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Safe and Free at Matt Dishman -- The Matt Dishman Community Center, 77 N.E. Knott St., has opened its doors to teenagers this summer as part of a plan to provide safe and free activities for youth, age 18 and younger through Portland Parks and Recreation. Registration is required.

Rapper Vic Mensa -- Hailing out of Chicago and the Midwest hip-hop scene comes Vic Mensa, a rapper who has performed with the likes of Kanye West, the Gorillaz and J. Cole. Mensa performs Thursday, Aug. 27 at the Wonder Ballroom, 128 N.E. Russell St. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. with the show starting at 8:30 p.m.



Science of Ripley's Believe It Or Not -- What's more amazing that Robert Ripley's legendary compendium of oddities, anomalies and fantastic feats? The science that underlies them! OMSI presents "The Science of Ripley's Believe It or Not!" a 6,000 square foot interactive exhibit that explores the real science behind the unbelievable. The collection of intriguing objects and astonishing artifacts is open through Sept. 7.



A.J. Java Hosts Concerts -- A.J. Java, a community cafe across the street from Peninsula Park at 6425 N. Albina Ave., welcomes the public to a series of free summer concerts each Friday from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., and featuring Cuban sandwiches and a potpourri of Latin sounds.

Norman Sylvester -- Boogie Cat Norman Sylvester and his band perform Friday, Aug. 28 at 8 p.m. at for the Farewell Blues Party Jam at Halibut's; Saturday, Aug. 29 at the Concordia University Music Festival; Friday, Sept. 4 at Clyde's Prime Rib; and Saturday, Sept. 5 at the Oasis and Emanuel Church's "Community Days," at Southeast 89th and Division.

Soulful Showcase -- Blacque Butterfly presents spoken word, live music and featured artists on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at 8 p.m. at E'Njoni Café, African-Mediterranean cuisine at 910 N. Killingsworth St.



Chicago Steppin' Classes -- You have seen the R. Kelly video, now it's time to learn the dance. Groovin' High Steppers offer Chicago Steppin' classes at the

Rockwood Community Center and the Colwood Golf Center. All levels are welcome. No partner is needed. First two lessons are free; \$20 monthly fee includes both locations. For an event schedule, announcements and more information, visit the website groovinhighsteppers.com

Sistahs to Dance at Race for the Cure -- Sistahs4Life, a group of African-American women committed to exercise and life-long fitness habits for good health, will open up the upcoming Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure on Sunday, Sept. 20 with a dance show at Tom McCall Waterfront Park. For more information, visit Sistahs4Life.com

Music Millennium Free Shows -- The Music Millennium, 3158 E. Burnside, hosts in-house live performances. Enjoy free music and the opportunity to meet artists. Call 503-231-8926 for a schedule.

Fourth Sunday Jam Night -- A friends and family variety comedy show in a Saturday Night Live format with local recording and performing artists, bands, dance crews, poets, and drama groups, takes place each fourth Sunday of the month at 7 p.m. at Celebration Tabernacle, 8131 N. Denver Ave. The free event is open to the community.

Hands Across the Bridge -- You're invited to join the voices for recovery at Hands Across the Bridge, an annual demonstration of support coming Monday, Sept. 7 at 10 a.m. to the I-5 bridge between Portland and Vancouver.



Farmers Market at the Square -- Local farmers, food producers and hot food vendors from all over the region fill Pioneer Courthouse Square, Portland's downtown living room, each Monday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. until Sept. 28.

Oregon Black History -- The Black Museum of Oregon group meets every Saturday, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at 420 N.E. Mason St. For more information, call 503-284-0617.

Discount Tickets -- Local low-income families and individuals can purchase \$5 tickets to classical musical performances in Portland as part of a unique program called Music for All. Participating organizations include the Oregon Symphony, Portland Opera, Oregon Ballet Theater, Chamber Music Northwest, Portland Youth Philharmonic, Portland Baroque Orchestra, Friends of Chamber Music, Portland Chamber Orchestra, Portland Piano International, Portland Symphonic Choir, Cappella Romana and Portland Vocal Consort.

Discount Admission -- OMSI visitors pay only \$2 per person for general admission on the first Sunday of each month as well as discounted admission of \$5 to the Planetarium, OMIMAX Theater and USS Blueback submarine.