

50¢ Special Coverage Issue

Black History Month and 1

Neighborhood Reincarnation

The Left Bank is a new development, but for many it will always be remembered as the Dude Ranch, a black nightclub See story, page A5



The Portland Observer

'City of Roses'

Established in 1970

www.portlandobserver.com

Volume XXXIV, Number 8

Committed to Cultural Diversity

Wednesday • February 25, 2009

Week in The Review

Iraq Troop Removal Set

President Barack Obama plans to remove all U.S. combat troops from Iraq by August 2010, administration officials said Tuesday, ending the war that defined his presidential campaign three months later than he had promised. See story, page A6.

Stocks Up on Remarks

Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke gave Wall Street a double dose of reassurance Tuesday saying the recession might end this year, and that regulators aren't planning to nationalize banks. The news lifted the stock markets off their lowest levels since 1997.

Locke to Run Commerce

President Obama intends to nominate former Washington Gov. Gary Locke to be commerce secretary on Wednesday in his third try to fill the job. Locke, a Democrat, became the nation's first Chinese-American governor when he took office in 1997 and served two terms.

Vancouver Sex Offender Admits to Killing Girl

A transient sex offender admitted to police that he beat a 13-year-old Hazel Dell girl to death after attempting to rape her and then moved her body afterwards to "an area where she would be found," according to a court document.

Mardi Gras Shooting

A Mardi Gras parade erupted into chaos on Fat Tuesday in New Orleans when a series of gunshots nearby struck six people, including an infant. The infant was not seriously injured and two suspects were in custody, police said.

Barkley to Serve Jail Time

Former NBA great Charles Barkley was sentenced on Monday to 10 days in jail after pleading guilty to driving drunk in Scottsdale, Ariz., last New Year's Eve. He will have five days suspended upon his completion of a court-approved alcohol program, traffic school and a \$2,000 fine.

North Korea Plans Launch

North Korea declared Tuesday it is making "brisk headway" in plans to send a satellite into orbit as part of its space program, a launch regional powers fear is a cover up for testing a long-range ballistic missile capable of striking Alaska and the western United States.

Huge Ship in Portland

The largest ship of its kind in the world made its first stop in America on Monday and the port of call was Portland. The Morning Lisa, a massive sea-going car transporter that is about nine stories tall and longer than two football fields. It can haul more than 8,000 cars at one time.

39 years of community service

Tax Time Help

Avoiding the pitfalls

BY JAKE THOMAS THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Americans are finding themselves in the midst of one their least favorite times of the year: tax season.

Although paying your share for the upkeep of state and national government is full of pitfalls, it doesn't have to be a taxing experience. There are plenty of ways to get free help filing your taxes. And if you play it right, you could come out with some extra cash after filing your return by April 17.

If you do decide to go the route of using a commercial tax preparer to get your taxes in, one thing to look out for is the offer of a Refund Anticipation Loan, which is a loan given by the preparer for the amount of the refund with interest.

Consumer advocacy groups have reported that the refund loans have been used to prey on people needing their return in a hurry. People seeking a quick refund are lured in with the offer of a loan and then watch it evaporate as they are charged up to 500 percent in interest.

Aimee Olin, the director of the Oregon branch of the Association of Community Organizers for Reform Now, said that getting a RAL might be a good option for some taxpayers, but stresses that they should always read the fine print of the loan agreement and should shop around for a good interest rate.

Olin hasn't received any recent reports of commercial tax preparers using RAL's to put the squeeze on desperate people in the area, but she said it's possible.

"The risk is definitely out there," she said.



Tressa Graham is all smiles after getting her 2008 tax forms completed with the help of Jeff Malmquist, one of the volunteers offering free tax help for those who qualify through a coalition sponsored by CASH Oregon, KeyBank, AARP and the United Way.

Free Tax Help

ACORN Oregon 503-771-0396

E-mail: oracorn@acorn.org

CASH Oregon 503-243-7765

AARP tax preparation website locator: aarp.org/money/taxable

If you don't want to shell out money for a commercial preparer, it may be tempting to do it yourself. However, you might be missing out on some tax credits that could give your refund a significant boost.

There are a number of tax credits millions of eligible people overlook each year. According to information provided by the IRS, these are some of the more common:

The Earned Income Tax Credit is the big one. It's

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Flu Hits Hard

Outbreak reaches epidemic level

Influenza has arrived in full force in Oregon and state health officials are urging anyone who wants to avoid the illness to get vaccinated.

Oregon medical laboratories have reported marked increases over the last few weeks in the number of positive flu speci-

mens they've identified.

Medical offices around the state that routinely report the level of influenza activity in their practices first reported epidemic levels of flu transmission during the last week of January. The numbers have been rising steadily in the last three weeks.

"Given that in three of the last four years influenza activity has peaked in either the last week in February or the first week in

March in Oregon, I would not be surprised to see the numbers continue to climb over the next few weeks," said Dr. Ann Thomas, a public health physician with the Oregon Department of Human Services Public Health Division who oversees influenza activity for the state.

Nationally, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report a good match between the circulating strains of influenza A and the two strains contained in this year's vaccine.

While the strain of influenza B in this year's vaccine does not

match as well, that strain accounts for only 20 percent of influenza cases nationally and in Oregon, health officials said.

The influenza vaccine is known to provide some cross-protection against strains not contained in the vaccine, often reducing the severity of illness.

With the flu season is heating up, Thomas urges people who haven't gotten flu shots to do so.

It takes about two weeks for the vaccine to become effective.

About 450 Oregonians die from the flu each year.

Entrepreneur Lives Dream with Clyde's

Popular night spot had racist past

BY LEE PERLMAN THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Today Clyde's Prime Rib at 5474 N.E. Sandy Blvd. is, among other things, one of the city's premier live jazz venues. When Clyde Jenkins bought the building in 2004 it was a venerable purveyor of prime rib and other fine dining. Prior to that, it was the Coon Chicken Inn.

The third of a chain of restaurants that started in Salt Lake City and Seattle, Portland's Coon Chicken Inn opened in 1931. Each of the restaurants were known for their giant murals of a black face at the entrance of the establishments in what is now considered one of the most insulting of all anti-black caricatures.

Lester Maxon Graham and his

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PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Portland native Clyde Jenkins is living his dream as the owner and operator of Clyde's Prime Rib at 5474 N.E. Sandy Blvd., a popular venue for dining and live jazz, but also a building with an infamous past when the worst racial stereotypes were accepted as normal.