

48
years of
community service
‘City
of
Roses’



Spring Forward

*Clocks move
ahead 1 hour
Sunday for
Daylight Savings
Time*



A Pathway to Return

*Housing
reserved for
displaced
residents*

See story, page 5

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Established in 1970
Committed to Cultural Diversity



PHOTO BY BEVERLY CORBELL/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Estefania Tapia (left), one of the music teachers helping keep alive an after-school band program at Jefferson High School, fills in on vocals during a dress rehearsal of the Pacific Northwest Show Band, held recently at the school, drawing students from all over the metro area. Tapia is also director of the Sounds of Jefferson band, created just for Jefferson High students.

School Band on a Lifeline

Sounds of Jefferson is back; but program needs funds

BY BEVERLY CORBELL
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

In the 1970s, Jefferson High was a performing arts school with a thriving school band, the Sounds of Jefferson. Today, the focus is on college prep academics and the school's highly-rated dance program is the only remnant of those days.

Back then, the school's music program was created and run by Jim Little. He said the school band was

a huge success with hundreds of kids involved, from elementary school on up. Now he's trying to do it all over again, but this time, as an after-school program.

"The reality is that it's going to be a long time before it's an in-school program (at Jefferson), so the best shot we have is for an after-school program, and I'm a believer in after-school programs," he said.

Serving inner north and northeast Portland, Jefferson High has traditionally been a school that has in-

cluded and attracted African American students, who comprise more than half the student body.

Luwam Solomon, who is black, rides a bus for an hour each day just to go to Jefferson, and now as a singer with the Sounds of Jefferson, she's getting a music education as well, Little said.

But the band is in danger of folding because of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4