



PHOTO BY DAVID PLECHL/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Northeast Precinct Commander Bruce Prunk.

Keeping a Close Eye On Crime

continued from Front

will be let go; no stations will be closed." Although, the mayor did approve plans to cut 17 non-sworn positions.

Sgt. Neil Crannel briefed the group on gang related problems facing north and northeast Portland. According to him, gangs have been quite active, with criminal activity concentrating around a just a few houses. He noted numerous shootings and gang related beatings this month.

Crannel described incidents observed where gang member approaches another randomly on the street. The confrontations often provoke street fights or even gun battles.

Crannel also noted that crystal meth, a widely used drug among white kids in high school, is quickly becoming more popular with local gang members.

Despite the problems facing the community, Officer Dave Benson, commander of tactical operations, an agency that deals primarily in gang related incidents, knows the area has made significant strides.

"This community has come along way in

the past seven or eight years, and it isn't going back," he told the gang group.

Benson recalls hearing gunshots "going off like fireworks" back in the summer of 1994; there were 117 shootings in just 90 days on Alberta Street.

Commander Prunk believes one of the most important steps to community livability is reaching at-risk youth before they make decisions that lead to crime and drug abuse.

"If we can keep them engaged in positive activities, hopefully they won't get involved in trouble," said Prunk.

Prunk serves as director of Camp Rosenbaum. Each summer for 17 years, he has been taking 160 kids from low-income households to the Oregon coast for a week of hikes, horseback riding, arts, and crafts.

"If you are a kid, it is a wonderful adventure," he said.

Prunk also serves as a lieutenant colonel with the Oregon National Guard's 142nd Air Wing and has taught sociology classes at Portland State University for the last eight years.

Spraying Makes Progress in Mosquito Fight

continued from Front

Last week, applications were made over Hayden and Sauvie Islands, the Sandy River and the Rooster Rock area of east Multnomah County. In May, the county inspected and treated 843 acres of floodwater habitat.

A recent sampling shows the fight is

working.

Areas with 25 mosquito larval per dip, or about 25 million mosquito larvae per acre, have been reduced to just .1 larvae per dip, officials report.

"Residents of Multnomah County are well served by an organized mosquito surveillance and control program," Shirley said.

Multiracial Families to Celebrate Legalized Interracial Marriage

Multiracial people, families and those who support them are invited to a June 29-30 celebration of the Supreme Court decision that legalized interracial marriage in the United States in 1967.

The commemoration will begin on Saturday, June 29 at 8:30 a.m. with a

free, participatory conference at Portland Community College's Sylvania Campus. Those planning to attend are urged to call the Oregon Council on Multiracial Affairs at 503-288-8484.

Area residents are also invited to celebrate the 35-year-old court decision on Saturday evening, June 29, at

Billy Reed's Restaurant, located at 2808 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

Matt Kelly, the founder of the Marvin Foundation, a group devoted to multiracial people, will speak during the event at PCC and again on Sunday, June 30 at 10 a.m. at Ainsworth United Church of Christ.



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