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**Good Times and Bad**  
*'Voices' exhibit explores our challenges and successes*  
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**Mississippi Street Fair**  
*The annual fair returns to the historic Boise Neighborhood on Saturday, July 14*  
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# The Portland Observer 43

'City of Roses'



Volume XXXXI  
Number 26



[www.portlandobserver.com](http://www.portlandobserver.com)  
Wednesday • July 11, 2012

Established in 1970  
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years of  
community service

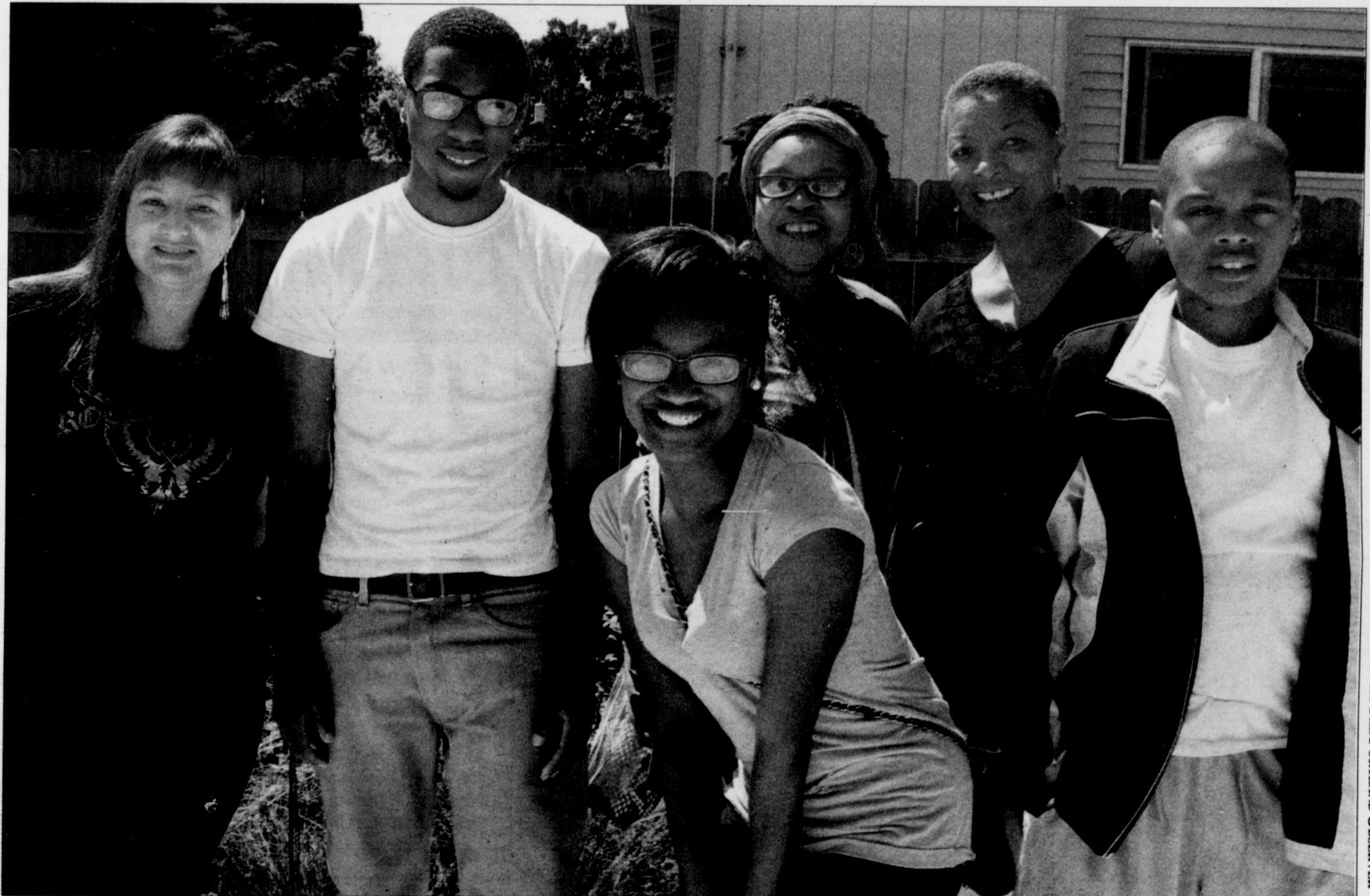


PHOTO BY MINDY COOPER/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

From spoken word artists to costume designers, all ages have dedicated time and energy to create the upcoming 2012 Peace Festival, presented by Black Women for Peace, organized to promote peace among young people of all ethnic groups, celebrate culture and prevent youth violence. From left to right: Theresa Smith, Jesse Jones, Nichelle McKinney, Wanda Walden, Regena Warren, and Jeremiah Penn.

## Performance *for* Peace

### Peace Festival 2012 launched to stop youth violence and showcase talents

BY MINDY COOPER/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Youth from across Multnomah County will come together to share their music, song, dance and spoken word at the first Peace Festival for youth, Sunday, July 15.

Presented by Black Women for Peace, the 2012 Peace

Festival event was organized to promote peace among young people of all ethnic groups, celebrate culture and dignity and to prevent youth violence.

The Peace Festival 2012, free to all public, will take place at Portland Center for the Performing Arts' Dolores Winningstad Theatre, located at 1111 SW Broadway at

4pm.

Among the variety of performers will be students from Benson High School, Reynolds High School, Da Vinci Performing Arts, Native American Youth and

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## Teen Pregnancy Woes

### Local minority groups buck national trend

BY MINDY COOPER/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

As births and abortions decline among teens throughout the country, the rates for

minority communities in Oregon continues to rise, unveiling an increased need for prevention services and education.

Consuelo Saragoza, senior adviser of Portland's Public Health and Community Initiatives, said, "In terms of Multnomah County, the disparity ratio has gone up."

"Nationally the numbers seem to be going down, but when looking specifically at our different communities of colors, it is not changing."

According to the most recent Multnomah County report card, the rate of teen pregnancy for Hispanic teens is six times higher than any other racial or ethnic group in terms of birth rate. For the Native American community, the rate rose from 1.8 to 2.5. For

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