'City of Roses'

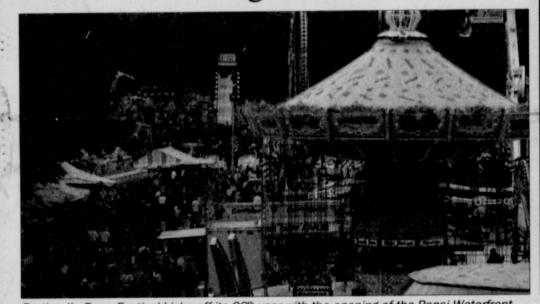
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The Fred Meyer Junior Parade in northeast Portland's Hollywood District is an annual Rose Festival favorite. This year's edition takes off at 1 p.m. on June 7 from Northeast

Rose Festival Time! Waterfront Village kicks off the fun



Portland's Rose Festival kicks off its 99th year with the opening of the Pepsi Waterfront Village, downtown on Thursday with activities continuing through June 11. For the first time, the Queen's Coronation takes place immediately prior to the Southwest Airlines Grand Floral Parade on Saturday, June 10 at 8:30 a.m.



Fireworks over the downtown waterfront will again dazzle eyes when the Star ATM/Debit Fireworks Spectacular explodes in a sky of color on Friday at

Acting chief in public glare BY SARAH BLOUNT THE PORTLAND OBSERVER For better or worse, Interim Chief of Police Rosie

Sizer is in charge of the Portland Bureau, and any decisions during her non-tenured term are inde pendent of the fate of Chief Derrick Foxworth's job. Sizer's hasty promotion came on April 11, after

Interim Police Chief Rosie Sizer

Striving

for Impact

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON

THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Foxworth was placed on leave while the city investigates his relationship in 2000 with a bureau civilian desk clerk. Mayor Potter's appointment catapulted Sizer, the former Southeast Precinct Commander, straight into the public glare - at a press conference that afternoon she stood at the podium still dressed in fatigues and looking shell-shocked.

Sizer's job hasn't become any easier in the past couple months, having to make decisions that will best suit her leadership, yet never knowing how long her job will last.

"I'm not interested in this job as a placeholder," said Sizer, who is 47 and a 20-year veteran with the Portland Police. "I've been behaving as chief of police because during my tenure, the less uncertainty the better."

Sizer has been particularly active interim chief, and within days had demoted Assistant Chiefs Stan Grubbs and James Ferraris. Shortly after, Assistant Chief Dorothy Elmore, the first African American woman to hold the position, announced her retirement June 30, saying Sizer had asked her to step down. Sizer said she'd only indicated what was likely to happen within the bureau, and that Elmore had acted on that.

She said she won't make any more high ranking appointments or promotions until Foxworth's investigation is complete, but plans to make the most impact in her position.

The fact that Sizer is a woman has often meant she's been held to a higher standard, sometimes getting pushed beyond a comfortable level, but she feels her minority status shows the city's commitment to diversity.

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Race Called Issue in Local Schools, Politics

Outgoing leader speaks out

BY SARAH BLOUNT

THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Vanessa Gaston, hired as president of the Urban League of Portland in 2003, will leave her organization this summer well prepared to continue its recovery and growth.

Gaston heads to Las Vegas to pursue personal goals, but her brief tenure here has helped the organization operate more efficiently, with more impact, and in better shape than she found it.

"I feel good because we were able to accomplish some big tasks, and lay the foundation," she said. "Now the board

just needs to take it to the next level."

When Gaston moved to Portland in 2003 she wasted no time becoming a vocal advocate for Portland Public Schools, serving on the Jefferson Design Team and the district's Central Office Review for Results and Equity Committee.

Her educational involvement showed her how troubling the African American achievement gap is in schools across the Portland.

"What has frustrated me most is the unwillingness to talk about race," she said. "These issues impact every part of the city."

As long as there are few resources and low expectations, Gaston said, our schools will continue to have the same outcomes.



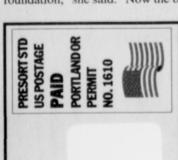
Vanessa Gaston

On a positive note, she commended recommendations made by the Annenberg Institute for School Reform, which conducted a review of the district central office in 2004. The findings addressed some obvious yet somewhat ignored issues and emphasized the African American achievement gap, something she wishes the city would

"They did a phenomenal job because the issue of institutional racism came out loud and well," she said. "The gap needs to be eliminated, and we need political and business leaders to actually say this."

It's that lack of recognition that has partially shaped her perception of Portland, a city she finds tough for people

"It's very interesting for me," she said, "although I've had a lot of support, I've never been in a city with that kind of attention. You can't make any mistakes in this community."



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Oregon Newspaper Project

Week in The Review

Oregon Soldier Killed

Jeremy Loveless was shot and killed in Iraq on Memorial Day. The 25-year-old soldier worked as a volunteer firefighter for the Estacada Fire Department before joining the military about a year ago. He was married with one young daughter.

Iraq Bomb Hits TV Crew

A CBS correspondent, Kimberly Dozier, was flown to a U.S. military hospital in Germany Tuesday after being

critically injured in a Monday blast that killed two of her colleagues during a new wave of violence in Iraq.

Bonds Homers Past Ruth

Barry Bonds belted his 715th homer Sunday, moving past Babe Ruth to No. 2 on the alltime list. The San Francisco slugger needs 40 home runs to tie Hank Aaron's record of 755.

No Trace of Hoffa

The FBI said Tuesday it found no trace of Jimmy Hoffa after digging up a suburban Detroit horse farm in one of the most intensive searches in decades Barry Bonds



for the former Teamsters boss. foreigners who are healthier than The two-week search involved dozens of FBI agents, along with anthropologists, archaeologists, and cadaver-sniffing

Marines Join Quake Aide

U.S. Marines joined an international effort Tuesday to deliver aid and medical equipment to some 200,000 Indonesians left homeless by a devastating earthquake, as hopes faded of finding more survivors. Saturday's magnitude-6.3 quake killed nearly 5,700 people.

Canadians are Healthier

Add Canadians to the list of

Americans. Harvard medical School researches found that Americans are 42 percent more likely than Canadians to have diabetes, 32 percent more likely to have high blood pressure, and 12 percent more likely to have

GOP Booster Nominated

Treasury Secretary John Snow resigned Tuesday and President Bush nominated Goldman Sachs chief executive officer Henry M. Paulson Jr. as his replacement. Paulson is a major Republican donor and fundraiser.