

METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

"Bridging Portland Communities"

SECTION B

Community Calendar

Caribbean Music in the Park

Have lunch at the Eastbank Esplanade and a free noon-time concert. You will suddenly feel as though you are lounging on a Caribbean Island. There will be marimba music on Friday, Aug. 3 and Friday, Aug. 17; Steel drum music on Friday, Aug. 10. All concerts are from Noon-1 p.m. Call 503/823-5596.

Preparing for Childbirth

Learn about labor preparation, birthing from within, breastfeeding basics, coping techniques, medication, anesthesia, baby care and postpartum care for the mother and family. Includes tour. The Center for Women's Health Classes at OHSU is sponsoring the event which will be held on Aug. 8, 15, 22 and 29, from 6-8 p.m. Call 503/494-8231.

Stories of the Eastbank

Explore the un-natural history of the Willamette River with Paul Fishman, environmental consultant. View and discuss how the Esplanade design incorporates many features to protect and enhance fish and wildlife habitat and how past land use practices compromised the integrity of the river's ecological balance. Meet at the west end of the Steel Bridge walkway at the north end of Waterfront Park. Call 503/823-5596 for more info. This is a free event.

Libraries Closing on Aug. 9

All Multnomah County libraries, the Title Wave Used Bookstore and the Library Administration building will be closed on Thursday, Aug. 9, while library staff attend training. Normal hours will resume on Friday, Aug. 10.

Teen Summer Kayak

Experience

Portland Parks and Recreation is offering a chance for teens to try out several kinds of boats, from sea kayaks to racing boats. Interested participants will have the opportunity to continue paddling at the regular summer practice sessions of the Portland Kayak and Canoe Team. Participants must pass a basic swim test. Participants must meet at the Sellwood Pool, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., daily. Call 503/823-5132.

Meditation Classes Offered

Oregon Health & Science University's Healthy Aging Project is offering meditation classes on Thursdays from 5:30-7:30 p.m. in the School of Nursing, room 602. This new meditation program is designed to help people adjust to the changes of the second half of life, and improve one's health and well-being. The class will learn six different forms of meditation. Call 503/494-7757.

An Evening of Excellence

You are invited to join us in the celebration of Hope House's first banquet fund raiser on Saturday, Aug. 4, 7 p.m. Come one, come all, as we enjoy this time of celebration. The event will be held at the Ramada Inn (Airport), which will include a full dinner buffet and music by Gospel singer Ruby Terry. Call 503/287-0060.

33-family Rummage Sale

The Grant Gendrills dance team will hold its giant, annual 33-family Rummage Sale fundraiser on Saturday, Aug. 11, from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the front entrance of Grant High School, located at 2245 N.E. 36th Ave. Items for sale will include collectible, furniture, clothes, books, toys, sporting goods and tools.

Lead Poisoning Prevention Workshop

The Community Energy Project sponsors free Lead Poisoning Prevention Workshops for Portland residents. Income-qualified participants receive a free prevention kit worth about \$45. Free childcare is provided. The next workshop will be on Monday, Aug. 6, from 6-7:30 p.m. at Neighborhood House, Turning Point Program, 6552 S.W. 19th Ave. Call 503/284-4962 to pre-register.

Twins and More

Doernbecher Children's Hospital on the 8th floor will be giving a talk on "Twins and More," from 6-8 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 8. Discover tricks and insights from trained staff on how to simplify your delivery and infant care and feeding when you are expecting twins or more. Meet other moms to be, and share your concerns and questions in a supportive environment. To register, call 503/418-4200.

New Parks Bus Finds Niche



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
The Portland Parks and Recreation Department's new "Rec N Roll" bus, with its portable arts and crafts, sports and other activities, draws a lot of interest while parked at the downtown waterfront. The bus has been a huge success this summer, drawing kids to area parks where normally no summer activity programs are available.

Worker to Fight For Job

Employee who supervised Gresham toddler's fatal visit appeals dismissal

(AP) - A state caseworker who sat in a car reading a newspaper while the woman he was supervising allegedly strangled her daughter will contest his dismissal from the State Office of Services to Children and Families.

Dale Kraft, 51, will get a hearing before agency managers Friday to protest his termination.

Kraft, a veteran state employee only a short time away from being eligible to retire after 30 years with full benefits, is entitled under his union contract to defend his job in a hearing.

Last week, the state announced plans to dismiss Kraft. It did not explain the exact reasons, but said he gave inconsistent answers during a state Department of Justice investigation of Alexis Lopez's death.

Lane Toensmeier, an organizer for Local 503 of the Service Employees International Union, said the union will represent Kraft at the hearing. He would not discuss the case specifically, but said the state agency had prejudiced Kraft's case by announcing the intention to consider dismissal before he had a chance to defend himself at a hearing.

Alexis, a ward of the state, died July 11 during a visit with her mother, 32-year-old Sharon Weston, in a Gresham park. Weston had lost custody of Alexis last fall. She is accused of killing the 20-month-old girl after taking her away from Kraft to a secluded part of the park. Weston is charged with murder.

Police found Kraft sitting in a state car more than 45 minutes after the crime was reported. According to a statement released by the Department of Human Services, an investigation by the Department of Justice concluded that Kraft made inconsistent statements.

As a human services assistant for the children's agency, Kraft had been assigned to arrange and supervise the visit. He had arranged other visits for the child with her mother.

Supplies Extremely Low for CityTeam Shelter

CityTeam Ministries' shelter and soup kitchen is working overtime to keep up with a record number of homeless people showing up at its doorsteps for food, shelter and addiction counseling. This summer, the numbers of homeless people needing food and shelter have more than doubled, leaving the cupboards and freezers bare. "Normally we have four freezers up and running, but we are down to two and our meat supply is nearly gone," said Julie Stephenson, Director of CityTeam. "Our winter numbers never died off, the people just keep on coming and we need emergency help if we want to continue serving a record crowd."

The soup kitchen regularly offers lunch and dinner five days a week, and is only closed Wednesday and Sunday.

Because of unusual overcrowding, CityTeam now employs a lottery system for homeless men in need of a bed. The shelter only has 55 beds available. "Besides meat and frozen vegetables, we are running out of blankets and the weather has been unusually cold at night," said Stephenson. Anyone can help by dropping off blankets, meat and vegetables or tax-deductible cash donations at the ministry located at 526 S.E. Grand Ave. For more information call 503-231-9334 or 503-490-8806.

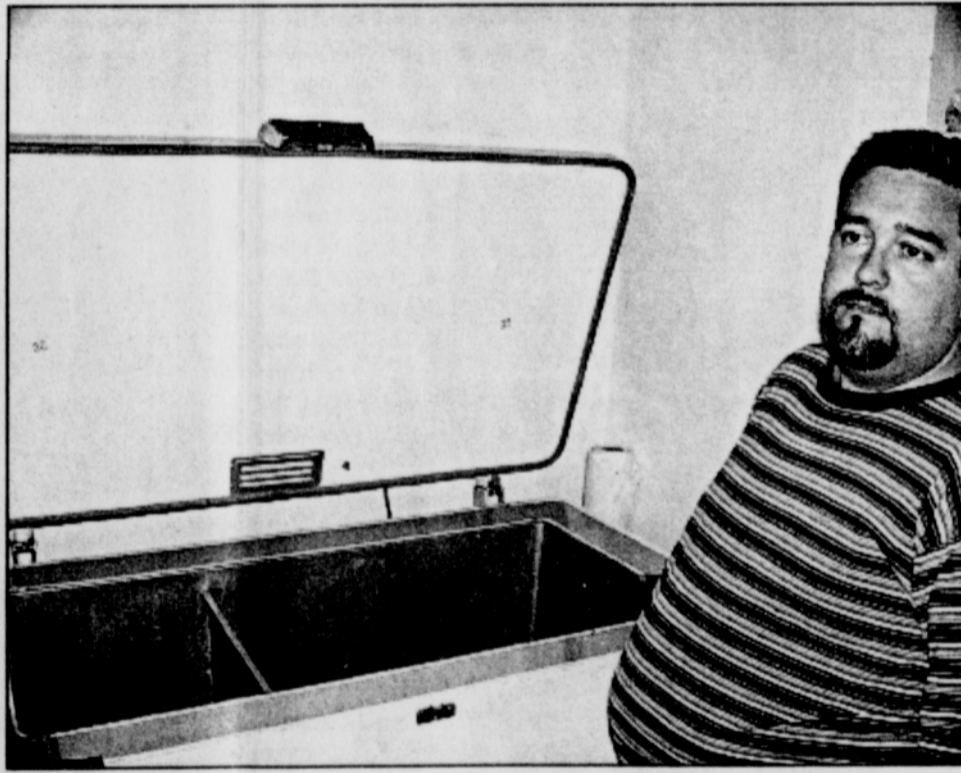


PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
Mark Duhrkoop points to a bare freezer as a sign of trouble at the CityTeam Ministries Shelter and Soup Kitchen on Grand Avenue in southeast Portland. Donations are urgently needed to offset the record number of people receiving emergency help this summer.

Kafoury to Lead Democrats

Rep. Deborah Kafoury, representing north and northeast Portland, will serve as House Democratic Leader. Kafoury is serving her second term in House District 18. She was House Democratic Whip during the session that ended in July. "I'm honored my colleagues have chosen to give me the responsibility of leading our caucus," Kafoury said, following her election to the position on Saturday.

Kafoury is a former aide to former Congressman Les AuCoin in Washington D.C. She is a graduate of Grant High School and has a bachelor's degree in English from Whitman College. During her three years in the Oregon Legislature, she has focused on advocating for Oregon's children, families and seniors by promoting educational opportunities, healthy families, strong communities and responsible government.

Big Pipe to Close West Burnside



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
Motorists are advised of the pending closure of West Burnside for installation of a big pipe to divert Tanner Creek from the city's combined sewer flow.

Monday, West Burnside Street, between 14th and 19th Avenues, will close to construct a segment of the Tanner Creek Stream Diversion project.

The work is part of the city's Combined Sewer Overflow program. It was originally planned to begin on July 23, but moved to accommodate changes in the construction schedule.

Crews will dig a diagonal trench across the street to install a six-foot diameter pipe.

This project is part of the city's 20-year combined sewer overflow program to prevent overflows to the Willamette River.