



# Family

## Portland Girls Share Dreams in Twin Pageants

By MICHAEL LEIGHTON  
PORTLAND OBSERVER

Two girls from northeast Portland have a lot in common this fall.

They are cousins who are both competing for national titles in the Miss Pre-Teen and Miss Pre-Teen

is the daughter of Kelli Ross and Steven Gunn. Her cousin, Annwannette McKenzie, 8 is the daughter of N. Grace McKenzie and Leon D. McKenzie Jr. Tanita attends Beaumont Middle School where she is involved in gymnastics, the YAGO youth anti-

designer. Annwannette is a member of the Sabin Drill Team, competed in the 2000 Run for the Arts and is the former Miss 1999 Sweetheart USA.

Her goal is to go to college to become a great singer and dancer.

Both will be challenged and judged

academics and achievements, as well as poise, appearance and personality.

The state pageant system provides both girls with the initial pageant entry fee, but donations are needed to help pay hotel, air-



Tanita Ross (left photos) and Annwannette McKenzie (right) will compete for national titles in November.

Petite pageants in Orlando, Florida. The girls are also the first African-Americans to represent Oregon in their respective categories. Tanita Ross, 12,

gang organization; DARE program, GREAT program and Police Activities League. Her goal is to become a gold medal Olympic gymnast and a fashion

in many different events during the national pageants, Nov 17-26. The competition includes categories in talent, modeling, writing, speech, interviews,

fare, food and other expenses.

Local residents are being asked to help. Please call 503-284-8828 for more information.

## Endangered Runaway



Jesse Nacoste

The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children is helping in the search for a Gresham boy.

Jesse Nacoste has been missing since July 14. He has black hair, brown eyes, is about 5'8" tall and weighs 138 to 163 pounds.

Jesse was born on Nov 9, 1986. Authorities say he may have traveled out of state. He may use the first names Jess or Scott, and the alias last names Smith or Pena. Jesse has scars on his legs and a homemade tattoo on one of his hands.

Any one having information should contact National Center for Missing & Exploited Children at 1-800-843-5678 (1-800-THE-LOST) or the Gresham Police Department at 503-823-3333

## Blazers Boys & Girls Open Kids House

Boys & Girls Clubs of Portland Metropolitan Area, Portland's largest youth development organization, is teaming up with Weed & Seed, a neighborhood revitalization strategy, to officially open Oregon's first Kids House.

Located at the Blazers Boys & Girls Club, 5250 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Kids House provides a positive, nurturing home-away-from-home during the non-school hours for 75 to 100 children per day from Northeast Portland's King Neighborhood.

Boys & girls Club program staff and volunteers are trained to create a home-like environment where kids, parents and other adult's volunteers can work and play together

Kids House also relies upon community volunteers to help provide academic support, recreation activities, adults supervision, and family style meals.

Information on volunteer opportunities is available by calling the Blazers Club at 503-282-8480.

James Byrd was dragged to his death in Texas and Governor Bush won't support legislation **against**

# hate crimes

300 feet  
600 feet  
1 mile  
3 miles

On June 7, 1998 James Byrd Jr. was beaten then chained by his ankles and dragged three miles behind a pick-up truck until he was dead, all because he was black. Yet when Byrd's daughter, Renee Mullins asked Governor George W. Bush to support hate crimes legislation, Bush said "no".

**take control of our lives and community.  
tell Governor George W. Bush &  
Congress, America needs hate crimes legislation**

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