the area, stop by Champions and experience what the champion level feels like.

22nd Annual Neighborhood
Fix-It Fair
 A FREE event where you can learn simple and affordable ways to improve your home, live healthy and save money.

8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
 January 10, 2009 | PARKROSE HIGH SCHOOL | 12003 NE Shaver St.
 February 7, 2009 | GEORGE MIDDLE SCHOOL | 10000 N Burr Ave.

- Free lunch
- Free on-site professional childcare
- Door prizes every hour
- Hourly workshops
- Day-long exhibits

Presented by City of Portland

503-823-4309 | fixitfair@ci.portland.or.us | www.portlandonline.com/osd/fif

Sponsored by: PGE | Energy Trust | Portland Development Commission | Pacific Power

Snow Doesn't Stop Tram

The Portland Aerial Tram had its biggest day of 2008 during the recent snow emergency, recording a total ridership of 5,428 on Dec. 23 - and for the first time since operations began 23 months ago, the two Tram cabins reached full-capacity loads of 78 people on some trips.

Oregon Health Sciences University President Joe Robertson said tram operators extended hours, waived fares, and ran the tram through the holidays and Sundays.

"Their efforts meant we always had a safe, reliable way to get

people to and from Marquam Hill, even in the midst of ice, snow, freezing rain and slush," Robertson said.

Tram ridership totaled 37,644 during the 13 days of the snow emergency beginning on Dec. 15. The \$4 fare typically charged to non-OHSU riders was waived throughout the five-day stretch when road travel was most difficult - from Sunday, Dec. 21, through Thursday, Dec. 25 - to accommodate Marquam Hill residents who otherwise would have been stranded.

Repair Scams Follow Storms

December's winter storm has left many homes and buildings damaged by downed trees, ice-covered tree limbs and heavy snow. The Construction Contractors Board warns Oregon homeowners not to become a victim to those pretending to be legitimate contractors. Homeowners whose home and other property is damaged are prime targets.

If roofs, windows, fences, or patio coverings are damaged, or if you've got downed trees that should be removed the CCB

has the following advice:

Check to make sure the contractor is properly licensed. Consumers should verify a contractor's CCB license at www.oregon.gov/CCB, or 503-378-4621 before signing a home repair contract or paying any money.

Be wary of door-to-door repair solicitations, contractors using vehicles with out-of-state license plates and "too-good-to-be-true" bids.

Don't pay 100 percent of the bill before the repairs are properly completed.

24th Annual
"Keep Alive The Dream"
 Tribute to: Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

This event will feature artistic expressions of music, dance, psalm, inspirational speaking and politically motivating speeches.

WHEN? Monday January 19, 2009 **WHERE?** Highland Christian Center
 11:00 A.M. - 6:30 P.M. 7600 N.E. Glisan, Portland, Oregon

Appearances by: City, State and National Dignitaries, Legendary "Beyons", Oz and Company, University of Oregon Gospel Choir, Jefferson Dancers, Derrick Duffy and Chosen Generation, "No Kidding Choir", Michelle Lang and Still Water, Gospel Music Workshop of Oregon/Vancouver Chapters, Royalty, Linda Hornbuckle & Janice Scroggins, various schools and community groups.

Special Features: Life Time Achievement Awards Ceremony, Dreamers Village Bazaar

Live Program / Radio Broadcast: KBOO (90.7 FM)
 Broadcast/tape delayed on Portland Community Media (channel 11) 1:00 - 8:00PM
 and on Television Services (PPS - channel 28) 3:00 - 10:00PM

Donation: \$5.00 OR 5 cans of non-perishable food.

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 INSPIRED BY THE PURSUIT OF PROGRESS

A Production of World Arts Foundation, Inc.
 A Non-Profit Organization

For program information & event schedule log onto:
www.worldartsfoundationinc.org

Visit our BLOG at
<http://nlmedia.com/MLKT.wmv>

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: 503-816-9001

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