

METRO

The Portland Observer

LEROY VINNEGAR
WALKIN' THE BASSES



Jazz Returns to Portland State

LeRoy Vinnegar opens 'L.V.'s Uptown' with a benefit for the university's jazz institute

See story, page B3

SECTION B

Community Calendar

Women Mentors

Women in Community Service is seeking volunteer mentors for female offenders at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility. Mentors provide support and encouragement to women transitioning from prison back into the community. Mentors must be female, 24 or older. Training is provided. Call 503-570-6614 for more information.

Portland Children's Museum Art Activities

Portland Children's Museum will hold a variety of art activities for children throughout the month, including mediums using mosaic, African arts and culture and garden stepping stones. For more information, call 503-223-6500 or visit the website at www.portlandchildrensmuseum.org.

Used Bookstore Sale

The Multnomah County Library's Title Wave Used Bookstore at 216 N.E. Knott St. will hold its 17th anniversary sale all month long. Sales will change daily. Hours are Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Get Fit, Stay Healthy!

Sankofaa Health Institute offers a free diabetes support group from 6 to 7:30 p.m. every third Thursday at Alberta Simmons Plaza, 6707 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. For more information, call 503-285-2484.

Beach Clean Up

Volunteers are encouraged to join the 20th annual Great Oregon Spring Beach Cleanup scheduled for Saturday, March 19 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sign ups are encouraged at one of 42 registration sites all along the Oregon Coast. For more information go to www.solv.org or call 1-800-333-SOLV.

AIDS Awareness

Albina Ministerial Alliance sponsors a bi-monthly support and education group for African Americans living with HIV/AIDS at Maranatha Church at 4222 NE 12th St. The group will meet every second and fourth Thursday of the month. For more information, call Elnathan Hudson at 503-285-0493 ext. 217.

Women in NAACP

Women in NAACP meets from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. the first Saturday of each month at the American Red Cross Building, 3131 N. Vancouver. For questions, call 503-249-6263.

Birth Ready

Whether you need childbirth preparation classes, or just a refresher, Providence Health Systems has a workshop for you. Prepare for pain, take a weekend seminar or prepare big sisters and brothers-to-be throughout the summer by visiting www.providence.org/classes or call 503-574-6595.

Creative Space For Dance

Aurora Dance Studio, 5433 N.E. 30th (at Killingsworth), offers an array of classes for children, teens and adults at all levels of ability. Call 503-249-0201 or visit online at www.hevanet.com/auroradance for additional information.

Gain Computer Skills

The Sun program offers a computer class for parents at King Elementary School. To register, call 503-916-6156 or 503-319-3425.

Volunteer Option

If you are looking for a volunteer opportunity, check out Bradley-Angle House to end domestic violence. Bilingual women and women of color are especially needed. For information, call 503-282-9940.



Rap artist and Portland native Bosko is reaching the top echelons of his profession working with heavyweight performers like E-40, Limp Bizkit and Kanye West.

Local Label Hits It BIG

Bosko propels Jus Family Records beyond Portland

BY KATHERINE KOVACICH
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Bosko Kante, who usually just goes by his first name, doesn't like to give up easily. He founded Jus Family Records in 1992 with Terrance Scott after realizing that working grueling day jobs wasn't cutting it. They wanted to be, and became, their own outlet to a major label for Portland.

"I was going to school studying engineering in college and it was great, but I figured out how to make a living doing something I really enjoy," Bosko said from a Los Angeles phone call. "I went 100 percent. And it's not something that was easy and it's always been a struggle, but I'm struggling doing something that I love."

Working with heavyweight performers like E-40, Limp Bizkit, Too Short and Kanye West doesn't seem to phase Bosko all that much.

"I never thought of myself as being limited," Bosko said. "I got a give thanks to my mom for that kind of outlook of never believing that I didn't have enough to make it. In

a sense it was being too naive to know how difficult it was. I found a way."

The artist said he works that much harder when someone tells him he can't achieve at something. This what has made Jus Family Records take off, landing him into new opportunities via word-of-mouth.

Bosko grew up in a musical household, with his mom listening to R&B to singing in the church choir as a young boy. Bosko said he started listening to hip-hop, went onto break dancing and eventually spinning as a DJ, "making tapes and trying to be like the rappers on T.V."

His songs usually originate with his music tracks, where he then builds a lyrical

base.

"I listen to a bunch of stuff that I've created and it gives me a direction in terms of a mood or feeling and how to expand on it. Something that I want to do or thought about doing and never did and just going with it," Bosko said. "When you're writing, it kind of takes on a life of its own. Each word has to rhyme. It starts to take off and I'm watching the story unfold. It's exciting at the end of the day what comes out."

Bosko recently celebrated the release of his latest project "That Fire," which features E-40, DMX, Lil Jon, Bubba Sparxx, Kurupt,

continued ▼ on page B6

Tax Help Volunteers Figure the Numbers

Program provides assistance for low-income families

BY KATHERINE KOVACICH
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

It's tax time again and groans can be heard all throughout Portland. But doing your taxes doesn't have to be a difficult ordeal with assistance, and could possibly mean thousands of dollars in refunds if you play your cards right.

Programs are set up all over the city to help with free guidance in figuring out the numbers, the deductions and the exemptions that could entitle local residents to its slice of the credit pie.

Earlier in February, the Oregon Tax Credit Coalition held an event at Lloyd Center that featured the Internal Revenue Service, Oregon Department of Revenue, Multnomah County, and AARP's Tax-Aide Program.

On board were trained volunteer tax preparers who focused on low and moderate income individuals. About 145 people had both their federal and state taxes done for free, with the average return at \$1,550. The event was a kick-off to make people aware of the various local sites offered by the coalition through 22 different public and private organizations.

One main push is for the awareness of the Earned Income Tax Credit that many are entitled to but don't



Volunteer tax preparer Jing Chin helps a local resident file for Earned Income Tax Credits at a recent special event at Lloyd Center sponsored by the Oregon Tax Credit Coalition.

know about. Last year about \$73 million in tax credits went undelivered.

"It's called Earned Income Tax Credits for a reason," said Lowell Greathouse, Vision Council Manager for United Way of Columbia Willamette, a coalition partner. "This is income they're entitled to. For many families, it could be that they're having to struggle to make ends meet with food, utilities and

paying the rent. For other families, it may be that this becomes the resource to being saving for a new car or for putting a down payment on a home."

Lowell said \$338 million in federal earned income tax credits that came back to Oregonians last year, bringing an average of \$1,611 per household.

"That's pretty significant for a low-income family," Lowell said.

PHOTO COURTESY LOWELL GREATHOUSE

continued ▼ on page B5



Marneet Lewis

Franklin Senior on State Panel

Marneet Lewis, a senior at Franklin High School, has been named to a state panel addressing education issues.

The Youth Advisory Team is a group of students from all over Oregon that report to State Schools Superintendent Susan Castillo.

"I want to have the benefit of the advice of a diverse group of students," Castillo said. "This group plays an important role in changing and improving public education in Oregon by using their experiences as students to inform state leaders, educators, and community members."

Lewis, 17, is active in many extracurricular activities, in-

continued ▼ on page B6