

The INSIDE

HOUSING
pages 9-12



SPORTS

pages 7-8



Arts & ENTERTAINMENT
pages 13-16

OPINION
pages 18-19



CLASSIFIEDS

page 17

APRIL CALENDAR

page 21

FOOD

page 24



This page
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What's on your list today?

LOCAL NEWS

Gas Prices Set Record

Retail gas prices across America are higher than they've ever been in April, according to AAA.

In Oregon, gas prices also set a record for the month, with the price of regular unleaded averaging \$3.78 a gallon this week, according to the AAA of Oregon and Idaho.

The high prices are blamed on supply and demand with added upward pressure on the price of crude oil from unrest in northern Africa and the Middle East.

AAA says pump prices have also been on the rise due to the annual change from winter-blend to the more expensive summer-blend gasoline.



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
The regular price of a gallon of gasoline nears the \$4 mark at the Shell Food Mart at Northeast Broadway and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. Plus and other premium fuels were over \$4 a gallon.

Image Award Nominee Comes Home

Author will share experiences at local events

Portland native and New York Times Bestselling author Heidi Durrow returns to childhood home to visit Portland Community College which adopted her award-winning debut novel as its annual campus-wide read.

The author of *The Girl Who Fell From the Sky* which The Oregonian named a Top 10 Book of 2010, will visit each of the four Portland Community College campuses.

Durrow, who attended Harriet Tubman Middle School and graduated from Jefferson High School, has received numerous awards and accolades for her debut novel including writer Barbara Kingsolver's Bellwether Prize for Literature of Social Change, and a nomination for Outstanding Literary Debut for the NAACP Image Awards.

The Girl Who Fell From the Sky centers on a biracial girl who moves to Portland after she survives a tragedy in which her family dies. Hailed as one of the Best Novels of 2010 by the Washington Post, the book has become a book club favorite and continues to climb the New York Times Bestseller List.

Durrow was the first person in her family to go to a four-year college. She is a graduate of Stanford University, Columbia's Graduate School of Journalism and Yale Law School.

Currently, she is the co-host of the award-winning weekly podcast *Mixed Chicks Chat*; and the co-founder and co-producer of the *Mixed Roots Film and Literary Festival*, an annual free public event, that celebrates stories of the Mixed experience. She is an occasional essay contributor to National Public Radio. *Ebony Magazine* recently named her as one of its Power 100 Leaders of 2010.

Durrow's scheduled appearances are Wednesday,



Portland native Heidi Durrow, who was nominated for Outstanding Literary Debut at the 2011 NAACP Image Awards, will speak about her book, *The Girl Who Fell from the Sky* at a series of events at Portland Community College.

April 13 from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the Great Hall at PCC's Southeast Center; Wednesday, April 13 from 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Rock Creek Campus; Thursday, April 14 from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. in the Moriarty Arts and Humanities Building Auditorium, Cascade Campus; and Thursday, April 14 from 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center, Sylvania Campus.

The Southeast Center event is a panel discussion on biracial identity. All of the events are free and open to the public.