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Whitney Houston visits Israel for Inspiration

(AP) — Singer Whitney Houston is in Israel looking for inspiration for her upcoming Christmas album. Houston arrived last Sunday for her stay with the Black Hebrews, a group of nearly 2,000 black Americans who followed a Chicago bus driver to Israel decades ago and believe they are descendants of one of the lost tribes of Israelites.



While in Israel Whitney Houston stayed with a group of Black Hebrews and met Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

Their religious customs include a vegan diet and polygamy. Houston spent her first day at their compound in the desert town of Dimona receiving massages, relaxing, and meeting with the Black Hebrews, who call each other saints.

"She is loving it," said Patricia Houston, the singer's spokeswoman and sister-in-law. "She is a spiritual woman and wanted to come here and touch the land and be around the saints of Dimona." Whitney Houston is accompanied by a group of relatives, including her husband, singer Bobby Brown, and their daughter.



Macy Gray Comes to 'Life' in Cartoon

Singer Macy Gray has signed a deal with Warner Bros. Animation to develop a cartoon called "A Pretty Good Life," based on her experiences growing up in Canton, Ohio. The series will be set in Los Angeles and feature a group of multi-racial children. Gray will provide the voice of the lead character and compose for the soundtrack. No airdate is set.

Rap Offices Showered in Gunfire

(AP) — Rap impresario Suge Knight believes a "jealous boyfriend or jealous husband" probably fired the seven bullets that smashed through the windows and front door of his Tha Row Records offices in Los Angeles.



Suge Knight

No one was injured by the May 27 gunfire, which erupted about 2:30 a.m., said Officer Jack Richter, a police spokesman.

Police didn't know of a motive or suspect, Richter said, but Knight issued a statement offering his own theory for the gunfire at the company formerly known as Death Row Records.

"The crime was probably committed by a jealous boyfriend or a jealous husband," Knight said. "We've got a lot of artists like Crooked I, Eastwood and Kurupt that are currently working on new albums. And because of the

hype and media attention associated with these two projects, there have been a lot of girls flocking to them at the studio and at the clubs."

Knight, 38, was jailed earlier this year for allegedly violating terms of his parole.

He was sentenced to probation in 1992 after pleading no contest to two counts of assault stemming from an attack on two rappers at a Hollywood recording studio. He was found to have violated that probation when he was involved in a fight at a Las Vegas hotel in 1996, hours before Tupac Shakur was shot to death while riding in Knight's car.

He served nearly five years in prison on assault and other charges before being released in 2001, then was sent to jail last year for allegedly violating the terms of his parole by associating with gang members. He was released in February and ordered to perform 200 hours of community service aimed at persuading children to avoid gangs.



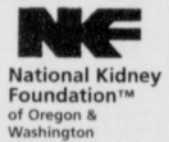
Seal's third self-titled album, due Sept. 9 was four years in the making, three of which were spent recording and ultimately scrapping a completed initial version. That collection didn't earn Seal's approval because "it lacked consistency."

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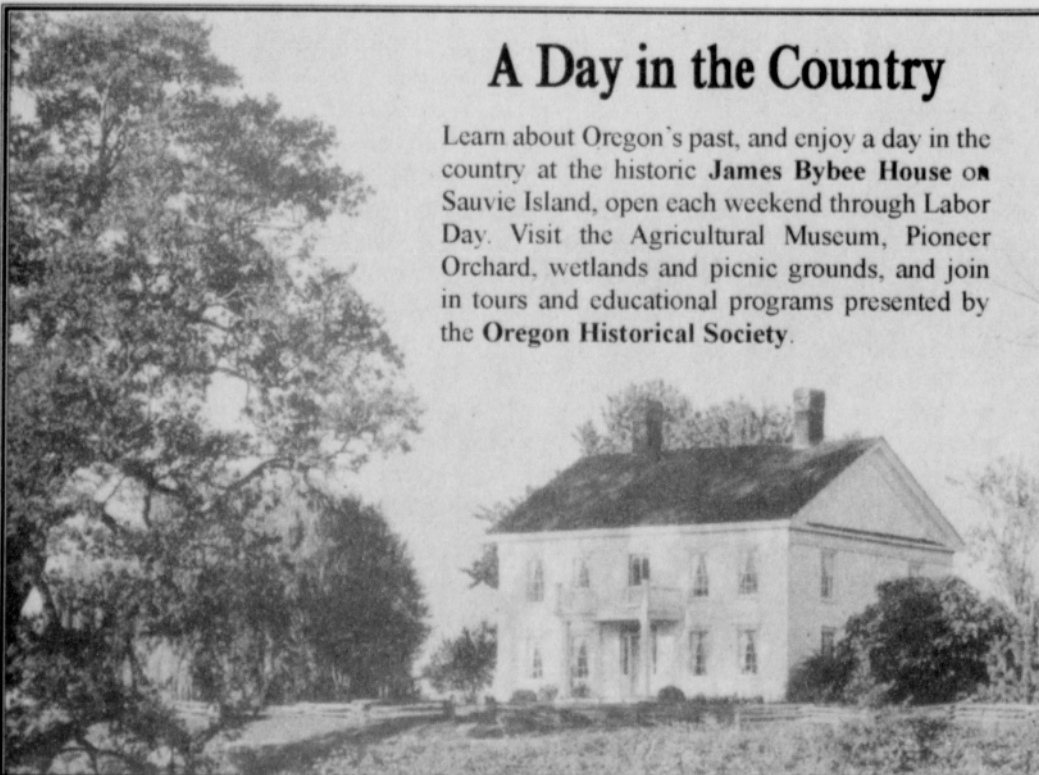
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A Day in the Country

Learn about Oregon's past, and enjoy a day in the country at the historic **James Bybee House** on Sauvie Island, open each weekend through Labor Day. Visit the Agricultural Museum, Pioneer Orchard, wetlands and picnic grounds, and join in tours and educational programs presented by the **Oregon Historical Society**.



Suggested donation: \$3 per visitor. No pets please. For program information and directions, please call the Oregon Historical Society at 503-306-5198 or click on "Bybee House" at www.ohs.org/education/



The Art of Thelma Johnson Street

Out of viewing for almost 40 years, Thelma Johnson Street's art displays once more at the Portland Art Museum. Johnson, an African American artist who grew up in the Northwest focuses her art on the world's multiple cultures. The exhibit takes place at the Portland Art Museum, 1219 S.W. Park. For more information, call 503-226-2811

Woman Tree Art Gallery Opening

Focusing on community artists, the Woman Tree Art Gallery on Alberta Street will host a different woman artist each month. The first artist, Soonae Kim, studied for months the people of Vietnam, Laos, Nepal and India for inspiration of her many talents: fashion design, ceramics, printmaking, wood sculpting, drawing and painting. Gallery hours run 11 a.m. through 5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. For more information, call 503-335-5800 or online at www.womantree.org.

Pope Kidnapped in Play, through June 8

Ransom a mellow Pope to save life? This play guarantees to pull all the stops with larger than life characters and events. The show goes on at the West End Theater, 1220 SW Taylor St. Show times on June 7 at 7:30 p.m., June 8 at 2 p.m. For more information, call 503-228-7465. A \$10 donation is asked.

IFCC June Artists

Visual artists, Bonnie Meltzer and Becca Bernstein are this month's Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center artists. Meltzer's work focuses on native icons of the Northwest. Bernstein's work is a series of textural paintings centering on the relationship between mothers and daughters. Simultaneously, both artists' exhibits begin June 5, 5:00 p.m. through 7:30 p.m. The exhibits run through June 27 with a late reception June 26 at 7:30 p.m. The IFCC is located at 5340 N Interstate. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Friday, 11 a.m. through 6 p.m., Saturdays 12 p.m. through 4 p.m. No admission is charged, but donations appreciated. For more information, call 503-823-2072, 503-823-2071 or online: www.ifcc-arts.org, gallery@ifcc-arts.org.

African Film Festival's Listings for June 6

Throughout the month of June, The Film Center presents films from the African Film Festival. "The Price of Forgiveness", "Surrender" and "One Sunday Morning" make up the first day of films Friday, June 6 beginning 7:30 p.m. at the Whitsell Auditorium, 1219 SW Park. General admission tickets cost \$6.50. Member, student and senior tickets cost \$5.50. Filmed in Senegal, "The Price of Forgiveness" is the first film to play June 6. Brothers, vengeance, and fishing plays off folk tradition and oral story telling to present a dramatic tale. After "The Price of Forgiveness", "Surrender" plays. This film originates from Tanzania and Zimbabwe and is about a son, his father and tradition. The last film for June 6, "One Sunday Morning" is a

ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

Zimbabwe production about Nigerians seeking refuge in a foreign land.

Reading: Opera Star, Shirley Verrett's June 5

Thursday, June 5 at 7 p.m. Shirley Verrett reads from her book "I Never Walked Alone: The Autobiography of an American Singer". Verrett is one of America's first African-American artists to achieve international stardom over coming racial prejudice, and career-threatening health. The reading takes place at Borders Books and Music, 708 SW Third. For more information, call 503-220-5911.

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Children's' Concert: José-Luis Orozco, June 6

Sponsored by the Learning Circle Community Action Organization, Orozco will entertain children of all ages with songs, games and rhymes Friday, June 6. The show begins at 7 p.m. and will last about an hour. The concert takes place at the Hillsboro Stadium, 4400 NW 229th Ave. in Hillsboro. For more information, call 971-223-6027.

Kinetic Images "Balance", June 6 - June 8

The Portland based dance company combines the choreography of Kimm Mahoney-Watson and the videography of Will Mahoney-Watson with eight Portland area dancers. "Balance" will combine modern dance and videography to exemplify the human range of emotions and experiences. Shows take place at the Echo Theatre, 1515 SE 37th, June 6 and June 7 at 8 p.m. and June 8 at 2 p.m. Tickets are available through Ticketwest outlets, by phone 503-224-8499 or online www.ticketwest.com. Tickets are subject to a service charge. For more information, call 503-913-5788.

Reparations Thursdays

David Park's new band, The Reparations, will play every Thursday at 9 p.m. with DJ Chill and special guest performers and DJs at The Red Sea, 318 S.W. Third Ave. Admission for those 21 and older is \$5.