

# METRO

The Portland Observer



**Nuborn Tribe**  
Reggae band supports  
community radio  
See story, Arts & Entertainment

**38**  
years of  
community service

SECTION **B**

## Community Calendar

### Pride and Culture Festival

Live performances, lectures and more to celebrate regional and national artists with disabilities takes place through Tuesday, May at the YWCA downtown, 1111 S.W. 10th Ave., from May 15-27. For more information, call 503-358-9085.

### Gospel Fest 2008

Saturday, May 24 from noon to 10 p.m. and Sunday, May 25 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the Mineral Lake Event Center, in Mineral, Wash., enjoy a weekend of country gospel in the fundraiser benefiting the Lewis County Flood Relief.

### Garden Party

Saturday, May 24 from 9 to 11:30 a.m., volunteers are needed at the Clinton Community Garden at Southeast 18th and Clinton Street. To help, call 503-823-1612.

### Learn to Swim

Swimming lessons for ages 8 months and up will begin on June 16 at the Mt. Hood Community College Aquatic Center. Adult classes available in water aerobics, swimming lessons and more; beginning at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, May 21. Register online at mhcc.edu/aquatics. For a complete summer schedule, call 503-491-7243.

### Memorial Day Blood Drive

The American Red Cross will honor veterans through a blood drive and flower judging contest on Wednesday, May 28 from 11:15 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. at 3131 N. Vancouver Ave. Donors will receive a miniature rose while supplies last; live music by pianists Sally Harmon and Jim Fischer.

### Career Connections Job Fair

Thursday, May 29 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.; the Urban League of Portland host the annual career fair at the World Trade Center, 121 S.W. Salmon St. Dress professionally and bring lots of resumes for an opportunity at a new and exciting career. Pre-register at info@ulpdx.org; attach a current resume and they will be distributed to all vendors at the fair.

### Summer Camps for Kids

Plan an exciting summer for your child through the Mt. Hood Community College summer camp programs. All camps begin at 9 a.m. and finish by 4 p.m. with before and after care available. For registration details, visit mhcc.edu/kidscamps.

### Juneteenth Celebration

Portland's Juneteenth celebration will be held Saturday, June 14 with a parade at 11 a.m., starting from the Wells Fargo bank at 5730 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. Activities will follow at Jefferson High School from 1 to 8 p.m. with free food for children, entertainment and booths set up by local businesses. For more information, call Doris Rush at 503-605-8252 or Tisha Stigler at 503-249-9093.

### OHSU Tram Run & Walk

Saturday, June 1, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., the family-friendly event will start at the base of the aerial tram, 3303 S.W. Bond Ave., benefiting Doernbecher Children's Hospital, featuring a health fair, games and more.

### Breaking the Cycle

Saturday, June 7 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Calvary Christian Center, 126 N.E. Alberta St., hosts a workshop teaching men of all ages how to deal with addiction, depression and other pressing issues; \$10-lunch provided. For more information, call 503-422-8573.

### Race for Justice

Saturday, June 21, the St. Andrew Legal Clinic's 5K Run/Walk and Kids Fun Run will kick off at the Madeleine Parish, 3123 N.E. 24th Ave., followed by a post-event party at the parish hall with free pizza, beer, and root beer, proceeds to benefit low-income families receive legal representation; to volunteer or register visit salcgroup.org/events/home.cfm.

### Concert Volunteers Needed

Saturday, June 28 at 7 p.m., Warner Pacific College will host a concert to benefit higher education for the people of Ghana, West Africa. Volunteers to handout flyers and hang posters are needed. Call 503-348-4912.

### Homebuyer Programs

PDC's homebuyer-assistance programs address the gap in home ownership rates between whites and communities of color. For information about the new and expanded homebuyers' assistance programs, visit pdc.us/nhp or call 503-823-3400.

# Hip Hop Helping Schools

## Top acts come together for music programs

Hosted by local hip-hop star Cool Nutz, seven Pacific Northwest bands are donating their time and considerable talents by coming together on Friday, May 30 for the second-annual Music in the Schools benefit concert to raise money for Portland Public Schools' high-school music programs.

The Blue Scholars, a socially conscious hip-hop duo from Seattle, will headline the concert to be held from 7 to 11 p.m. at the Crystal Ballroom in downtown Portland. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

Indie bands YACHT, the Shaky Hands and Typhoon will join local student-led hip-hop groups Gray Matters and State of Mind Crew, as well as OnlyOne and Immaculate, members of internationally recognized Sandpeople group.

Last year, former Lincoln senior Dash Robb, now a freshman at Oberlin College in Ohio, spearheaded the first benefit con-



Cool Nutz

cert with several other students. Held at Cleveland High School with an audience of over 500, these students raised over \$7,000, which was evenly distributed throughout the district's high-school music programs.

With a stellar alternative and hip-hop lineup, these students hope to raise over \$18,000 by drawing in an audience of over



The Blue Scholars, a socially conscious hip-hop duo from Seattle, will headline a concert for Music in the Schools, Friday, May 30 at the Crystal Ballroom in downtown Portland.

1,500 students and music fans from around the city.

"Due to budget cuts over the past few years, PPS's music programs have gradually been disappearing and as students of this district we are passionate, determined and feel very strongly about keeping music and the arts in our schools," said current organizer, senior Galia Slayen. "If the dis-

trict won't ensure that the arts/music are kept in our schools, then we will."

The concert is also intended as community builder and community event. Students from Lincoln, Grant, Cleveland, Wilson and Roosevelt are all sponsoring the event and working together to make this happen, thinking it would be a great way to conclude the school year. Next

year they intend on turning Music in the Schools into a nonprofit organization.

Tickets will be available for purchase online at Pdxmusicintheschools.com, before the concert or at the door on the day of the concert. Tickets are \$12 for students with ID, and general admission is \$17.

For information, please contact gslayen@hotmail.com or call 503-756-7461.

# Cleveland Jazz Takes Center Stage

## Band director builds winning program

With the 2006 hiring of Kenney Polson as band director, Cleveland High School has become the rising star of the metro area's jazz scene.

Thanks to a generous grant from First Octave, the school's jazz band is not only heard on the southeast Portland campus, but at neighboring schools, jazz festivals and monthly at the nearby Community Music Center.

Topping it all off, the band has produced a 55-minute CD recording of 10 of their favorite standards and will perform a special benefit concert on Wednesday, May 21 at 6 p.m. at Jimmy Mak's, 221 N.W. 10th Ave.

"Coming from a district where the arts budget had remained slashed just a few years ago, Cleveland High School's Jazz Band has connected our revitalized music programs to the local community," Polson said.

The band's intensive concert schedule has included special guest performers from Portland's professional jazz community such as Thara Memory, Renato Caranto, Derek Simms, Mel Brown, and Warren Rand.

During the first school year with Polson,



Director Kenney Polson and his Cleveland High School Jazz Band are rising stars in the local jazz scene with trophies from five jazz competitions, a new CD and a CD release party performance Wednesday at 6 p.m. at Jimmy Mak's.

the jazz band brought home trophies from each of five jazz competitions, including 1st place awards at Skyview Jazz Festival, the Pleasant Hill Jazz Festival and the Mount Hood Jazz Festival. This past school year Polson has entered the band at a higher level of competition than the previous year, and the students took 1st place awards at the Clackamas Community College Jazz Festival and at the Pleasant Hill Jazz Festival, making Cleveland High the

most decorated jazz band in the Portland Public Schools.

An established jazz musician, Polson (Kenneypolson.com) insists on teaching only well-known jazz standards to give his students access to the language directly from the jazz greats, also composing and arranging many of the band's selections to capitalize on the band's strengths.

"The talented and dedicated students in the band have all the ingredients for

greatness," Polson said.

Jazz is considered one of the most American of musical styles, and is experiencing an upsurge among young musicians.

Cleveland added another section of jazz band for this school year, giving twice as many students the opportunity to play jazz from professional charts. The stu-

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