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The Portland Observer

'City of Roses'

Volume XXXVI, Number 23

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Wednesday • June 07, 2006Wal-Mart
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see Metro insideSafe Summer
Concert
Addressing violence,
sexual health
see Metro insideWeek in
The Review

Foxworth Probe Done



The city of Portland has completed its investigation into the sexual misconduct allegations against Police Chief Derrick Foxworth with

a report going to Mayor Tom Potter on Thursday. Potter promises to extensively review the probe before he decides if Foxworth violated any policies.

Behanding in Terror Plot

At least one member of a group of terror suspects plotted to storm Canada's parliament and behead officials, including the prime minister, if Muslim prisoners in Canada and Afghanistan were not released, according to charges made public Tuesday. Prosecutors say 17 persons have been charged with more arrests expected.

Soldiers Die in Afghanistan

A roadside bomb killed two U.S. coalition soldiers and wounded two others in eastern Afghanistan on Tuesday, according to Afghan officials. A Taliban spokesman claimed responsibility for the attack.

Iraq Prisoners Eye Release

Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki said Tuesday that 2,500 Iraqi prisoners will be freed from U.S. and Iraqi-run detention centers as part of reconciliation efforts in the country.

Billy Preston Dead at 59

Billy Preston, the exuberant keyboardist who landed dream gigs with the Beatles and the Rolling Stones and enjoyed his own series of hit singles, including "Outta Space" and "Nothing From Nothing," died Tuesday at 59. His longtime manager said he had been in a coma since November and suffered from kidney failure.



Les Schwab Tires Sued

A lawsuit filed by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission accuses the Les Schwab Tire Centers chain of failing to hire, train and promote women into management jobs. See story, page B2.

Teen Beats Venus at Open

Teen sensation Nicole Pietrangeli pulled off her second successive upset Tuesday at the French Open, beating Venus Williams 6-7 (5), 6-1, 6-3 to earn her first Grand Slam semifinal berth. The score was remarkably similar to the 17-year-old Pietrangeli's previous match, when she stunned top-ranked Amelie Mauresmo.

Walk
for Life

The first annual Eddie Barnett Jr. Foundation Walk for Life at Jefferson High School Saturday, with Barnett's mom Christeen Johnson speaking to nearly 100 participants. Barnett died from a form of heart disease during a basketball game at Madison High School last year. See story and additional photos on page A5.

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Remembering Columbia Villa

Exhibit to tell
story of diverse
communityBY SARAH BLOUNT
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The far-north Portland neighborhood of Columbia Villa was somewhat disconnected from the network of other neighborhoods weaving through the city. Perhaps that's why many people unfamiliar with the location didn't see beyond the non-descript housing, the warnings against gang activity and assumptive media perspectives.

But many former residents of the Villa, a close-knit group who lived in one of Portland's most culturally diverse pockets, had different views. The legacy of those experiences and lives will come into focus for the entire city with the New Columbia History Exhibit, compiled by Sue Arbuthnot and Richard Wilhelm.

In 2002, as the couple was involved in an oral history project about Interstate Avenue, the Housing Authority of Portland was busy preparing a complete transition of the neighborhood into New Columbia, with mixed income homes, apartments, stores, schools and connecting streets.

In May of 2003 the housing authority hosted a history fair about Vanport, which the couple attended, where they learned more about Columbia Villa. They followed the suggestion of a housing authority representative, and began filming historical clips of the Villa from its pre-World War II beginnings to the rebirth in 2004. As they discovered more about the neighborhood's past, they knew it would be a shame if its legacy lingered only in a

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
Sue Arbuthnot steps onto Main Street in New Columbia with its new apartments and storefronts. Arbuthnot and her husband Richard Wilhelm are creating a history exhibit of the former Columbia Villa neighborhood.

The entrance to Columbia Villa in 1942 shortly after its completion.

handful of minds.

Later that summer, they arrived nearly every day with a camera for about seven weeks, documenting the demolition and relocation. As the Housing Authority was swamped with the reconstruction, the pair continued to collect memorabilia, house signs, street numbers and other relics.

"We were impressed with the sense of community," Wilhelm said. "Even among 17 languages spoken, people found ways to communicate, like through food."

"It's not fairly characterized," he added, "and we wanted people to tell their

continued ▼ on page A3

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Eugene, OR 97403-1299PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
Portland Habitat for Humanity Executive Director Steve Messinetti joins Tonya Griffin and daughter Tajane on Sunday, in front of Griffin's new home-in-progress at New Columbia in north Portland.Blitz Builds 4
Homes in 7 Days

Habitat for Humanity launched a Home Builders Blitz in the New Columbia neighborhood of North Portland on Saturday with expert volunteer construction experts building four houses—start to finish—in just seven days.

Habitat affiliates throughout the United States are joining Portland to create more than 400 homes from coast to coast this week, making it the

largest volunteer building event in the nation's history.

The Griffin family, made up of Tonya, daughter Tajane and son Trevion, is one of the local families who will move into one of the new homes. As part of the non-profit Habitat for Humanity program, the family puts in their own sweat equity toward the construction of future Habitat homes for low-income residents.