

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

Be Sure to Make Spring Break Memorable

At home or away, it's time for fun

BY FASHUN N. STYLES
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

For high school students spring break is a time to have fun. No matter how you and your family spend it, spend it wisely by using your common sense and financial cents. And no matter what climate your spring break is in; hot or cold, stay safe.

Even if your spring break is grounded to your home base, don't worry about what other people are going, don't mope - you can still have a fun and create a memorable spring break of your own.



Spring break is a time for high school students to put away the books and have some fun.

Spring break is a great time to surround yourself in stunning adventures and participate in activities that you've never done before. Traveling involves gaining real life skills that challenge students as they grow into adults.

You may want to take a photo trip and see some of the incredible regions and diverse cultures of the Pacific Northwest, neighboring states or the nation. Talk with your parent, guardian for permission and compromise.

Many students opt out of the traditional or perhaps stereotypical trips to faraway places and settle for an alternative spring break. The choices can even include helping out at charitable organizations and local community programs.

Habitat for Humanity is an

organization that builds homes for families. Ask them about how you can get involved. Some other things you could do would be to tutor children in your community. Research and contact local children's organizations where you think your talents can be of use. Also remember that programs that help the elderly and those that have medical needs is a great way to do something meaningful.

There are still many groups of people that who need assistance in their everyday lives. Take a moment in your life to change theirs. Make an impact and positively help to change communities close to home and focus on service. You can gain knowledge, motivation, and skills necessary to make a difference in the world.

Musicians Support JumpTown

With rekindling of cultural history

The Oregon Music Hall of Fame and the Portland Jazz Festival, guardians of the city's vast musical heritage, have endorsed a proposal to retrofit the Memorial Coliseum and Rose Quarter area with "JumpTown," an entertainment and sports district.

The two groups say the development would rekindle the eastside neighborhood's reputation as the city's premier gathering place of music, culture and community. The venue would advance Portland's music scene with about 150 free shows a year under a covered outdoor stage in the Rose Quarter plaza, according to proponents.

The neighborhood's indelible cultural history, chronicled in Robert Dietsche's book "JumpTown: The Golden Years of Portland Jazz, 1942-1957", served as

inspiration for the project's working title. Some of the most talented jazz artists who've ever played - including Duke Ellington, Louis Armstrong and Thelonious Monk - showcased their talents at clubs on or near Williams Avenue.

"JumpTown brings a deliberate tie to an important part of Oregon's musical history," Marc Baker of the Oregon Music Hall of Fame said. "But the district is very forward-thinking and inclusive, which is the Portland way. We see a revitalized Rose Quarter as a way of sharing the neighborhood's history with students to get them excited about new musical talent to inspire the hall of fame inductees of tomorrow."

Currently, the Trail Blazers and Portland Winterhawks are partnering on the JumpTown plans with Memorial Coliseum designed to improve and enhance the building, while adding new amenities to draw daily community activity.

National Comic Headed to Oregon

(AP)—Without a TV show to do every night, Conan O'Brien is taking his act on the road.

The former host of "The Tonight Show" has announced a 30-city theater tour, beginning in Eugene on April 12.

Sidekick Andy Richter and the former "Tonight Show" band will join O'Brien for what he promises to be "a night of music, comedy, hugging and the occasional awkward silence."

The "Legally Prohibited from



Conan O'Brien

Being Funny on Television Tour" will visit theaters in at least 20 states and two Canadian provinces. Additional dates may be added.

O'Brien quipped: "It was either a massive 30-city tour or start helping out around the house."

O'Brien quit "The Tonight Show" in January instead of taking NBC's offer to move his start time back by a half-hour to make room for "Tonight Show" veteran Jay Leno's return to late night from a failed prime-time show.

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