



Workplaces to Go Smokefree in 2002

New law attempts to stamp out secondhand smoke

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Community Calendar

Forested Winter Walks

Magness Memorial Tree Farm, owned and operated by the World Forestry Center, is offering free guided hikes through its 80 acres of forested land near Wilsonville. Hikers can enjoy a free guided 1-mile hike each Sunday at 2 p.m. This is a perfect outing for families or youth and scout groups. Reservations are not required. Call 228-1367 or visit www.worldforestry.org.

Weatherization Workshop

Don't let your heating bills take you hostage. Take action! The Community Energy Project will be having a free Weatherization workshop on Thursday, Jan. 10, from 6-8 p.m. at the Lane Community School, 7200 SE. 60th Ave. Qualified participants receive a free kit of materials worth \$150. Call 284-6827.

Monster Trucks at the Rose Garden

A thundering herd of Monster Trucks are coming back to the Rose Garden on Feb. 8-10 for a jam-packed weekend of fun. This show will be featuring the country's biggest and baddest monster trucks. The Monster Jam features four-wheel drive and four-wheel steering motorized beasts flying over cars and jumps on their way to the finish line. Fortickets, call 224-4400 or go online to www.rosequarter.com.

Portland's Fix-It Fair

Hosted by the City of Portland's Office of Sustainable Development, the 15th annual Fix-It Fair is a free neighborhood event designed to connect Portland residents with public resources that save money, conserve resources and improve homes and neighborhoods. The first 150 attendees at the "Self-Help Weatherization" workshop will receive a free weatherization materials kit. For a schedule, call 823-7590. Childcare available.

Volunteer Garden Guides Needed

Botanical gardens and specialty parks in the Portland area need volunteer guides to talk to visitors about the plantings. A recruitment fair for garden guides is scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 26. It will be held at Cheatham Hall in the World Forestry Center between 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Call 823-3601.

Free Environmental Workshops

PreK-8th grade educators are invited to join the World Forestry Center for free "Meet Project Learning Tree" workshops designed to introduce teachers to one of the highest rated environmental education programs in the country. Each workshop is from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and will be offered on Jan. 12. Reservations are required. Call 228-1367, ext. 108.

Improve Your Handwriting

Want to improve your handwriting? Learn how for free. Portland State University will be hosting National Handwriting Day with a Handwriting Improvement Workshop on Saturday, Jan. 26, from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the Smith Memorial Center, located at 1825 SW Broadway, Smith Center Ballroom, Rm. 355. Call 725-4891 or 1-800-547-8887.

New Year Begins on Picket Line



Nurses at Oregon Health Sciences University spend New Year's Eve seeking economic justice. The striking workers, representing more than 1,500 nurses, went on strike Dec. 17. Nurses are clashing with hospital executives over working conditions, stagnant wages and the worsening shortage of registered nurses.

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

King Jr. Run on Starting Blocks

Inaugural Jan. 13 run and walk on Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard to celebrate north and northeast neighborhoods

An inaugural Martin Luther King Jr. 5K Birthday Run/Walk is scheduled Sunday, Jan. 13 at 10 a.m.

For the first time ever, runners and walkers will be able to stroll down Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and celebrate the neighborhoods of north and northeast Portland.

The event, sponsored by the North Northeast Business Association, begins and ends at King School, 4906 N.E. 6th. A victory party will cap off the festivities at the King School Park.

The run/walk is a fundraiser to benefit area nonprofit agencies. It is also a celebration of King's legacy and good work.

Participating agencies include the American Red Cross, Black United Fund, Friends of the Trees, Grace Collins Center, Oregon Outreach, Planned Parenthood, Rivercity Track Club, Self Enhancement Inc. and Northside YMCA.

Participants can register at the neighborhood nonprofits with half of the registration fee going directly to that organization.

Event organizers want the event to reinforce north and northeast Portland as "The Soul of Portland," a vibrant urban multi-cultural setting with employment, eating, shopping and entertainment easily accessible.

The spine of "The Soul of Portland" is Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, described as the "Boulevard for Sports in Portland" with two of the world's largest athletic gear manufacturers on the boulevard. The event also encourages athletic and community participation in the local neighborhoods.

Additional information and race applications are available by calling the North Northeast Business Association at 503-284-3093.

Max Work to Bring Road Closure



A new bridge under construction in north Portland will carry MAX light rail trains over the Columbia Slough near Denver Avenue.

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

North Portland's Interstate MAX construction will reduce traffic lanes on Columbia Boulevard and close Portland Boulevard at Interstate Avenue this month.

Portland Boulevard will be closed to through traffic at Interstate while tracks are installed at the intersection. The closure will last nine days, starting on Saturday, Jan. 12 through Sunday, Jan. 20.

Westbound traffic will be detoured from Portland and Interstate to Lombard and Interstate. Eastbound traffic will be detoured to Ainsworth.

Columbia Boulevard traffic will be reduced to one lane in each direction where the Denver viaduct crosses over Columbia Boulevard. Lane restrictions in the area start Wednesday, Jan. 2 and will last four to five weeks.

The restrictions will allow for utility construction, drainage work and digging pylon holes for a new MAX bridge over the Columbia Slough.

When the MAX line opens in September 2004 it will run along Interstate Avenue to the Expo Center, linking north Portland to downtown by connecting to the existing MAX line at the Rose Quarter.

Wilshire Neighborhood Teen Murder Linked to 1997 Assault

Portland police detectives have determined that there are strong indications the murder and sexual assault of a teenager in the Wilshire neighborhood in northeast Portland is linked to a 1997 sexual assault near Jefferson High School.

Melissa Bittler, 14, was found dead Dec. 14 in the backyard home of a neighbor just past the time she normally would catch a



A four-year old drawing shows a suspect in a 1997 assault near Jefferson High School who now is a suspect in the murder of a girl in the Wilshire neighborhood.

bus to school.

Police say on Nov. 5, 1997 a 14-year-old female victim was walking to school, grabbed, pulled between two houses, and then sexually assaulted. In both assaults the crime occurred near a busy street.

Detectives believe the suspect in the 1997 assault may be the same person as the perpetrator of the Melissa Bittler homicide and are re-releasing his description in the hope that someone in the area will be able to identify the person.

The 1997 suspect was described as a male black, 30-40 years of age, 5'9" - 6'0", medium build, dark complexion, bald or shaved head, with no known facial hair or glasses. This description is now four years old, the suspect may currently have a different hairstyle and may have gained or lost weight.

Portland Police Bureau Homicide detectives are urging anyone with information in this investigation to call 503-823-4731.

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