

# Final Show Before Music Dies

Billy Reed's to give up on live bands

BY JAYMEE R. CUTI  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Billy Reed's Restaurant, a big part in the growing draw of Northeast Martin Luther King as a nighttime entertainment destination, will discontinue all live music as of Monday, March 15. The operator of the popular venue said pool tables, a gaming room and Oregon Lottery video poker machines will replace the bands.

Local residents say they will miss the live performances, but a spokesman for the restaurant said the volume of people coming for the music did not outweigh the cost of the bands.

The crowd base at Billy Reed's has been known locally as a "rainbow of diversity." On any given night, the crowd in attendance ranged from seniors, couples for a night out on the town, students, tourists, local celebrities and neighbors.

House performer "Boogie Cat" Norman Sylvester and his band, joined by LaRhonda Steele on vocals, will perform a final concert at Billy Reed's, 2808 N.E. Martin



Norman Sylvester and his band will jam for the last time at Billy Reed's on Thursday, March 11. The northeast Portland venue has decided to discontinue live music, disappointing many local residents.

Luther King Blvd., from 7:30 to 11 p.m. Thursday, March 11.

Sylvester will be joined by Rob

Shoemaker, Ashblot Stewart, Dover Weinberg and Peter Moss with special guests Frankie Redding,

Robbie Edwards and a special appearance by world-class guitarist Eddie Martinez.

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Funding provided by Transportation Safety - ODOT



Jeffrey Barabin

## Driver Crashes Into Children's Party

A suspected drunk driver crashed into a six-year-old's birthday party in the parking lot of an apartment complex near the intersection of Fessenden and Oswego streets in the St. Johns neighborhood of north Portland Monday.

Jeffrey Barabin, 44, is charged with vehicular assault, driving under the influence of intoxicants and reckless driving for hitting and injuring three children. One boy was severely injured and was treated at Legacy Emanuel Hospital.

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## St. Andrew Nativity Holds Open House

A tuition-free Catholic middle school for low-income students at 4925 N.E. 9th St. will hold an open house for the families of potential students on Saturday, March 13, from noon to 3 p.m.

St. Andrew Nativity School provides a free education to students who qualify for the federal Free and Reduced Price Lunch Program and who are willing to work very hard in a highly structured school environment.

The school mission is to prepare middle school students from low-income families for success in college-prep high schools and beyond. The school day runs from 8

a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday and until 3:45 p.m. on Fridays. Weekend activities and participation in a summer program also required.

Applicants should currently be in the fifth grade and qualify for Free or Reduced Price Lunch Program. Both boys and girls may apply. St. Andrew accepts students of all faiths from all parts of Portland. Students currently enrolled in Catholic schools or with siblings currently enrolled in Catholic schools cannot be considered for application.

For more information, contact the school at 503-335-9600.

## Gangs Dialogue to Build Trust

In an effort to build trust within the community and the city, Mayor Vera Katz and Commissioner Jim Francesconi are holding a "Community Dialogue on Gangs, With Gangs" from 10 a.m. to noon Friday, March 12 at Irvington Covenant Church, 4008 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

Members of many at-risk youth organizations, including Self Enhancement, Inc., Youth Employment Institute, YO, House of Umoja, International Refugee Center of Oregon, Oregon Council for Hispanic Advancement, Outreach, Programa Hispano, Parole and Probation and others are invited to register and bring youth who have first hand experience with gangs

and their effects on the community.

The goals of this meeting are to establish an ongoing rapport with gang-involved youth and reinforce their value as community members. At the meeting, participants will introduce alternatives to violence through mediation and employment, establish what is appropriate conduct in the public domain, enable ex-gang members to share consequences of the "thug-life," and review legal consequences from a law enforcement perspective.

Those interested in registering for the dialogue should contact Malik Bell or Cristina Germain at 503-823-4045 or e-mail [mbell@ci.portland.or.us](mailto:mbell@ci.portland.or.us) or [cgermain@ci.portland.or.us](mailto:cgermain@ci.portland.or.us).

## Baker Leads House of Umoja

The Portland House of Umoja Board of Directors has named Dr. Vernon Baker executive director. House of Umoja is a northeast Portland-based residential and outreach services program providing services for at-risk youth and their families.

Baker, 42 has been working in

the area of social services along with education for the last 15 years, placing a strong emphasis on family preservation and empowerment. He has contributed to a number of nationally published journals and articles on family preservation using an Afro-centric approach.



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