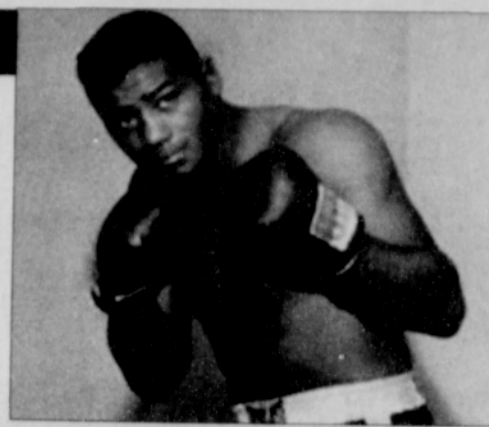


METRO

The Portland Observer

Patterson Remembered

Undersized heavyweight won title at age 21



see Sports, page B6

SECTION B

Community Calendar

Rally for Housing Justice

A rally for housing justice to support seniors, people with disabilities, working families and low-income individuals is scheduled at noon on Thursday, May 25 at Portland City Hall, 1221 S.W. 4th Ave. For more information, call Michael Anderson at 503-335-9884.

Bike to Work Day

Celebrate National Bike to Work Day, Friday, May 19, with a special event from 7:30 a.m. to 9 a.m. at Oregon Square Park on Northeast Holladay between Seventh and Ninth Avenues. Enjoy free breakfast, speakers, door prizes, demonstrations and more.

Beginning Meditation

Free yourself from worries and mental discomfort and experience true happiness by learning about meditation in practical, easy, clear and systematic methods each Monday from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at In Other Words bookstore, 8 N.E. Killingsworth.

Local Grads Honored

The Bridge Builders organization invites the community to congratulate African American graduates from Portland and Vancouver at the 10th annual Black Baccalaureate, 7 p.m. Sunday, May 21 at the University of Portland Childs Center.

Lents Home Buying Fair

On Saturday, May 20 learn how you can buy your own home in Lents, and meet with realtors, lenders, title companies, developers, home-buying counselors, businesses and non-profits. The fair free and open to all, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Kelly Elementary, 9030 S.E. Cooper St.

Free Adoption Meeting

Open Adoption and Family Services offers a free information meeting for prospective adoptive parents, Wednesday, May 24 from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Belmont Public Library, 1038 S.E. 39th St. For more information, call 503-226-4870 or visit www.openadopt.org.

Jefferson Old School Dance

Shake it to Old School and R&B at the Jefferson High School Reunion Old School Dance, Friday, May 26 from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Melody Ballroom, 615 S.E. Alder. Ricky Pettiford and DJ O.G. One will provide the music and tickets are \$20, helping Jefferson Student Funds support future proms, grad nights and student activities. For more information call Phoebe Tyeskey at 503-490-0985.

WellBeing Sunday Brunch

Individuals living with HIV/AIDS are invited to WellBeing's Sunday Brunch, open every Sunday from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. with free home cooked meals served at 4 p.m. in the historic Mt. Olivet building, 1734 N.E. First Ave. For more information, call 503-622-6138.

Interstate Farmers Market

The Interstate farmers market is ready for its second year, with a variety of fresh local produce, baked goods, cut flowers, artisan cheese, meat and fish. The market is open each Wednesday from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m., next to Overlook Park across the street from Kaiser Permanente Interstate Campus.

Movie Night at Senior Center

Woody Allen's Matchpoint plays Friday at 1 p.m. at The Hollywood Senior Center, 1820 N.E. 40th Ave. Soup and sandwiches will be available for a requested \$1 donation.

36
years of
community service

Portland Unwired

Free Internet connections coming this summer

BY SARAH BLOUNT
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

It may come as a surprise that Portland will soon become unwired. Interiors of Internet connection, that is.

With a project to blanket city neighborhoods and homes with free wireless signals beginning this summer, wi-fi hot spots will finally expand beyond coffee shops and bookstores.

The technology is made possible through a partnership between the City of Portland

According to city of Portland Chief Technology Officer Matthew Lampe, the entire city should have access to wi-fi by the end of next year.

and Metro-Fi, a Bay-area outfit that designs, builds and operates wi-fi networks. It will be Oregon's first citywide wi-fi network and one of a handful in the country.

The company will eventually deploy 2,000 transmission points throughout Portland, mounted on telephone poles, street lamps, buildings, etc. The first phase hits a few square miles of downtown and possibly the Lloyd Center. Next it will cover key business districts and finish in residential areas.

According to city of Portland Chief Tech-

nology Officer Matthew Lampe, the entire city should have access to wi-fi by the end of next year. He said Metro-Fi will pay the estimated \$8 million to \$10 million to build the system.

The company generates revenue for the service through one-inch local and national ad banners that run when the wi-fi is in use, but Metro-Fi promises to give subscribers the option of an ad-free premium service.

"Because we don't have to dig up streets with wires it's much more economical than Broadband, DSL, or cable networks," said company co-founder Chuck Haas.

Although the new service is touted as free for Portland, the city will help facilitate equipment placement to reduce potential risks. It also has agreed to buy services from Metro-Fi that won't affect consumers, like hooking up Smart Park meters to lower credit card processing fees, and converting TriMet reader boards to a wireless system.

For the average consumer, wi-fi means the choice to replace dial-up, DSL and cable Internet with a broad connection that is everyone's favorite price: free.

Municipal employees and price-conscious residential customers are expected to be the biggest users of the new service, because at one-fifth the speed of other connections, many businesses will keep their high-speed networks. For city employees



PHOTO BY SARAH BLOUNT/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
Jeffrey Jungbauer uses free wireless Internet at Goldrush Coffee in northeast Portland. Soon the popular wi-fi service will move into all neighborhoods of the city, including homes.

who are often away from the office, a wireless network enables them to download and upload data while in the field.

As cities race to try municipal wi-fi networks, dead spots and weak signals have meant that many residents still pay for their own Internet access.

Lampe acknowledged this sort of risk, but after considering proposals from Earthlink and the local Internet Service Provider Veralan, they went with Metro-Fi because of

their experience at pioneering wireless technology, and their track record with existing networks in California.

"One of the reasons we liked Metro-Fi is because they have experience," he said, "and their networks have improvements based on experience."

The municipal network will most likely complement other wireless access; the vol-

continued on page B3

Juneteenth Plans in Motion

Portland's Juneteenth celebration is moving to new location this year.

Peninsula Park, along North Albina Avenue between Ainsworth Street and Portland Boulevard, will host the June 16, 17 and 18 weekend with a new one-stop shopping center of opportunities, services and information for all of Portland.

Lary Matthews (from left), Regena Williams and Woody Broadnax promote plans for this year's Juneteenth celebration scheduled, June 16-18 at Peninsula Park in north Portland.

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/

The mission is to successfully inspire and support individuals and corporations, while understanding and embracing diversity, according to Juneteenth Community Unity committee members.

Organizers have partnered with Portland Parks and Recreation to bring music, food and merchandise vendors to Peninsula Park for the freedom day celebration. Representatives from the wellness community, job and college recruiters and the military have already accepted invitations to attend.

Other individuals and businesses interested in participating are encouraged to pick up an information packet, completed and submitted no later than June 13, to Juneteenth Community Unity 2006 in care of the House of Exodus, 7339 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Portland, OR 97211.

For more information, call Woody Broadnax at 503-978-9229.



Dig Begins on King Food Market Site

Project key for MLK corridor

Groundbreaking and start of construction has finally begun on the long-awaited redevelopment of the former King Food Market property, a long blighted block that once housed a McDonalds restaurant at Northeast Fremont Street and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard.

Phase One will include the construction of a new commercial building with approximately 3,500 square feet of storefront retail space and 5,600 square feet of office space.

The new building will serve as a gateway into inner northeast Portland and anchor a prominent corner



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
Groundbreaking has begun for a new mixed-use storefront at Northeast Fremont and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, bringing economic vitality to long blighted block.

with new businesses that serve the community. It is expected to be a catalyst to the ongoing revitalization along the MLK corridor and a model for a mixed-use, high-quality project on a small, urban site.

Minority, women, and emerging small businesses will participate in approximately 25 percent of the total commercial construction cost, and the project will create an estimated 14 permanent jobs from the businesses that locate at the site upon completion.

Proposed for phase two of the project are seven new homes facing Grand Avenue.

The Portland Development Commission, with input from a community advisory committee, selected the Fremont Partners, LLC as the developers for the property.