

# METRO

The Portland Observer



### Blazers Post Triumphs

Second-year players shine in All-Stars  
See sports, page B8

### Super Senior

Lincoln High will graduate triple threat  
See sports, page B8



SECTION B

## Community Calendar

### Black History Night

Food, music and poetry, along with arts and crafts, will be featured when Portland Parks & Recreation presents a free Black History Month celebration on this Saturday, Feb. 23, from 6 to 8 p.m., at the Matt Dishman Community Center, 77 N.E. Knott St.

### Homework Help

The Black Parent Initiative and Concordia Teachers Corp. provide free homework help for kids 5 to 19 on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 3:45 to 5 p.m. at Grace Covenant Church, 5450 N.E. Flanders; and from 3:30 to 5 p.m. at Calvary Christian Center, 126 N.E. Alberta; as well as Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:30 to 5 p.m. at the East Portland Community Center, 740 S.E. 106th Ave.

### Harlem Globetrotters

The Harlem Globetrotters bring their "Magic as Ever" world tour to Portland's Rose Garden for two shows, Saturday, Feb. 23 at 2 and 7:30 p.m. Tickets start at \$18 and can be purchased at the Rose Quarter Box Office and Tickets West outlets.

### Festival of African Films

The Portland Community College's Cascade Festival of African Films takes place all month the PCC Cascade campus in north Portland and at the Hollywood and McMenamins Kennedy School theaters. For a complete schedule, visit the Cascade Festival of Films Web site at africanfilmfestival.org.

### Lessons for Today

Thursdays, Feb. 21 and Feb. 28, at 7 p.m., the Bread & Roses Center, 819 N. Killingsworth St., hosts the free discussion circle with excerpts from historical text and contemporary struggles; \$8 Creole buffet at 6:30 p.m.

### Jena's Civil Rights

Saturday, Feb. 23, at 7:30 p.m. the Bread & Roses Center, 819 N. Killingsworth St., will host a forum featuring a multiracial panel to discuss the civil-rights struggle in Jena, La.

### 'Raise the Standard'

Currently through Friday, Feb. 22 at 7 p.m. nightly, the Kings Temple Christian Center, 4744 N.E. 15th Ave., will host the Pacific NW Holy Ghost Conference Revival, featuring guest speakers from around the country.

### Incredible Kids

Camp Fire USA Portland Metro Council invites the public to honor any incredible child. Honorees will receive an award, coupons and their name in print; the fee is \$25 per child. Registration is available until March 31; for more information, call 503-224-7800 ext. 142.

### 'God for the Victory'

Allen Temple C.M.E. Church, 4236 N.E. Eighth Ave., invites the public to join the 59th-anniversary celebration; events begin on Sunday, Feb. 24 continuing through Sunday, March 2. For a complete schedule contact Sandra Evans at 503-287-0261.

### King School Benefit

Tuesday, Feb. 26, from 5 to 11 p.m., bring your family and friends to McMenamin's Chapel Pub and half of the evening's proceeds will be donated to purchase much needed playground equipment for King School.

### Kindergarten Roundup

Wednesday, Feb. 27, King School, 4037 N.E. Garfield, will host the annual kindergarten and pre-K roundup at 1:30 p.m., in the school library. Both programs are full-day and fully funded.

### Catch the Authors

Thursday, Feb. 28, at 6:30 p.m., In Other Words, 8 N.E. Killingsworth St., will host the reading night featuring five gay, lesbian and transgender authors. For more information, visit inotherwords.org or call 503-232-6003.

### V-Day Portland

February 29 and March 1, at 6 p.m., the Center for Self Enhancement, 3920 N. Kirby St., presents Eve Ensler's The Vagina Monologues to raise awareness and end violence against women; admission is four cans of nonperishable foods or packages of women's toiletries; for more information, call 503-901-5501.



Anya Pearson

## A Searing Look at Racism Takes Stage

### Love-Hate casts an emotional portrait

A local playwright will put a spotlight on Black History Month with a staged reading of new play Love-Hate, an emotional portrait of three couples, each struggling to find love amid the American backdrop of hate.

Anya Pearson was inspired to write about the intricacy of continued racism after a

supposed friend called her a racist epithet. Having always been a politically-minded individual, she elected to use the anger as inspiration, and Love-Hate was born shortly after. This is her first play.

Pearson is a founding member of Penplay, a newly founded group of playwrights and screenwriters dedicated to developing a new work of multicultural and feminine voices. Her reading will be a free performance with donations accepted on Tuesday, Feb. 26 at 8 p.m.

at Soday Lounge, 125 N.W. Fifth Ave.

A discussion will follow the reading in hopes of sparking a community dialogue around the controversial issues tackled by the play. The panel members will include Richard Wattenberg, theater professor at Portland State University; Lorraine Thayer, educational specialist; Bishop Joseph Watson, biblical scholar and expert on black history; and Keith Lampton, outreach coordinator for Self Enhancement, Inc.

## Health Department Tackles Disparities

### Targets include HIV prevention

BY RAYMOND RENDLEMAN  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Recognizing the particular devastation of diseases on people of low income or of color, local officials have stepped up the population-specific efforts for access to quality medical care.

The Multnomah County Health Department now has several staff members focused on the issue of health disparities. They plan a large community mobilization of businesses, bars, church groups and service providers to follow the launch the county's first social marketing effort designed by and for a racial minority.

To educate African-American youth, young adults and community members about sexually transmitted diseases and the importance of testing and treatment, the county's education campaign features culturally-specific media including Knowsexpdx.com, brochures profiling local sexual health services for youth, as well as posters and postcards.

According to the Multnomah County Health Department, African Americans in Multnomah County experience five times the rates of Chlamydia and gonorrhea, compared to non-Hispanic whites. STD rates can be affected by lack of insurance, limited access to testing and treatment, and fear of testing and treatment.

An additional motivator for expanding offerings, according to Tricia Tillman, Multnomah County Health Department program manager, comes from pervasive media marketing that portrays hyper-sexual imagery of Afri-

can Americans.

"There's so much money that's spent on that kind of marketing that gives people a sense of who they're supposed to be, how they're supposed to

act and what's expected of them, so our social marketing campaign is really focused on presenting people in a different light," she told the Portland Observer.

The campaign emphasizes the importance of having information about the risks of sexual activity and the benefits

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## In the Neighborhood

BY MARK WASHINGTON AND RAYMOND RENDLEMAN/  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

### Efforts toward healthcare access and prevention education have the community talking



There are many free programs out there, but we never worry about health issues when we're healthy.  
--James Dawson



There's a lot of kids dying from leukemia, AIDS and all sorts of other diseases, but there aren't enough people out there trying to help them.  
--Alexandria Brown

There needs to be more health resources and outreach.  
--Jasmine Bradford



It seems like here if you don't make a pretty good income, you're out of luck."  
--Olin Campbell



Health insurance is too high. It's a very complicated situation.  
--Yun Zhang



If you're poor, you still have to pay through the emergency rooms.  
--Deana Harris

All you can do is warn people about health, and people can choose to get involved or not.  
--Corey Howard



Unless our parents have jobs with benefits, it's not accessible. There's the Oregon Health Plan, but many people don't know how to get into it.  
--Joseph Johnson



## Spring to Bring More Green

### Volunteers plant hundreds of trees over weekend

BY RAYMOND RENDLEMAN/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Hundreds of homeowners and Friends of Trees volunteers of all ages planted 279 trees in six Portland neighborhoods on Saturday morning.

The 8- to 12-foot tall trees represented 48 species for the Boise, Eliot, Humboldt, King, Overlook and Piedmont areas, in the nonprofit's biggest neighborhood planting in years.

The triumph was possible partially due to a tree-cost decrease but mostly due to the drive of the neighborhoods, according to event organizers.

"It was that momentum because neighbors started telling each other about it," says Brighton West, Friends of Trees program director. "We also have some very excited volunteers who are coordinating in the neighborhood."

Volunteers formed 23 crews to plant the trees and shared their accomplishments at a potluck lunch afterward at Friends of Trees, 3117 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. City Commissioner Sam Adams attended the planting.

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Friends of Trees volunteers Irek Wielgosz (left) and Paige Coleman put the finishing touches on a street tree that was planted Saturday in front of Dennis and Angie Harris' north Portland home (pictured in center).

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER