

Diversity Takes Festival Stage

continued **▲** from Front

challenging, because of the bad economy.

Fortunately, Roberts and her team found some heroes.

"Providence Health Systems really stepped up to the plate," Roberts says. Among others were Safeway, New Seasons Markets, the Portland Development Commission, the Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods, Sam Brooks, Paul and Geneva Knauls, Coast Industries, Waste Management, the Chase Manhattan Bank (the inheritor of Washington Mutual).

The Portland Parks Bureau under the direction of City Commissioner Nick Fish waived its usual event fees. In place of some of the larger sponsors of years past, a number of smaller

contributors stepped forward.

"We asked people, if nothing else, to maintain the level of support they'd given in the past," Roberts says. "Everyone was really supportive. They wanted to maintain this."

The sponsors will be on hand on Friday from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the park for a special pre-festival networking opportunity with live music.

And so once again, Roberts is helping showcase the best of the north and northeast community, as the festival was originally conceived. Does she ever get tired of it all? "Yes, but the rewards are so great," she says.

For a complete Good in the Neighborhood schedule, visit goodintheneighborhood.org.

Local Musician Battles Cancer

Fundraiser to help with medical bills

Johnny Sanders, one of Portland's greatest and most talented musicians, has been diagnosed with liver cancer.

Sanders has inspired through his music and also through his outstanding personality. He has made an imprint in the hearts of many with the touch of his fingers across his keyboards. The strength and power behind his music is magical.

Sanders has played in several bands and has accompanied many others in jam sessions, as well as benefits for other musicians that have similar or other health problems.

He started his music career in the mid 60s with Ural Thompson's Band as well as his album "Can You Dug It". Also in the 60s, he performed at the Cotton Club under the ownership of Paul and Geneva Knauls.

Johnny has made a big im-



Johnny Sanders at the keyboards

pression during those times, playing behind some of the biggest acts at the club such as Big Mama Thornton, Major Lance The Ballards and The Fidels.

He has also performed with local musicians and singers from the 70s to current acts like Lester McFarland, Randy Monroe, Regina Earvins, Roslin Johnson, Alisha Lock, Patrick

Lamb, Norman "Boogie Cat", Calvin Walker, Linda Hornbuckle, Marvin (Shep), Narvey, Craig Mullen, Tim Bryson, Lloyd Jones, Ron Steen, Ron Manning, Andrew Belling, Lynn Russell, Kevin Tracy, Feto, Mike Miguel, Rafus, and many more.

He played at B B King's club in Nashville until just recently, and last but not least performed with the one we all call his twin, his younger brother Jimmy Sanders.

Due to his illness, Johnny Sanders is back in Portland to be close to family and friends.

On Sept. 27, there will be a benefit for him at the M & M Lounge at Fifth and Main in downtown Gresham from 3 p.m. to 1 a.m. Donations will help Johnny with medical bills.

Organizers are asking the community to come to the fundraiser and show Johnny how much we love and care for hip. There will be various entertainment acts, poems and dancing, along with door prizes.

For more information, call Lena Braxton at 503 328 8942.

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Steaming Pot Gumbolaya

BY QUIANA ALLEN

Virgil and Quiana Allen conceptualized Steaming Pot Gumbolaya in 2006.

That when the idea of selling gumbo erected during a family reunion. The Allen's had prepared gumbo in an eight gallon pot at the celebration, which vanished in minutes. Virgil and Quiana were astonished how fast the gumbo was eaten. They thought that it would be a great idea to market their culinary creation as the only good ole' Southern style gumbo that's available locally.

Virgil also knew that there was a demand for his cooking in his northeast Portland community. He first fell in love with cooking when he was 17 years old.

Virgil and Quiana got married last year and look to each other

Come hear the message from the Messenger

(Malachi 3:1)

The Honorable Bishop C.M. Bailey
June 27, 2009 at 7:00 PM
United House of Prayer for All People
7459 N. Haven Ave.
Portland, OR



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Virgil and Quiana Allen welcome customers to their Steaming Pot Gumbolaya restaurant at 5124 N.E. 42nd Ave.

for support and answers to better their chance of business success. Quiana helps run the restaurant while Virgil supports her endeavors as a future educator. Quiana is a member of the Portland Teachers Program and attends Portland State Univer-

sity. The couple thanks Cody Gray a former employee of the Oregon Association of Minority Entrepreneurs and attorneys Nancy and Becky from Davis Wright Tremaine law firm, who helped form their limited liability

corporation. Also, they thank the Business Outreach Program at Portland State University. Lastly, they thank their mothers for their financial support and God for allowing the opportunity to have a restaurant.

Voting Rights Act Upheld

Survives Supreme Court Challenge

(AP)-- The Voting Rights Act, the government's chief weapon against racial discrimination at polling places since the 1960s, survived a Supreme Court challenge Monday in a ruling that nevertheless warned of serious constitutional questions posed by part of the law.

Major civil rights groups and other defenders of the landmark law breathed a sigh of relief when the court ruled narrowly in favor of a small Texas governing authority while sidestepping the larger constitutional issue.

After argument in late April, it appeared the court's conservatives could have a majority to strike down part of the law

as unnecessary in an era marked by the election of the first African-American president.

But with only one justice in dissent, the court avoided the major questions raised over the section of the voting law that requires all or parts of 16 states — mainly in the South and with a history of discrimination in voting — to get Justice Department approval before making changes in the way elections are conducted.

The court said that the Northwest Austin Municipal Utility District No. 1 in Austin, Texas, could apply to opt out of the advance approval requirement, reversing a lower federal court that ruled it could not. The dis-

trict appears to meet the requirements to bail out, although the high court did not pass judgment Monday on that point.

Chief Justice John Roberts said the justices decided not to determine whether dramatic civil rights gains means the advance approval requirement is no longer necessary. That larger issue, Roberts said, "is a difficult constitutional question we do not answer today."

Justice Clarence Thomas, alone among his colleagues, said he would have resolved the case and held that the provision, known as Section 5, is unconstitutional. "The violence, intimidation and subterfuge that led Congress to pass Section 5 and this court to uphold it no longer remains," Thomas said.

Adams Survives Inquiry

continued **▲** from Front

that I am sorry.

Efforts to reach Breedlove through past attorneys were unsuccessful.

Adams currently faces a recall effort on behalf of a group that claims he subverted the democratic process with decep-

tive campaigning and abused his power. The group claims the recall has nothing to do with Adams' sexual orientation.

Kroger also looked into whether Adams hired a reporter from the Portland Mercury for a position on his staff in an effort to cover up the relationship with Breedlove, but found no

evidence to merit a criminal charge.

The report also considered accusations of misuse of government resources and theft by deception—which considered whether Adams asked for campaign contributions under false pretenses—but again found no evidence of a crime.

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