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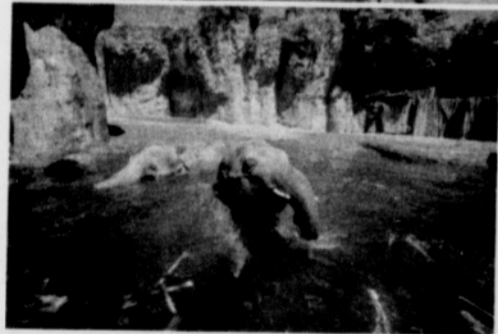
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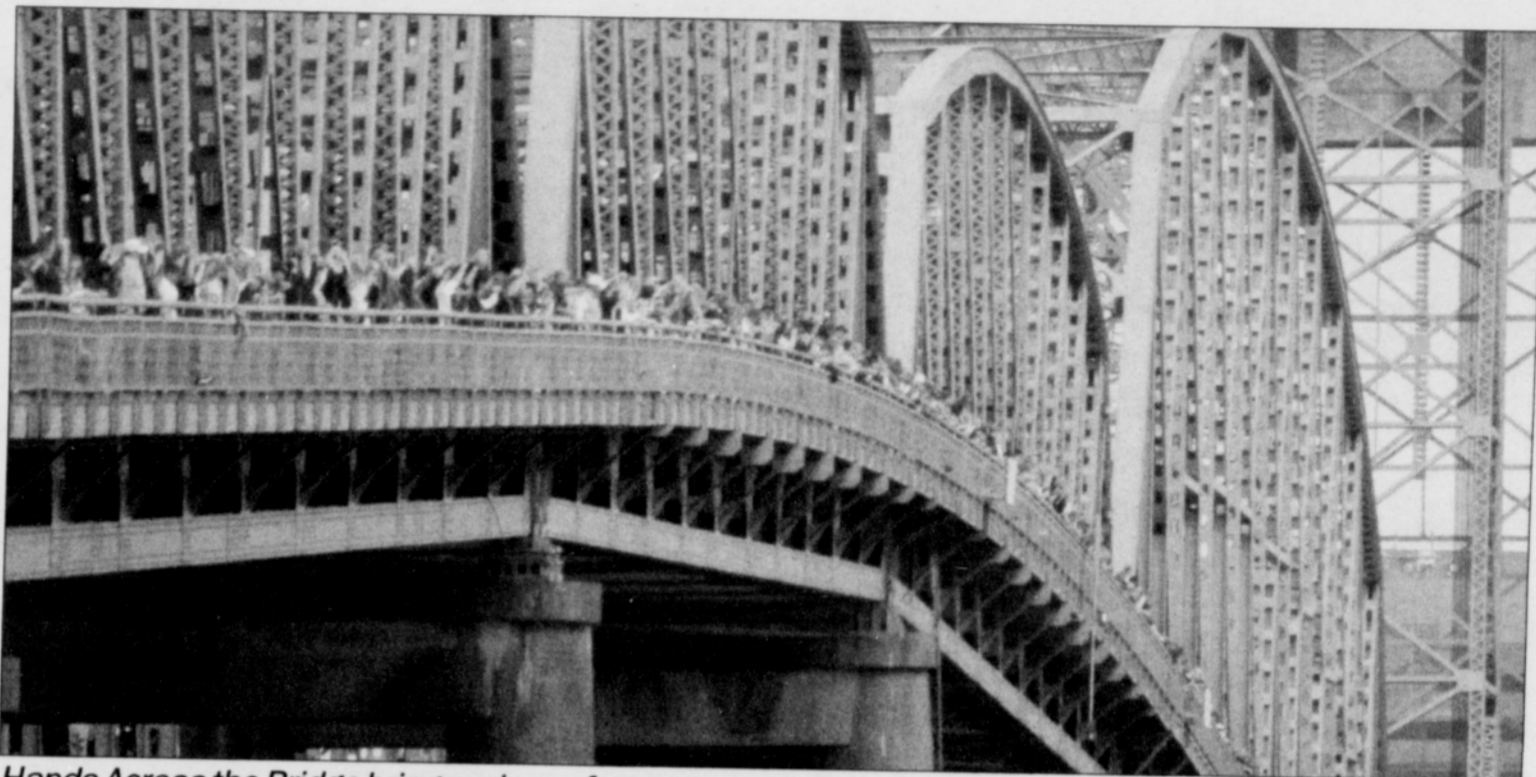


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# Fred Meyer

What's on your list today?

# LOCAL NEWS



Hands Across the Bridge brings voices of recovery together in solidarity and celebration. The annual event returns to the I-5 Bridge between Portland and Vancouver beginning at noon on Sunday, Sept. 14.

## Speak Up, Reach Out

### Voices for Recovery to span I-5 Bridge

September is National Recovery Month and the largest one-day recovery event west of the Mississippi will be held Sunday, Sept. 14 when local residents launch Hands Across the Bridge, an annual event on the I-5 Bridge between Portland and Vancouver.

This year's theme, "Join the Voices for Recovery: Speak Up,

Reach Out," encourages people to openly speak up about mental and substance use disorders and the reality of recovery, and promote ways individuals can use to recognize behavioral health issues and reach out for help.

The event begins at noon with opening ceremonies on each side of the river. Native Americans representing local tribes will drum and lead the participants as they walk towards each other until they unite on top of the bridge. Every participant then joins hands in solidarity and in celebration of recovery as

they recite the Serenity Prayer. The moment of unification is extremely powerful, organizers said.

Last year more than 2,500 people participated and this year, the number is expected to top 4,000.

After the bridge ceremony, another recovery event is held at Ester Short Park in downtown Vancouver. Oxfest is a free event for anyone in recovery and their families and supporters.

For information on Hands Across the Bridge and Oxfest, call Patty Katz at 360-903-4645 or visit the website [handsacrossthebridge.org](http://handsacrossthebridge.org).

## Workers File Discrimination Case

Daimler Trucks North America's Swan Island assembly plant is facing racial discrimination allegations from four black employees

The employees state that they were subjected to nooses, swastikas, racial slurs, and death threats during their 10 years of employment

at the north Portland plant.

Daimler's Portland branches employ nearly 2,000 people, and the plant on Swan Island is home to 800 of those employees.

Environmental maintenance technician Joseph L. Hall, one of the men filing a complaint this past year,

retired in July, sharing only that his past 20 years at the company had been fraught with racial incidents.

Attorney Mark Morrell, who is representing three of the complainants, shared that the case may be headed to litigation if Daimler doesn't come to its senses.

## City Council Settles with Black Executive

Former embattled city administrative officer Jack D. Graham has agreed to drop his legal claims against the city in exchange for a \$40,000 settlement that was recently approved by the City Council.

Graham, the city's highest ranking African-American official at the time, had been accused of financial mismanagement in the city's 2012-2013 fiscal year bud-

get, something he refuted.

Back in April, he had notified the city of his intention to pursue legal claims against the city, including claims of denial of due process, race discrimination, and defamation arising from false allegations made by city representatives that inferred he was guilty.

As part of the settlement with Graham, Mayor Charlie Hales issued a letter clearing Graham of

any wrongdoing. He stated that at no time in Graham's employment with the city of Portland (which started in 2001) did he commit any financial "improprieties."

"Mr. Graham was highly respected by his subordinate employees and was recognized by the Bureau Chiefs he worked for as the most vital manager within the organization," said Hales in the letter.