



**Walnut Park Saved**  
Non-profit buys apartment complex to retain its use for elderly, disabled  
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**Arts Center Woes**  
Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center fights for funding  
See story, page A2



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## Week in The Review

**Obamas' Arrive in London**  
President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama arrived in London Tuesday for their first journey across the Atlantic since taking office. First up for the president was a summit of the world's economic powers to address the global financial meltdown.

**Pistachios Contaminated**  
The salmonella scare that prompted a blanket federal warning against eating pistachios may have erupted because contaminated raw nuts got mixed with roasted nuts during processing, the California company at the center of the nationwide recall said Tuesday.

**Tainted Pepper Spices**  
Public health officials in Oregon and three other western states have tracked an outbreak of salmonellosis to ground pepper imported, packaged and distributed by Union International Food Co. and distributed to restaurants and spice whole sellers.

**Black Scholar Remembered**  
John Hope Franklin, a revered historian and scholar of the African-American experience, was being remembered after his death, March 25 at the age of 94. Franklin's book "From Slavery to Freedom" was a landmark integration of black history into American history.



**Stock Market High Note**  
Wall Street ended a tumultuous March on a high note, managing its first winning month this year and its best monthly performance in nearly seven years. Stocks finished off their earlier highs on Tuesday but resumed a three-week rally that has brought the Dow Jones industrials up 16 percent since hitting new 12-year lows in early March.

**Computer Infection Noted**  
A nasty computer infection will start ramping up its efforts Wednesday to use those machines for cyber crimes. The Conficker worm spreads from PC to PC by exploiting a security hole in Microsoft Corp.'s Windows operating system. The hole was fixed in October, but if your computer doesn't get automatic updates from Microsoft, you could be vulnerable.

**Oregon Beach Cleanup**  
Despite wet and stormy conditions, more than 4,300 volunteers turned out to participate Saturday in the 24th annual SOLV Great Oregon Spring Beach Cleanup. The volunteers removed an estimated 60,000 pounds of trash from Oregon's coastline.

**Portland Home Prices Fall**  
Home prices in the Portland metro area continued their decline in January, according to an industry report, dropping about 3 percent in a month, but down 14 percent from a year ago.

**39 years of community service**



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

LaVon Van is determined to make LV's Sports Bar, Restaurant and Lounge, 3530 N. Vancouver Ave., a comfortable and safe environment.

## Club Twelve 22 Hits Reset

**Proprietor determined to get past troubles**

BY JAKE THOMAS  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

LaVon Van, wants everyone to know your name when you walk into his bar. Van, the proprietor of LV's Sports Bar, Restaurant, and Lounge (commonly known as Club Twelve 22), wants his bar to be a community place where customers can kick back and meet up with old

friends or take in a Blazer's game in a comfortable and safe environment.

He also wants you to know you he's trying to get rid of the rough crowd that has given the entertainment venue a sketchy reputation over the years.

Located near the corner of North Vancouver Avenue and Fremont Street, Club Twelve 22 -- one of Portland's last "black bars" -- LV's has been plagued for years with problems involving gangs, drugs, and violence. But Van, who has owned the establishment since 2004, is determined to turn it around.

"My first five years has been dealing with a lot of negative issues," said Van,

who admits that the bar has attracted a seedy crowd that caused trouble.

Portland Police records reveal that there were 31 incidents in 2008 alone at the bar, some involving drugs and violence.

According to Oregon Liquor Control Commission records, LV's has a history of "serious and persistent problems," prompting the commission to clamp down on it for drug dealing and shootings in the parking lot.

The bar was cited last year by the OLCC for permitting or not controlling unlawful activity on the premises and providing private security without a license. The bar was fined \$2,310 and

was put on notice that it's in jeopardy of losing its liquor license.

But Van points to his progress. "Since August I've really done some cleaning up," he said.

He gave the troublemakers the boot, and cut down on the in-and-out traffic that lends itself to questionable behavior. He got himself licensed to run security and checks IDs more vigilantly. He has a camera system in place to monitor what goes on and has told the police to check in anytime they want. He also placed a big "no loitering" sign in

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## Instilling Sportsmanship over Conflict

**Local players earn points for conflict resolution**

BY LEE PERLMAN  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A local group of basketball players have learned some things about playing the game, but it has nothing to do with the shot, dribble, pass and rebound.

The lesson is avoiding conflict on and off the court.

"I learned it's good to have sportsmanship," seventh grader Cardeana Barton says. "You need to give people their personal space on and off the court." The personal space for basketball would be the length of your arm.

Another seventh grader, Ja'Nae Davis, remembers a time when another girl was in her "personal space" and made contact; Davis responded by hitting her. If that happened today, she says, "I'd walk away."

Fifth grader Secret Wilson has learned about the benefits of teamwork.

"Basketball is a team game, and you



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Cardeana Barton (left) and Ja'Nae Davis learn the finer points to sportsmanship in a workshop called "Competition, Not Conflict."

can't do it without the team," she said. "If another girl is open, you pass to her. And you don't get mad."

As members of the Portland Parks and

Recreation's Cisco Kids youth basketball league, the girls completed a series of workshops called "Competition, Not Conflict," conducted by the Northwest

Institute for Conflict Resolution.

Carried out by a team of six coaches with conflict resolution backgrounds, the pilot program attempts to instill positive values into athletic competition.

Over the course of three weeks the basketball players were given training in the areas of team building, race, culture and identity; gender, power and leadership; and sportsmanship and conflict.

Resolution team leader Michael McCormick said there's an artificial conflict in sports that's created by our obsession with winning.

"Together with racial prejudice and other ingredients, it can lead to ugly incidents," he said.

Last year, at a high school basketball tournament in Eugene, the Roosevelt High School team was showered with racial epithets by the home crowd. McCormick says he hopes to correct such attitudes with this sort of training. However, he adds, "You don't have a chance unless you start when (the athletes) are young."

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## Widow's Tobacco Award Upheld in Appeal

**Decision comes 10 years after original verdict**

(AP) - The Supreme Court on Tuesday threw out a cigarette maker's appeal of a \$79.5 million award to a Portland smoker's widow, likely signaling the end of a 10-year legal fight over the large payout.

In a one-sentence order, the court left

in place a ruling by the Oregon Supreme Court in favor of Mayola Williams. The state court has repeatedly upheld a verdict against Altria Group Inc.'s Philip Morris USA in a fraud trial in 1999.

The judgment has grown to more than \$145 million with interest.

The justices heard arguments in the case in December, but said Tuesday that they are not passing judgment on the legal issues that were presented. Instead, it is as if the court had declined to hear the case at all.

Philip Morris had argued that the award should be thrown out and a new trial ordered because of flaws in the instructions given jurors before their deliberations.

Business interests had once hoped the high court would use the case to set firm limits on the award of punitive damages, intended to punish a defendant for its behavior and deter a repeat offense.

The case has bounced around appellate courts since 1999, when Williams

convinced a jury that Philip Morris should be held accountable for misleading people into thinking cigarettes were not dangerous or addictive.

Williams' husband Jesse was a janitor in Portland who started smoking during a 1950s Army hitch and died in 1997, six months after he was diagnosed with lung cancer.

His widow was awarded \$800,000 in actual damages. The punitive damages

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