

METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

Community Calendar

The Salmon Festival

Salmon watching is a unique Northwest activity and the Salmon Festival on Saturday and Sunday, October 14 and 15, will offer guided salmon viewing tours at Metro's Oxbow Regional Park. Children games and activities, exhibits, arts, musical entertainment, horse-drawn wagon rides and great food round out the festival each day from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call 797-1850.

An Auction of Japanese Antiques

Hisha of Japan and the Japan America Society of Oregon will be having their Fourth Annual Auction of Japanese Antiques on Tuesday, Oct. 3 and Wednesday, Oct. 4.

Going for sale are handcrafted tansu furniture, reed screens, scroll paintings, calligraphy, ceramics, lacquer ware, basketry, textiles and more. Auctions on both nights will be preceded by a preview of the auction items. Previews begin at 2 p.m. and auction starts at 7 p.m. Call 331-0811.

Red Cross Boating Education Course

Red Cross will offer Boater Education at American Red Cross, Oregon Trail Chapter at 3131 N. Vancouver Ave. in Portland. The class will be held on Monday, October 2 from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. The course teaches the basic knowledge needed to operate safely and legally on Oregon waters. For more information or to register, call 503/280-1440.

To learn more about Oregon Trail Chapter, visit www.redcross-pdx.org.

Insights on Conflict Resolution

Explore the use of drawing to look at conflict in a different way. Participants will get insights about themselves and about conflict, and will learn creative approaches to conflict resolution. Drawing materials will be provided. No artistic experience or ability is required. Pre-registration is necessary through the Oregon Peace Institute at 725-8192. Cost for the four-week workshop which is every Thursday from October 5 - 26 is \$40.

Doernbecher Generation Jam

Get 'em before they're gone! Tickets are now on sale for the 3rd annual Doernbecher Generation Jam on Saturday, October 7.

The Doernbecher Foundation Junior Executive Board is turning the Aero Air hangar at the Hillsboro Airport into a concert and dinner hall for the event, which features music by Hit Explosion. Tickets are \$50 (\$20 is tax deductible) and are available through the Doernbecher Foundation office by calling 503/294-7101 or 1-800-800-9583. Raffle tickets will be sold at the event.

Dealing With Challenging People

The Hollywood Senior Center will be holding a workshop to provide neighborhood activists with a tool box of practical techniques for dealing with difficult people and difficult situations. They will examine why people can be "difficult" and methods you can use to control your own reactions.

The workshop will be on Monday, October 23 from 7-9 p.m. at the Hollywood Senior Center located at 1820 NE. 40th. Call Joleen Classen at 823-3202 or Brian Hoop at 823-3075.

Volunteer Rape Victim Advocates

Volunteers needed as on-call rape victim advocates with the Multnomah County District Attorney's Victim Assistance Unit for evening/weekend shifts. Training goes for five evenings from Tuesday through Thursday, from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. and begins Tuesday, October 3 at the Multnomah County Courthouse. For more information and to register, contact a victim advocate at 988-5447.



What's ahead for Benson High School (above)? All buildings in the Portland School District are being evaluated for future use.

Photo by Michael Leighton/Portland Observer

Portland Schools Ponder Future of Buildings

A community-based task force is holding public meetings over the next few weeks to discuss choices that Portland Public Schools faces regarding use of its buildings.

Faced with tight budgets and declining enrollment, the school board has asked staff to identify ways to reduce facility costs and/or increase revenues through the use of its buildings.

Enrollment decline in Portland Public Schools is the driving issue facing the task force.

Portland is attracting more adults without children, and families who do have children are having fewer of them. Enrollments has dropped from a high of 80,000 students in early 1960s to 54,700 last year. Projections suggest the district may dip to 45,000 Students by 2010.

There does not appear to be a significant change in the number of students enrolled in private schools over the past decade, according to demographers from Portland State University.

While enrollment has declined, schools use more space for special services than they did several years ago. In addition to traditional classrooms, schools now have special classes for disabled and non-English speaking students, health clinics, tutoring programs and art and music offerings.

In addition, community use of Portland schools is on the rise. Portland schools are used for hundreds of after-school and evening community programs for children and adults.

Many of the facilities are used for evening and weekend community events and organizational meetings. In many cases, these are provided at no charge, or for a nominal fee.

The issues are complex, and decisions will not be easy. Parents, students, staff and

Activists say turn underutilized schools into community centers

"Try to close neighborhood schools and they'll have a struggle on their hands," says Cecil Prescod, chair of the New Party, a local grassroots political organization.

"We stopped the school board last year and we won't let them sneak one past us this year." Prescod points to the latest move on the part of Superintendent Ben Canada to build school closure momentum through a "Best Use of Facilities Task Force."

The school advocates say that closing schools in low-income, racial minority and immigrant communities would severely disrupt student's achievement.

"How can we close the achievement gap by closing neighborhood schools? The result is transportation problems, leading to attendance and parent involvement problems. The neighborhood schools? The result is lower achievement and higher drop-out

rates," says parent activist and school board candidate Carrie Adams.

Leader of the group have called on the board to rent out space in underutilized schools and further develop "lighted schoolhouse" ideas.

The New Party, through board member Joseph Tam, introduced such a resolution in 1999.

"The national 'lighted schoolhouse' movement shows us the way to save costs, as well as improve academic achievement, keep children out of trouble, and improve opportunities for families," said Tam. The resolution called for "revitalizing, underutilized neighborhood schools as community hubs where government agencies and other community programs share space and pay rent as well as adult education, health, recreation and other services are offered"

community members are encouraged to participate in the process by attending meetings and sharing ideas.

Superintendent Ben Canada has appointed a task force of 30 parents, students, staff, community leaders, building users and citizens to study the issues and bring him recommendation.

At the meetings, the task force will ask community members to give feedback on different options, including school configurations, enrollment policies and size of schools.

Six more meetings are scheduled from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. in the school cafeterias of the following schools:

Sept. 28 Jefferson, 5210 N. Kerby Ave.

Oct. 3 Marshall, 3905 SE 91st Ave.

Oct. 5 Grant, 2245 NE 36 Ave.

Oct. 10 Franklin, 5405 SE Woodward St.

Oct. 17 Lincoln, 1600 SW Salmon St.

Oct. 19 Roosevelt, 6941 N. Central St.

In addition to the community meetings, all task force meetings are open to the public. The district's website has a host of information, including a schedule of meetings, school-by-school enrollment projections for the next 10 years, and reports on the physical condition of every school. For more information, visit www.pps.k12.or call 916-3304.

Police confront protesters

(AP) — Scores of protesters threw eggs and bottles and police responded with pepper spray and arrests during a demonstration Tuesday to show solidarity with protests in the Czech Republic against the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

At least 20 people were arrested after a police officer was assaulted and protesters painted an anarchist symbol on a billboard, according to Lt. Mike Hefley, a police spokesman. At least two police cars were spray-painted with the word "Pig."

Most of those arrested were charged with interfering with a police officer.

"One person from the crowd stated they were anarchists," Hefley said.

Hefley said about 80 protesters took part in the rally. But several hundred onlookers ignored police orders to disperse. Many could not leave the area because Portland buses and light rail were shut down.

Protesters — some of whom said they wanted to reclaim the street for people instead of cars — threw eggs and glass bottles at mounted officers holding them back.

Police responded with pepper spray, and tried to surround the group.

At one point, about a dozen protesters sat in a line in front of police in riot gear. Officers removed them.

"We just want peace against the brutality, the harassment, the animal cruelty, we have a right to be here. We didn't bring any weapons or anything," said Brandy Carroll, 16.

Protester Jill Krymkowski, 26, said people weren't there to bring attention to police weren't there to bring attention to police brutality.

"Most of the people who are gathered are here because of Prague and the IMF and global capitalization," she said.

At a small fountain near the rally, Cole Kane tried to wash pepper gas out of his eyes.

"These are mostly nonviolent people, they didn't want any of this," the 24-year-old Portland man said. "I told the police, cool out, none of these kids want to fight you."

The protest also was a show of solidarity with local union groups, according to 24-year-old Brian Schulz of Portland.

"Huge amounts of public time and resources shouldn't be spent stopping them because these people would just march peacefully up and down the streets otherwise," he said.

At one point, the crowd grew angry after a police officer on a motorcycle bumped one protester in the shin. The protesters — a crowd stretching three blocks — broke through the police line and moved up a major Portland street, bringing traffic to a standstill.

More than four hours later, protesters gathered at Portland State University and then dispersed.

The demonstration was one of several rallies held in the United States in sympathy with protests in the Czech Republic.

In Prague on Tuesday, thousands of people demonstrated outside the IMF and World Bank summit, throwing firebombs as police responded with clubs and tear gas.

Portland State Urban Center Dedicated

New Plaza Houses College of Urban and Public Affairs

The 137,000-square-foot Urban Center & Plaza houses PSU's nationally recognized College of Urban and Public Affairs, as well as distance learning facilities and retail space.

The construction was funded through a unique public and private partnership.

The building, designed by architect Thomas Hacker, is the first major construction project of the University District since approval by the City of Portland, creating a catalyst for future development and public/private partnerships in the south end of downtown.

Portland State University, a nationally

acclaimed leader in community-based learning, is located along the tree-lined South Park Blocks of downtown Portland. The University's position in the heart of Oregon's economic and cultural center enables PSU students and faculty to apply scholarly theory to the real-world problems business and community organizations. Portland State offers over 100 undergraduate, master's and doctoral degrees, as well as graduate certificates and continuing education programs, PSU serves more students and confers more masters' degrees annually than any other Oregon university.



Portland State University's New Urban Center and Plaza