

Humbolt Festival

Gospel music party at neighborhood back to school event

BY SEAN P. NELSON, THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The air rang out with the sound of gospel choir Juniors Jammin 4 Jesus during the Humboldt Back to School Celebration Sunday.

Beautiful voices of children gave thanks from the Morningstar Baptist Church in Northeast Portland.

Many other gospel choirs also brightened the celebration with their joyous music.

One notable performance was by the St. James Pentecostal Steppers.

Using what they called affirmations, the group danced together and cheered a love of God to a musical tune.

"Because he loves me, and I love him too," the team cheered.

Headlining the event was the world class African rhythm band led by Obo Addy.

"Wow, we were so lucky to get world class musicians to play in our neighborhood festival," said North/Northeast Business Association District

Coordinator Bridget Bayer, who helped organize the event for the Humboldt Neighborhood Association.

The African rhythm group comes from Ghana. Their rhythm music style is strongly influenced by jazz.

"I think we had a really good turnout," Bayer said. She estimated about 500 people turned out for the festival throughout the sunny, Sunday afternoon.

In addition to gospel groups, organizations such as Write Around Portland also appeared. The group offers free creative writing workshops, explained WRAP volunteer and outreach coordinator Rhea Wols.

The Portland Fire Department arrived with Engine Number 14 from the fire station at Northeast 19th and Killingsworth.

"We were invited to come. We're also here to show off our rig," Lt. Bob Woolins said referring to the fire engine.

Another interesting part of the festival was a dunk tank, operating as a fundraiser for Yaweh Drill Mime and Sign. Participants had a blast chucking balls at the tank sitter in this good-natured game ending in a splash.

The event's sponsors include



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
Area kids sort through free school supplies at the Humboldt Back to School celebration Sunday on the Portland Community College campus on North Killingsworth Street.

the North Star Ballroom, Big City Produce, the Blind Onion, the tenants of Falcon Arms Apartments, the Bureau of Housing and Community Development, and Imp-press Printing.

Scathing Report Blasts Police Bureau Review

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But the center's experts found numerous problems in the way homicide detectives investigated the cases.

Among the problems were a typical three-day delay in the interviewing of officers involved, untaped interviews of officers before their taped interviews, leading questions in taped interviews of officers and witnesses, and no order prohibiting officers involved from meeting or discussing the cases.

Some current and former Portland homicide detectives defended the three-day waiting period as reasonable and even preferable, because it gave offic-

ers time to decompress. But the center's experts said there is no significant research that officers' perceptions will be restored as time goes on.

Delaying the interview, they said, increases the possibility of officer collusion and is unfair, considering police immediately interview similarly traumatized civilians.

Other inadequacies cited were the failure to keep extraneous officers out of crime scenes, failure to locate critical pieces of evidence, failure to conduct relevant gun-powder residue tests or trace bullet trajectory paths for all police shootings, and failure to properly canvass scenes and interview all witnesses.

AMA Police Review Called 'Shocking'

Black religious leaders finish Kendra James' shooting report

BY JAYMEE R. CUTI THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

An independent investigation into the police shooting of Kendra James conducted by the Albina Ministerial Alliance is finished, but details won't be made public until Sept. 6.

However, AMA President Roy Tate said Monday that he expects the African American ministerial group's findings will be "shocking."

"We want people to know what's really going on and what we've come up with," Tate said.

The Alliance conducted its study based on reenactments and a dissection of the 600-page police record of the deadly shooting which occurred May 5 during a traffic

stop at North Skidmore and the I-5 overpass.

Tate said the AMA would forward the results of investigation to a new alliance, currently being formed. Some of the members of the original ministerial review team, including Tate, will take seats on the new board.

"We've taken this as far as we want to go," said Tate. "I'm going to continue because I think we need to continue voicing our concerns because we want to see changes take place."

The Alliance plans to present its findings to Mayor Vera Katz and Portland Police Chief Mark Kroeker on Thursday, Sept. 4, and will hold a community meeting to present the study to the public from noon to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 6 at Maranatha Church, 4222 N.E. 12th Ave.

"I think they're going to be surprised to see this isn't just from the African American community, from the north/northeast. It's from a broader community," said Tate.

Police Watchdogs Resign

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relationship with the Police Bureau, it did not receive the necessary support from the city's Independent Police Review Division. The division, she said, shunned dissenting opinions and withheld access to police internal affairs reports on cases the citizens committee chose to review.

The citizens committee also had no power to review officer-involved shooting, including those of Kendra James, the unarmed 21-year-old woman killed by police at a traffic stop in north Portland and Mejia Poot, who was shot by police while in a psychiatric hospital.

New members will be selected to

replace those who have stepped down.

Blackmer said he is disappointed that the resigning members failed to recognize the good work the committee accomplished in the last two years.

"The issue is trying to improve police services and we've done a lot of things to improve interactions between police and citizens," Blackmer said. "We've brought the timeliness for handling complaints from measurements in years to measurements in weeks, with more satisfied complainants and more mediation between complainants and police officers. We've spotted patterns of complaints so we can change police policy and avoid complaints from happening."

March Against Violence

Walk to memorialize woman killed on her front porch

Family and friends of Asia Bell James, a woman who was killed on the front porch of her North Mississippi Avenue home last year, have organized a march to stop violence in the city.

The Senseless Violence Leads to Silence March, in honor of Bell and all victims of violence, will be held Saturday, Sept. 20 beginning at 10 a.m. at the former Renaissance

Market, 909 N. Killingsworth St. and ending at Alberta Park, at Northeast 20th Avenue and Killingsworth Street.

Bell, a wife and mother of four, was fatally shot in a walk-by shooting. Her killer is still at large.

A reward fund was set up to help catch the persons responsible for her death. Donations can be made to the Asia Bell fund at any US Bank.

The anti-violence march will include a barbeque dinner, games, gospel choirs, jazz, family photos and more.

To volunteer or make a donation, contact Pastor Leroy Hayes at 503-249-5844.

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