

METRO

The Portland Observer

Peninsula Season Ends at Regionals

Little League all-stars run into fierce competition

See story in Sports, page B2

SECTION B

Community Calendar

Gallery of Visual Arts

View art from talented local artists of all ages throughout the month of August at the Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center; 5340 N. Interstate Ave., from 9 a.m. - 6 p.m., free.

Alberta Farm Market

Providing healthy, affordable, high quality food, the Alberta Cooperative Grocery offers seasonal produce from local growers, ready-to-eat food and weekly entertainment. Open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. daily, located on 1500 N.E. Alberta St. For more information, call 503-287-4333.

The Sabbath

Spend your weekend well at the Israelite Church of God and Jesus Christ, 309 N. E. Wygant St., for the Sabbath. Friday service begins at 7 p.m. and Saturday service is at 8:30 a.m.

Fair Housing

Join the Fair Housing Council on Aug. 12 for a discussion titled Interpretation of Fair Housing Laws at the Woodstock Library, 6008 S. E. 49th Ave., from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Aug. 12. Register by calling 503-772-8825

Humane and Bazaar

The Oregon Humane Society hosts a summer craft bazaar and pet fair on Saturday, Aug. 14 and Sunday, Aug. 15 at 1067 N. E. Columbia Blvd.

Ready for School

Back to the Future School Supplies Give-A-Way is from 1 to 5 p.m. on Aug. 29 at the Chevron Gas Station parking lot at 3435 Martin Luther King Blvd. at Fremont. Get supplies while they last. Call 503-890-0070.

Voter Registration

Register to vote and learn how to register your friends, family and others in the community Saturday, Aug. 18, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Hollywood Library; 4040 NE Tillamook St. Refreshment will be provided. To learn more, visit online at <http://www.multcolib.org>.

Interest in Adoption?

A free information meeting for prospective adoptive parents is held the third Wednesday of every month from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Belmont Public Library, 1038 S.E. 39th Ave. For more information, call 503-226-4870 or visit www.openadopt.com.

Stay Healthy

Sankofa Health Institute offers a free diabetes support group from 6 to 7:30 p.m. every third Thursday at Alberta Simmons Plaza, 6707 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. For more information, call 503-285-2484.

Work For Change

Community Advocates invites those interested in protecting children from abuse to become an event volunteer, event outreach, technology expert, graphic artists or office support team member. For more information, call 503-280-1388.

Home Improvement

The Community Energy Project holds free workshops on water conservation and weatherization. For more information, call 503-284-4962.

NAACP Meetings

The Portland Branch of the NAACP holds two monthly executive committee meetings, on the second Thursday of the month and the Thursday before the fourth Saturday of the month. General membership meetings are held on the fourth Saturday of each month. For more information, call 503-284-7722.

Food Credits are Defense Against Hunger

State sees dramatic increase in food stamps

Oregon has been ranked among the highest in the nation in the share of eligible residents who received food stamps and the numbers of people who participate in the federally funded program continue to rise.

Food stamps now reach more than 420,000 Oregonians with \$35 million in monthly benefits.

Gov. Ted Kulongoski welcomes the assistance but laments that food stamp benefits are not a long-term solution to Oregon's hunger problem.

"Because of the federal food-stamp program, many Oregon families who are struggling to make ends meet are able to feed their children, protecting them from the long-term consequences of hunger," Kulongoski said.

Director of Department of Human Services, Gary Weeks said dramatic statewide increases in food-stamp usage resulted in part from factors that included successful outreach to the working poor.

The state agency, food stamp advocates, food banks, schools and other community partners are credited with publicizing food stamps' availability and expanded eligibility. The state has also streamlined the enrollment process.



PHOTO BY JAYMEE R. CUTI/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

In local stores, the Oregon Trail Card holds credit for food stamp purchases helping low-income residents of the state.

Weeks said almost 170,000 of Oregon's food-stamp recipients are under age 18, of whom nearly 124,000 are under the age of 12.

"Trust me, if kids are hungry they won't concentrate on their spelling or arithmetic," Weeks said.

Still, many Oregonians who would benefit from food stamps still are not receiving them, according to Patti Whitney-Wise, executive director of the Oregon Hunger Relief Task Force, a statewide advocacy group created by the 1989 Legislature.

For more information about food stamps or to see if you qualify visit online at <http://www.dhs.state.or.us/assistance/foodstamps/foodstamps.htm>.

PCC Board Leaders Elected

The Portland Community College Board of Directors voted Dana Anderson as chair and Harold Williams as vice chair for the 2004-05 school year at its July 15 meeting.

Anderson represents Zone 4, which includes north, northeast and southeast Portland, while Williams represents Zone 2, which includes parts of Multnomah and Columbia counties.

Anderson is a partner with Conservation Services, a hearing health care



Dana Anderson



Harold Williams

Williams is president of CH2A Associates, a local contract policy, consulting and management ser-

vice firm. Williams is president of hundreds of community and business

development center and education outlets in

locations.

PCC is the largest post-secondary educational institution in Oregon, enrolling nearly 100,000 students annually, and operating three comprehensive campuses along with five workforce training and education centers, a small business devel-

MINORITIES Win NEW PARKING DEAL

Group wrestles control of Smart Parks

In a unanimous vote, city council commissioners in Portland voted to award a lucrative public parking contract to Star Park and the Alliance of Minority Chambers of Commerce, to manage the public parking garages, including all revenue accounting and employee operations.

This is the second time that the city has voted to award a multi million-dollar contract to the joint venture partners, making it particularly unique. In 2003, the venture partners successfully wrestled the management contract from the highly influential Portland Business Alliance.

The latest award takes the city's Smart Park contract from the politically powerful Goodman family, owners of City Center Parking. The Goodman family had held the lucrative public parking contract with the city for 24 years.

The minority chambers had to jump through numerous hoops and participate in high stakes politics, twice, to get the award. An independent evaluation committee, appointed by the City Council, recommended the group last June.

However, in a last-minute appeal, the Goodmans cried foul and claimed that they had the best deal. Their influence was enough for City Council members to take a second look. But a citizen's review committee, for a second time, selected Star Park and the Alliance of Minority Chambers, and justified their recommendation in a detailed two-page letter to council commissioners.

Roy Jay, President of the African American Chamber of Commerce and founder of the Alliance of Minority Chambers, said the joint venture partners had worked long and hard to give the city the best possible proposal.

He said, "We were very, very confident in the process, although we had to go through it twice."

Vice Chair of the African American Chamber, JoAnn Bowman added, "This is another example of minorities being able to compete on a level playing field without having to be minority certified. The city

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BIKE Group Completes Habitat Tour



PHOTO BY KEN LE GROS

Members of Bicycles and Ideas for Kids Empowerment (BIKE), a local cycling group, celebrate the Portland finish to a cross-county bicycle tour for Habitat or Humanity, with Rebecca Fausel of Portland, one of the participants of the trek across America raising money for the housing non-profit. The kids rode their bikes in the last leg of the journey. A dance circle, food and other entertainment followed the July 31 festivities at Jamison Sq. downtown.