

METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

Community Calendar

Wild in the City

Portland Parks and Recreation's Outdoor Recreation Program, in collaboration with The Audubon Society of Portland, will visit Summer Lake Park, a 24-acre community park dedicated to the city as a condition of development of the Summer Lake and Ari Green subdivisions. Call 503/823-5132.

Learn to Meditate

Discover how meditation can simplify your life and deepen your sense of happiness. A meditation workshop will be offered by the Sri Chinmoy Centre for free. The event will be held on Sunday, March 4 at the Portland Downtown library, from 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. Call 503/450-9915 to register.

Evening Indoor Park

The only evening indoor park in Portland - perfect for working parents! Join us every Tuesday through March 13, 6 - 8 p.m. at Rice School and enjoy slides, trikes, balls, and cars in this parent-supervised play time. For 50-cents per child, children up to age 6 can enjoy a safe, relaxed, cooperative playtime. Rice School is located at 6433 NE. Tillamook. Call 503/823-3661.

Dr. Seuss Birthday Party

On Thursday, March 1, McMenamins Kennedy School throws a Birthday Party for Dr. Seuss. Stop by Kennedy School from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. for birthday cake and performances by the Phoenix Theater group, whose actors will invite all family members to join in honoring the author with interactive, descriptive readings of your favorite Seuss tales. A free celebration. Call 503/249-3983.

Protect the Salmon in Your Yard

A free "Naturescaping for Clean Rivers" workshop will be held on Saturday, March 10 at the Albina Youth Opportunity School. The workshop focuses on natural landscapes and water-friendly gardening practices. Each participant receives a workbook and a native plant to start his or her own natural garden. The free workshop will be held at the Albina Youth Opportunity School, located at 3710 N. Mississippi, from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Call 503/797-1842.

Kayak/Canoe Tualatin River Tour

Portland Parks and Recreation's Outdoor Recreation Program, in collaboration with The Audubon Society of Portland and Tualatin Riverkeepers, will host a leisurely kayak or canoe paddle along the Tualatin River. This is a great trip for the novice paddler to explore the riparian forests along the river, as the water is calm and the distances are short. Participants provide their own boats. Call 503/823-5132 for more information and to register.

Vehicle Law Class for Bicyclists

The Bicycle Transportation Alliance, located at 1117 SW Washington in downtown Portland will be having a free vehicle law class for bicyclists on Thursday, March 15, from 6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. For more info., call 503/226-0676.

Saturday Forest Park Hikes

Discover some of the 60 miles of hiking trails in Forest Park. All hikes are approximately seven miles long with elevation gains of up to 1000 feet. These hikes are a great opportunity to get aerobic exercise, meet people and take in some of Portland's own wilderness. Bring lunch, drinking water, appropriate clothing and hiking boots. Call 503/823-5132.

Eastgate Movie Screens Go Dark



Oregon's biggest movie theater has gone out of business. Regal Cinemas has been struggling with maintaining too many theaters over the last few years and the Eastgate Theatre in southeast Portland has fallen victim to cutbacks. Company officials say a number of the employees will be offered positions at other theaters in the area. "Raiders of the Lost Ark" was the last flick for the Eastgate's giant screens, selected by a vote of employees. (PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/PORTLAND OBSERVER)

Commission Approves New Power Rates

Pacific Power customers will see an immediate increase on their electricity bills, because of a rate hike approved last week by the Oregon Public Utility Commission.

The PUC approved a 3-percent hike, but residential customers will only see a 2.55-percent increase on their bills, an additional \$1.66 each month for a typical residential customer using 1,022 kilowatts of electricity each month.

"We're in an extraordinary situation with the market right now," said Matthew Wright, vice president of regulation for PacifiCorp, Pacific Power's parent company. "We need some relief."

The rate increase is the latest example of how utilities in the Northwest have reacted to the soaring wholesale power prices. An electricity shortage and uncertain regulatory climate are the most-cited reasons for the more than tenfold increase in wholesale electricity prices in the past year.

But consumer and business advocacy groups question whether there's convincing evidence the increases are warranted.

"We have huge and gigantic doubts" about whether retail customers should bear the financial risk of PacifiCorp's wholesale purchases and sales, said Jason Eisdorfer, lawyer for the Citizens' Utility Board, a consumer advocacy group.

Electricity rates also increase for businesses, with the amount depending on their electricity consumption.

Report Lists Measures to Restore Willamette River

(AP) — A report on critical steps needed to clean up the Willamette River lists 27 actions, ranging from controlling pollution from industry and farmland to financial incentives to protect fish and wildlife habitat.

"The Willamette River is in trouble," said the Willamette Restoration Strategy. "We are witnessing disappearing fish and wildlife, toxins and wastes in waters, undependable water supplies and continued habitat destruction."

"Many natural resources are being used beyond their ability to replenish themselves. Population growth and development continue to put pressure on the land and water."

Oregon State University President Paul Risser was chairman of the group of environmentalists, farmers, home builders, elected and government officials, business leaders and others who made up the task force ap-

pointed three years ago by Gov. John Kitzhaber.

Risser presented the final report to Kitzhaber at Willamette University, saying it lays out a sound strategy for improving the river's health and keeping the Willamette Valley livable.

"There isn't a miracle diet to make this happen," said Kitzhaber. "This is going to require the equivalent of a long-term commitment to good nutrition and exercise."

The report makes a series of recommendations intended to link grassroots salmon recovery work with efforts to reduce pollution and boost summer river flows.

Task force staff estimated the cost of recommendations ranged from \$10 million for education programs for housing developers and citizen groups to hundreds of millions of dollars to cool water around dams.

Critics said that while the report offers a road map for solving the river's problems, it falls short on recommending specific actions.

For example, it calls for reducing toxic pollutants in the river but doesn't say specifically who is responsible for the cleanup, how it will be done or how long it should take, said Jeff Allen, director of the Oregon Environmental Council, who also served on the task force.

Allen said many specific actions were eliminated from the report because they couldn't get the support of at least 80 percent of the task force's members. "We sidestepped many of the difficult decisions," he said.

While the plan calls for no legislative action, the Oregon Environmental Council and other conservation groups plan to press the Willamette River Restoration Act, which would require the state to implement a number

of actions, such as buying 50,000 acres of key fish and wildlife habitat by 2010.

The bill also would require dams to be operated primarily to simulate natural stream flows, require all water users to report their annual consumption and raise fees for pollution-discharge permits.

Risser countered that the report was "highly detailed," and noted that it includes a number of steps that can be taken for each of the 27 action items listed in the report.

Kitzhaber praised the report and said it provides a framework for getting diverse interests working together to solve the Willamette Valley's problems, rather than relying on regulation alone.

"I think we'll look back in 10 or 15 years and see this report as one of the high points in Oregon's legacy of self-sufficiency and environmental stewardship," the governor said.



A dog available for adoption shows his good behavior in front of onlookers at Lloyd Center. The Multnomah County Animal Control event was held Saturday to kick off a new Adoption Outreach Van to be used at various locations thanks to grant by Pet Smart Charities and donations from area residents.

(PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/PORTLAND OBSERVER)

Pet Adoptions Go Mobile

Law Would Remove 'Squaw' From Landmarks

The Oregon Senate approved two measures Tuesday that will remove the word "squaw" from the names of landmarks and public property around that state.

Senators agreed the word is demeaning to women.

One measure would urge the Secretary of the Interior, the US Board on Geographic Names and the Oregon Geographic Names Board to remove the word from various geographic areas and sites.

The other measure would require cities and counties to eventually rename streets, public buildings and parks that have the word "squaw" in them.

The only vote against the two measures was cast by Senator Roger Beyer.

The Mollala Republican said he thought the measures would saddle state and local governments with unnecessary costs.