

Jazz blue notes

Anthony Wilson is winning acclaim for his song Karaoke.



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Essence of good

James Hall, with Worship and Praise captures the essence of Gospel.



See Religion, page B4.

Neighbors

The Urban League of Portland and Nike Foundation to sponsor summer work for area students.



See Metro Inside

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THE WEEK IN REVIEW

Brennan remembered

Former Supreme Court Justice William Brennan was remembered Tuesday as a historic figure of limitless compassion who helped make life better for untold millions of Americans. Brennan, who died last Thursday after a long illness at the age of 91, was mourned by President Clinton, other dignitaries, family and friends at St. Matthew's Cathedral. Brennan spent 33 years on the Supreme Court before retiring in 1990.

Tour bus crashes

A tour bus carrying 35 people, most of them youths and teenagers, crashed Tuesday in rural Virginia, killing at least one person and injuring several others. The bus was carrying six chaperons and 29 students ranging in age from 12 to 17. They were from different parts of the country and were on a tour called "Paths to Freedom." The trip traced the "Underground Railroad," which was the escape route to the north used by slaves before the Civil War.

Two dead in flooding

At least two people have died in heavy flooding in Fort Collins, Colorado. Authorities say rushing waters swept through mobile home parks, carrying away a number of trailers. A downpour dropped as much as eight inches of rain on the town 60 miles north of Denver. Several streets and country roads leading to the town were closed because of the flooding, which also washed a train off its tracks.

Budget deal passed

A budget deal worked out with congressional leaders Monday aims to balance the budget in five years. It would also provide tax cuts worth more than \$90 billion. The biggest chunk of that money would be for a \$500-per-child credit for parents making up to \$110,000 a year. The maximum tax rate on capital gains would also be scaled back from 28-percent to 20-percent. The deal would also boost education spending and provide medical insurance for children without coverage.

Group says millions starving

At least five million people in North Korea are starving in a condition that international aid workers say is reminiscent of the notorious famines in Africa and Ethiopia in the mid 1980s. "It is a disaster in the making," Ted Yamamori, president of Food for the Hungry International. He cited North Korean statistics that 20 percent of the country's arable land has been parched by a record July heatwave and drought. Yamamori said signs of malnutrition were widespread in the North and many could die if the country did not get immediate foreign help.

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MLK redesign advances

By LEE PERLMAN

The Martin Luther King Main Street Project invites you to tell it how northeast Portland's main boulevard should be engineered.

The public design workshop will be held from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at the King School cafeteria, 4906 N.E. Seventh Ave. Consultant Lloyd Lindley will present issues and priorities raised so far by a project advisory committee consisting of neighborhood leaders, business owners and institutional representatives on the avenue.

Participants can then contribute their own thoughts through dots placed next to statements, written comments, or discussions with committee members.

The input from the meeting will be used to create a proposal to be presented at a second public meeting in September.

According to project manager G. Andre Baugh of the Portland Office of Transportation, the results of the process will guide a \$1 million improvement program for the street.

So far, he says, committee members have called for widening the street's sidewalks to make the street safer for pedestrians, and more trees and street furniture to create a more pleasant pedestrian environment.

Space for the wider sidewalks could come from required setbacks for new construction, or from removal of the street's planted median.

Support for this is not unanimous. Bill Leigh, commercial property broker and president of the North-Northeast Business Association, says, "It's easy to take something from developers, but it won't come out of their pocket. It will just go into higher rents." A better method would be to restore parking and let it act as a buffer to traffic, he says.

This brings up an issue that those involved in the project have already had to confront:



The face of Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard today.

(Photo by M. Washington)

there isn't enough space in the street right of way to do everything that everyone might want to do there.

More specifically, there isn't room for the existing four lanes of traffic, AND on-street parking, AND a bike lane, even if you begin by removing the median. Which features should be included? Project planners are looking for direction.

With regard to a bike lane, Baugh says, it will be included for the whole length of the boulevard or not at all. "Not at all" was the decision last year when the project removed

parts of the median between Northeast Broadway and Fremont streets as a test. Now? "It depends on what the community says to us, and how strongly they say it," Baugh says.

For last year's test, traffic engineers concluded that the four existing traffic lanes are needed to handle the traffic served by the boulevard. Moreover, some adjacent neighborhoods, including the Eliot and Piedmont associations, say that MLK traffic should not be diverted to residential streets.

"We have a clear statement from the

neighborhoods that they don't want traffic on their streets," Baugh says. "We need to parking on MLK."

However, Baugh says, there is no way the street can hold enough parking to meet all business needs; most cars will have to be parked in the rear of properties or on side streets.

The project may help decide how this can best be done.

The current project will not reexamine the boulevard's zoning pattern, which some business owners say does not provide enough business development opportunities, and will adhere to the Albina Community Plan's strategy of planning for new businesses in designated

"nodes."

Written materials provided for the workshop will attempt to set the framework in which choices can be made.

Beyond this, Baugh says, "We're not trying to get people to react to ideas at this point, we want to know what they think."

Leigh says, "I'm an action kind of guy. Why can't we do this now instead of studying it for a year?"

"But it would be good to see if we, the public representatives, are on the mark with our constituencies or not."

Group tackles mean streets

Community leaders take a fresh look at solutions to youth violence

A four-pronged attack on juvenile violence and street gangs is central to a fresh look at solutions to youth crime in Portland.

The city of Portland will look at everything from job development to recreational opportunities, as well as reviewing how other American cities have tackled youth violence problems for solutions that might work in Portland.

Police Chief Charles Moose and Richard Brown of the Black United Front, will look at short term strategies.

And Tony Hobson of Self Enhancement, Inc. and Johnny A. Gage of House of Umoja have the task of getting more young people involved in the planning process.

The assignments are all part of the priorities of a new committee of local public and private organizations formed to address the juvenile violence issue.

A. Halim Rahsaan, vice chairperson for education in the Coalition of Black Men, expressed optimism about the energy and direction of the talks so far.

"Rather than reinvent the wheel," the group wants to "dust off and look at a 1989 comprehensive plan developed by the Black United Front," Rahsaan said.

The 1989 plan addresses the same issues facing the community today, he said. Although that plan involved calling out the National Guard to assist police with drug arrests.

"We want to get some sense of direction and salvage the process of solving youth violence in Portland," said Johnny A. Gage, executive director of the House of Umoja. "It needs the inclusion of community groups, citizens, the press, etc.," Gage said.

"We have to stay the course," said Lorenzo



Richard Brown of northeast Portland and city council member Jim Francesconi get together to discuss possible solutions to street gang. (Photo by Neil Heilpern)

T. Poe, director of the Multnomah County Department of Community and Family Services. "We have done a number of outstanding things in this city that we have to recognize, but there's more that can be done."

Poe said there will be "no magic bullet" to end the violence.

"We have to be in for the long run," he said. "I don't care how many police

you put on the street; you aren't going to stop the next death overnight!"

Portland Commissioner Jim Francesconi said the city is committed to adding police presence, better juvenile department case management and some new recreation and employment programs.

"We're concerned that in the next five years there could be 50 more deaths," said Francesconi, repeating the

Rally is call into action

Portland activists are calling on you to stand with them in a fight to dismantle drugs and violence in our communities.

A call into action march will be held Saturday, Aug. 2 beginning at noon at the Northeast Community Police Precinct and ending at Irving Park in northeast Portland. The event is sponsored by the organization We the Brotherhood.

The march will conclude with a rally and guest speakers, food and entertainment.

Supporters of the march include Mothers Against Gang Violence, the Youth Gang Program, Coalition of Black Men, Urban League of Portland, Volunteers of America, Private Industry Council, and many area churches.

In addition to the festivities, community agencies and support groups will be available to assist those in need of services.

need for "short term steps and long term strategies involving the community, parents, churches and schools."

The United Black Front's Ron Herndon and state Sen. Avel Gordly of northeast Portland are also part of the current effort.

"This is my community, where I was born and raised," said Gordly. "This is the time we all need to come together."