

METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

"Bridging Portland's Communities"

Community Calendar

Hand-Made Products from Africa

African-American History Month is being celebrated at Wild Life, Gifts and Home Furnishings. The store, open almost three months, is featuring products from Africa. Utilitarian as well as decorative, most items are hand-made and purchased from fair-trade organizations. The store is located at SE. Hawthorne Blvd, open from 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. every day. Call 236-3862.

Downtown Bicycle Tour

Trek Bicycles presents the Worst Day of the Year Ride on Feb. 9, starting at 9 a.m. from the Lucky Lab Pub. This is an 11-mile bicycle tour of downtown Portland - rain or shine. With three stops along the way and piping hot chili, cornbread and chowder back at the Lucky Lab at the end, this is an event not to be missed. To register, go online to www.WorstDayRide.com.

Home and Garden Show

The GMC Portland Home & Garden Show is one of the largest shows in the country and the top show in the Northwest. The show will be at the Portland Expo Center, from Feb. 20 - 24. For information, call 246-8291 or online at www.oloughlintradeshow.com.

Convention Center Kids Auction

"Planting Seeds for the Future... Help Our Kids Grow" has been selected as the theme for this year's auction for Boys & Girls Clubs of Portland. The March 2 event is the biggest fundraiser of the year for the organization. Luxury items include jewelry, a sea cruise and hotel stay in Hawaii. Silent auction begins at 5 p.m. and oral auction begins at 7:15 p.m. Call 232-0077.

National Pancake Day

The International House of Pancakes is flipping for National Pancake Day. The family-friendly restaurant chain will offer a free short stack of pancakes for all guests visiting any Oregon IHOP location between 7 a.m. - 2 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 12. All of the IHOP restaurants are participating.

Old Town History Project

The Old Town History Project presents a series of 45-minute walking tours of Old Town led by former residents, business owners and workers. All tours begin at 12:15 p.m. at the Old Town History Project's storefront gallery at 612 NW. Davis St. and end in a local restaurant for an informal group discussion and no-host lunch. On Feb. 8, JoAnne Hong will give a presentation called "Chinese New Years Remembered." Call 225-0198.

George Fox Scholarship Day

An inside track on competitive scholarships to attend George Fox University is being offered on the Newburg campus on Feb. 8 and 9. Scholarship Day runs from Friday evening, 4 p.m. in the Edwards-Holman Science Center atrium until Saturday afternoon. Call 1-800-765-4369.

OMSI's Brain Exhibit

OMSI is having an exhibit entitled "Brain: The World Inside Your Head" until May 5. Designed to appeal to all ages, "Brain" will employ innovative special effects, 3-D reproductions, virtual reality, hands-on learning activities, and interactive technology to help demystify the inner working of the brain. The exhibit will be at 1945 SE. Water Ave. Call 797-4000.

Free Lead Testing

Childhood lead poisoning is a major and preventable health hazard in children. Free testing will take place on the second Saturday of each month, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Common Bond, 4616 North Albina. Blood lead testing of children should be performed at ages 1 and 2 or at least before age 6 if no previous testing has been done and any risk factors for lead poisoning are present.

Students Cry 'No More Cuts'

Student leaders say funding has been trimmed as much as possible

(AP) - With chants of "No more cuts," and "Cuts aren't funny, give us money," about 800 students rallied Thursday to urge the Legislature to leave school funding alone.

Braving a solid rain in downtown Pioneer Courthouse Square, student leaders spoke between band performances to say public school funding has been trimmed as much as possible.

"They spend millions on other things and the big corporations aren't being taxed," said Kimmie Kent, student body president at Grant High School of Portland.

Since 1991, she said, the student-teacher ratio has grown from 18-to-1 to 28-to-1. She said public funding is \$900 less per student now than it was 10 years ago.

"Where are your priorities?" she asked. "If they cut more you could lose some of your teachers."

"If you listen to one thing we say today let it be this," said James Williams, student body president at Portland's Lincoln High School. "We have had enough. We have seen enough inadequate education to last a lifetime."

"Any further cuts will be a death sentence for public education."

With a \$704 million hole in the state budget, the Legislature might consider borrowing about \$100 million from the school trust fund when it meets Friday in a special session.

Gov. John Kitzhaber said Thurs-



Students from southeast Portland's Environmental Middle School rally with other students to urge state lawmakers not to cut funding from schools in order to make up a state budget deficit.

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

day he has "grave concerns" about taking money from the school fund to balance the budget but stopped short of saying he would veto a measure that did so.

Several students at the rally were vague when asked where the extra money should come from or what should be cut if school spending isn't.

Others had a plan.

"I think they should add a sales tax," said Laura Gay, a Grant senior.

Students used lunch hours, leadership classes and after-school sessions to make signs and fliers for the rally.

It doesn't take much to convince classmates what budget cuts would

do to Grant students, who already struggle with some classes of more than 40 students. At times there aren't enough desks in the room.

Franklin students said they were concerned about layoffs.

"We are going to lose some of the teachers we really love," said Rithy Khut, 17, a junior.

Sharing Cultures with Russian Dancers

Area residents young and old recently got a dose of world culture thanks to a visit by "The Russian Collection" dance ensemble from San Francisco.

The troupe performed at Atkinson Elementary School and were guests of Sylvia Zingesser, publisher of "Northwest Teens," at Ma & Pa Strong's Restaurant at 4134 N. Vancouver in the Oregon Association for Minority Entrepreneurs Building.

Zingesser's long-time friend and Russian character dance instructor Leonid Shagalov brought the group to Portland.

The "Russian Collection" was founded in 1945 as the "Russian Folk Ensemble", under the direction of Dimitri Avramenko.



Portland graphic artist Tony Petrarca (from left), student editor Zeno Latin and other area residents enjoy a dinner at Ma & Pa Strong's Restaurant in north Portland with members of "The Russian Collection."

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

During its Jan. 18 performance at Atkinson School, the dancers captivated the audience, ranging from children to adults.

Natalia Borisova, the group's artistic director and mistress of ceremonies, delivered an overall performance that was mesmerizing.

Yuri Sigalov and Aleksey Prokoshin presented the 'fun at heart' of Russian dancing.

Last but definitely not least, Mr. Shagalov performed eloquently with Amy Brown in two couples' dances.

"The Russian Collection" accomplished something very special at the school. They took an auditorium full of people and involved each and every one of them, allowing all to leave their worries behind and just have fun.

African Americans Tackle AIDS

Information and health fair set for Thursday at Miracles Club

Local African Americans will tackle the HIV and AIDS crisis with a public outreach program as part of National Black HIV and AIDS Awareness and Information Day.

The African American Health Coalition and the Multnomah County Health Department are co-hosting an open house and information fair Thursday, Feb. 7, from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Miracles club, on the corner of Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Mason.

Once believed to be a disease exclusively affecting homosexual white males, AIDS has rapidly become one of the leading causes of death among African Americans. In fact, AIDS is the number one cause of death for African Americans between the ages of 25 and 44.

"This is a preventable disease," says Corlis

McKeever, executive director of the African American Health Coalition. "We want to get our community talking about what can be done and let people know that there are services and resources available to them."

The Miracles Club event will include information on HIV and AIDS, prevention and services available for people living with the virus. In addition, the health department's HIV Prevention Program will be offering free HIV and Hepatitis C testing.

"We want people to start thinking about their risk for HIV. If someone gets tested and knows their HIV status, then they can take positive steps to protect themselves and prevent the spread of the disease," said Loreen Nichols, manager of the health department's HIV and Hepatitis C community programs.

New Crisis Hotline Opens

Multnomah County has opened a new 24-hours a day, 7 days a week mental health crisis hotline at 503-988-4888 or toll free at 1-800-716-9769 with culturally competent and language appropriate services.

The hotline is ready to serve consumers experiencing mental health crises including anxiety, depression, loneliness and thoughts of suicide.

Callers can expect a professionally trained, culturally competent mental health clinician to listen and provide counseling by phone. They can help a caller decide where to go for immediate assistance.

Other responsibilities include arranging transportation to either an emergency room, urgent walk-in clinics, or another appropriate facility; provide information about no appointment necessary urgent walk-in clinics; and refer callers to community mental health treatment providers offering appropriate culturally competent and language-sensitive services.