

# METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

## Community Calendar

## Youth Summit Connection

Portland Parks and Recreation will host its 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Youth Summit Connection on Thursday, March 13 from 8:30 a.m. to noon at Self Enhancement Inc., 3920 N. Kirby. The Youth Summit is a collaboration of organizations, community members and businesses striving to provide leisure alternatives to Portland metropolitan area youth. This year's workshop theme "What About the Children?" will focus on what has been accomplished through past successes. Food and refreshments will be served. For more information, call 503-823-5108.

## Reduce the Risk of Breast Cancer

The Providence Cancer Center's Integrative Medicine Program will host a free public forum on how to use nutrition and exercise to reduce the risk of breast cancer on Thursday, March 13 from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Mother Gamelin Room at the Providence Milwaukie Hospital, 10150 S.E. 32<sup>nd</sup> Ave. The forum will discuss how eating certain foods and maintaining a healthy body weight through exercising can help deter cancer. For more information, call 503-216-4687.

## SUN Family Health Day

Immunizations, health screenings, strength assessments and dental checks are just a few of the free services to be offered at the SUN School Family Health Day to be held on Saturday, March 15 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at H.B. Lee Middle School, 1121 NE 172<sup>nd</sup>. There will also be blood pressure and vision checks, free family first aid kits and information in English and Spanish on a variety of health-related topics. For more information call 503-255-5686.

## Women's Day Celebration

Radical Women hosts a celebration of International Women's Day with insurgent songs, poetry and political commentary. In solidarity with the day's national anti-war activities, women's rights rebels will challenge Bush's war at home and abroad. Saturday, March 17 at 7 p.m. at the Bread and Roses Center, 819 N. Killingsworth. A Middle Eastern buffet, with vegan and vegetarian options, will be served at 6 p.m. for a \$7 donation.

## Juneteenth Celebration Meeting

The House of Exodus Juneteenth Association invites those interested in forming the Juneteenth Vending Committee to attend a meeting Wednesday, March 19 at 7 p.m. at the McCoy Academy located at 3802 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. For more information, call 503-281-9597.

## Band Fund Raiser

The Evergreen High School Band and Colorguard has been selected to represent the State of Washington in the American Salute to the Veterans of WWII in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii in June of 2003. In order to defray the cost of attendance, the Evergreen Band Boosters will hold a fundraiser benefit show featuring the Patrick Lamb Band with Debra Crowe and comedian Angel Ocasio. The show will take place in the Evergreen High School Auditorium, 14300 NE 18th St, in Vancouver, Wa. on Friday, March 21 at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$12 for students and seniors available through Fastixx by calling 1-800-992-TIXX. For more information, call 360-256-9015.

## A Voice for Reparations

BY DAVID PLECHL  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

For a local bookstore owner and self-described organizer O.B. Hill, the issue of reparations isn't only about justice; it's also about family.

Hill has traced his own family history to an expansive southern plantation of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Hill has figured that several hundred years ago his ancestors were plucked from the African continent and bound against their will for a life of hard labor and little freedom.

"Forcibly taking someone else is a violation of their human rights," Hill said. "If people can understand that, that's a good beginning."

Hill is counting on the power of truth and information to find respite from the devastating effects of 300 years of brutal slavery and biased economic systems that have set African Americans up to be held down and pushed around.

But the first step in this struggle is understanding exactly what reparations means and why the issue burns more intensely now than it

ever has in the past.

"You really can't make decisions or corrections until you know what you are dealing with," Hill said.

Historians, sociologists, psychologists and economists will be equally important partners he said, in a study of the past and present that could filter into public policy changes and possible financial compensation for descendants of slaves

As head of the Northwest Regional Reparations Campaign, Hill

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Reparations advocate Sabriah Rahimah sings a song called "Peace" during a conference organized to inform the public about repayment to descendants of slaves for the work of their ancestors.



PHOTOS BY DAVID PLECHL/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The Jefferson Dancers practice for an upcoming tour in France. The Jefferson High School-based group will depart Portland on Monday, March 15 for two performances in the European country.

## Dance to France

BY DAVID PLECHL

THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The posters are up. The Jefferson Dancers are coming - to France that is.

These talented young artists have a date with destiny and a welcoming foreign audience eager to experience the panache of one of the most talented dance groups around.

"They've worked hard for it," said Dede Priest, the company's manager.

Based at Jefferson High School in north Portland, the dancers are comprised of students from several Portland area schools. The troupe was invited to France after the father of a former dancer saw the company dance recently at the Portland Art Museum.

Impressed, he sought to bring them to his daughter's hometown in the



Artistic Director Steve Gonzales is largely responsible for the dancers' current level of professionalism.



Jefferson Dancers have been rehearsing double time since they got word about their travels abroad.

### Hard work lands Jefferson Dancers an international performance

south of France.

The dancers will depart Portland on Monday, March 15. They've been working with artistic director Steve Gonzales at a feverish pace ever since they heard the news.

"This is awesome," said Gonzales, who was instrumental in bringing the dance group up to its current level of professionalism. "Their eyes are going to be opened to a whole new world."

The dancers haven't toured internationally since 1988 when the group traveled to Russia for a handful of performances.

In fact, for many of the kids, the trip to France will be their first jaunt outside U.S. borders.

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### Name That Bridge



TriMet is seeking ideas for name of the 4,000-foot MAX light rail bridge that spans between the Kenton neighborhood and the Portland International Raceway. Make your suggestions by calling Amber Ontiveros at 503-962-7662 or emailing [ontivera@trimet.org](mailto:ontivera@trimet.org) before Monday, March 31.

### Legislators to Host Town Hall

The public is encouraged to attend and voice opinions about issues of concern

Senator Avel Gordly along with representatives Jackie Dingfelder and Steve March will hold a Town Hall to discuss constituent concerns on Saturday, March

15 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Baltazar F. Ortiz Community Center at 6736 NE Killingsworth.

These legislators have decided to follow up on their last joint Town Hall held in January when over 200 people participated to address issues the state faces.

"We need to focus on where and how to raise new revenue, not just where and how to make horrible cuts," Gordly said. "Tax reform is the key to resolving the crisis that the State is facing."