

Juneteenth in the Works

Organizers of Portland's Juneteenth Celebration gathered at Yam Yam's Restaurant recently to organize what's known as African American Independence Day.

The celebration originated from Galveston, Texas, where on June 19, 1865, word of Emancipation Proclamation reached the enslaved. Even 140 years later, the event is embraced and celebrated by all races and ethnicities

in honor of African American culture and achievement.

Portland's celebration begins this year on Friday, June 17 at 5 p.m. in the parking lot of Yam Yam's on Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, with an introduction and history of Juneteenth.

On Saturday, June 18, an afternoon parade with musical entertainment and a feast will take place at Yam Yam's. Suggested donation

is \$3 adults, \$2 children. On Sunday, June 19 the celebration will conclude with choir gospel music. Donations are welcomed.

The Women of Successful Choices, a community-based women's club, along with other volunteers, will be organizing all the events.

To volunteer or for more information, call Kandie Berry at 503-209-6850.

Top Blues Entertainer Again

(AP) - B.B. King was named entertainer of the year for the seventh time in a row at the W.C. Handy Awards, given out Thursday by the Blues Foundation of Memphis.

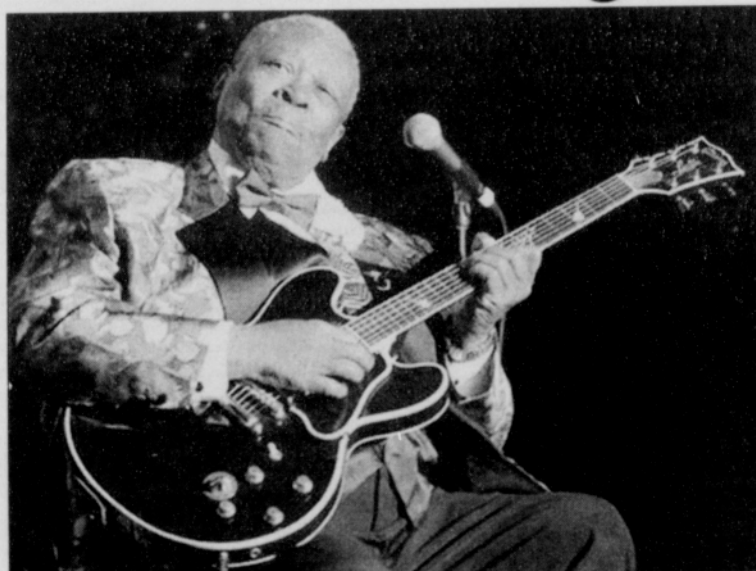
Mavis Staples and Charlie Musselwhite each won three awards at the 26th annual awards. Staples won best album for "Have a Little Faith," which also won soul album, and she was named top female soul artist. Musselwhite won for best contemporary male artist and best harmonica player, and his "Sanctuary" album won the award for contemporary album.

Musselwhite said the blues is a reflection of life.

"It's music played from the heart," he said. "It celebrates good times and gets you through the bad. I call it my comforter."

The Holmes Brothers were named top band, Staples' "Have a Little Faith" won top song for writers Jim Tullio and Jim Weider, and John Lee Hooker Jr. won as best new artist.

The awards are named for blues pioneer W.C. Handy, a bandleader who performed in Memphis clubs along the city's famous Beale Street in the early 1900s, is credited with being the first musician to put blues music into written form. Before that, the distinctive American music that sprang from the songs of poor black residents of the Mississippi River Delta was passed along from one artist to another.



Blues guitarist B.B. King was named entertainer of the year for the seventh time in a row by the Blues Foundation of Memphis. (AP photo)



Benjamin 'Flooney' Hardy Jr. and other authors will celebrate local poetry at Talking Drum Bookstore and Reflections Coffee House, 446 N.E. Killingsworth.

Celebrating Local Poetry

A release party for An Anthology of Pacific Northwest Poetry, Prose and Art will be held at the Talking Drum Bookstore & Reflections Coffee House on 446 NE Killingsworth on Saturday May 28 at 7 p.m.

Contributors from the book range in age from 12 to 86 years and included members of many religions and races.

The book also includes a piece by Oregonian columnist S. Renee Mitchell.

"The purpose of this anthology is to provide a showcase for the diversity of the Pacific Northwest, says editor Benjamin 'Flooney' Hardy Jr.

Hardy collected material for the book for over four years. "Whether amateur or professional, they all contribute to the richness of our special part of the world."

This anthology can be ordered on the website at www.trafford.com

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