

# METRO

The Portland Observer

Police Activities  
League Camp  
Makes Positive  
Connections  
see story, page B6



SECTION B

## Community Calendar

### Iraq War Exhibit

"Eyes Wide Open," a new exhibit on the human and economic cost of the Iraq War to Oregon, will be unveiled in Portland, Saturday July 22 and Sunday, July 23 at Peace Memorial Park, on the corner of Northeast Oregon and Interstate at the Rose Quarter.

### Summer Party

CRAVE, a party celebrating women but open to all, hits downtown Portland from noon to 9 p.m. on Saturday, July 22 outside the World Trade Center Plaza, 121 S.W. Salmon. Highlights include live fashion shows and dancing to emcee Daria from 105.1 the Buzz. Tickets are \$15, available at [www.craveportland.com](http://www.craveportland.com) or by calling 503-226-2377.

### 'Hattitude' Tea

Wear your most fabulous hat and join the Second Annual Women with "Hattitude" Tea, Saturday, July 22 at 1 p.m. at Bethesda Christian Church, 109 N. Emerson St. The event will raise funds for the annual Women's Revival in August and will feature special themed hatboxes for men this year. For more information, email [wanda.phillips@comcast.net](mailto:wanda.phillips@comcast.net) or call 360-381-0397.

### NE Peace Gathering

Beginning at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 26 a group of churches in northeast Portland will gather at Alberta Park (NE 20th and Killingsworth) to stand for peace in our neighborhoods, community and the world. The Interfaith Peace gathering is open to anyone, and participants can have one-on-one discussions with their peers.

### Columbia Slough Race

Join the 12th Annual Columbia Slough Small Craft Regatta, Sunday, July 30 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Portland Water Bureau Canoe Launch, 16550 N.E. Airport Way. You may reserve a canoe or kayak, paddles and personal flotation device, or bring your own boat and equipment for a \$5 donation. For more information visit [columbiaslough.org](http://columbiaslough.org).

### Body Rocks!

Body Rocks!, a celebration of physical fitness, movement and athleticism, combines energetic demonstrations from local groups and professional athletes every day from July 26 to July 30 at the Portland Children's Museum. For more information, visit [www.portlandcm.org](http://www.portlandcm.org).

### Interstate Farmers Market

The Interstate Farmers Market features a variety of fresh local produce, baked goods, cut flowers, artisan cheese, meat and fish each Wednesday from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m., next to Overlook Park across the street from Kaiser Permanente Interstate Campus.

### 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.

### Guided Parks Tours

Portland Parks offers free, one-hour guided walks beginning at 10 a.m. in parks around town. Park staff and volunteer naturalists focus on plants in each park, the historical background of the park and any information that makes each park special to Portland. For a complete list of walks available, visit [PortlandParks.org](http://PortlandParks.org) or call 503-823-3601 for a brochure.



Kids spill out of the Portland Parks and Recreation Department's 'Rec 'n Roll Bus.'

## Summer Playgrounds on Wheels

### Thousands served by roving bus, van

"Rec 'n Roll Bus and 'Van Go' are big hits this summer, expanding their reach thanks to a converted TriMet Bus packed with sports equipment, art supplies, and games - but no passengers. Portland Parks & Recreation is taking to the road this summer with enough activities to keep thousands of kids busy.

The lime green Rec 'n Roll Bus is hard to miss with its artwork of bugs, birds and flowers - anything you might see in a park. Certainly, it's become a familiar sight to the kids who visit the forty playgrounds the bus and three other Parks & Recreation vehicles frequent each week during the summer.

One of the vans, named "Van Go", makes regular visits at Portland Housing Authority complexes and is funded by the 2002 parks levy. The mini Rec 'n Roll vans visit 20 Portland Parks playgrounds per week.

Last summer's two vehicles - complete with recreation staff members - served 3,700 kids. This summer, the number is expected to serve 7,400.

"The idea was to go places in Portland that are

underserved - meaning where no agency provides children's summer programs," says Joanne Larsell, director of the summer playground on wheels program. "And it just keeps growing. It's wildly popular."

The vehicles are the permanent home for volleyballs, parachutes, hula hoops, arts and crafts supplies, ever-

*My children love the enthusiastic staff, creative crafts, and the great group games.*

— Emily from Rose City Park

popular gimp and plaster, board and card games, bubbles and squishy water balls.

The program plays an important role in providing recreation services to children who are often isolated from mainstream recreation programs, due to factors such as geography and transportation.

Emily from Rose City Park wrote last summer: "I caught the Rec 'n Roll bus at my local park, and I simply can't live a summer without it. My children love the

enthusiastic staff, creative crafts, and the great group games."

From another mom, Patty: "This is the greatest use of my tax dollars I've ever seen! I take my children, and we follow the bus to several sites a week. We just enjoy the ability to interact with lots of children and such a great staff!"

The playground on wheels program began in the summer of 2000 when several parks were annexed to the city from Multnomah County - parks that lacked playground services. At the same time, TriMet donated a bus that was set to retire from the fleet. Since then, seats have been removed to make room for the playground paraphernalia. TriMet continues to provide gasoline and maintenance for the bus, and the Amalgamated Transit Union furnishes the driver, who is also a part-time Parks & Recreation employee when he's not at the wheel.

The Portland Parks Summer Playground Program offers more than a fun time - it fosters self-esteem and friendships and provides participants with positive and caring role models. Also, it lets parents feel good about sending their children to a neighborhood playground, knowing that there will be adult supervision.

The program's weekly schedule can be found at [www.portlandparks.org](http://www.portlandparks.org).

## Young, Professional and Giving Back

### Newcomers find room to grow

BY SARAH BLOUNT  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

As scores of young people from all over the country relocate to Portland, the little city becomes more and more like its bigger sisters along the West Coast. These days, it's common for young people to supplement traditional networking - schmoozing potential clients and clutching business cards - with activities that give back to the community.

Hakim Jones, a Portland newcomer and financial advisor with Smith Barney, is a young professional who is interested in establishing client relationships and building strong community ties.

Jones, 26, moved to Portland last spring from Tacoma with his wife Carmen, after receiving a bachelor's degree in business and a minor in psychology at the University of Puget Sound. The couple moved to Oregon for his former job at Weyerhaeuser and her graduate studies at Oregon Health and Sciences University.

As Jones, who grew up in the Bay Area, settled into the city, he became involved with the Portland Urban League Young Professionals Group. The group of about a dozen members is an extension of the Portland chapter, working with low-income residents and senior citizens, getting politi-

cally involved and mentoring high school students.

Jones has also been involved with Say Hey, NW!, a reception held quarterly by Partners in Diversity to welcome new professionals of color in the Oregon and Southwest Washington area. Jones, like many young professionals, is interested in finding other groups similar to the Urban League and Say Hey.

"Portland is not like the rat race of California," Jones said. "And as far as networking goes there are not as many groups, but I like the size of Portland. You can have more reach and get more accomplished."

Even so, living in the aftermath of recession within a small market can be tough for young people trying to establish careers. Jones endured a three-month interview process with Smith Barney, including a handful of interviews (he said he lost count at five or six) and a personal flight to the regional director's Seattle office.

Now Jones is a financial planning associate, having just embarked on a two-year program with the firm. He's building a client base of small businesses, families and individuals, helping them with specific goals from personal to financial, creating invest-

ment plans tailored to his or her needs, and handling money, risk and liability management.

Jones said got into financial advising because of the potential to develop long-term relationships. As technology and the Internet create more do-it-yourselfers, the

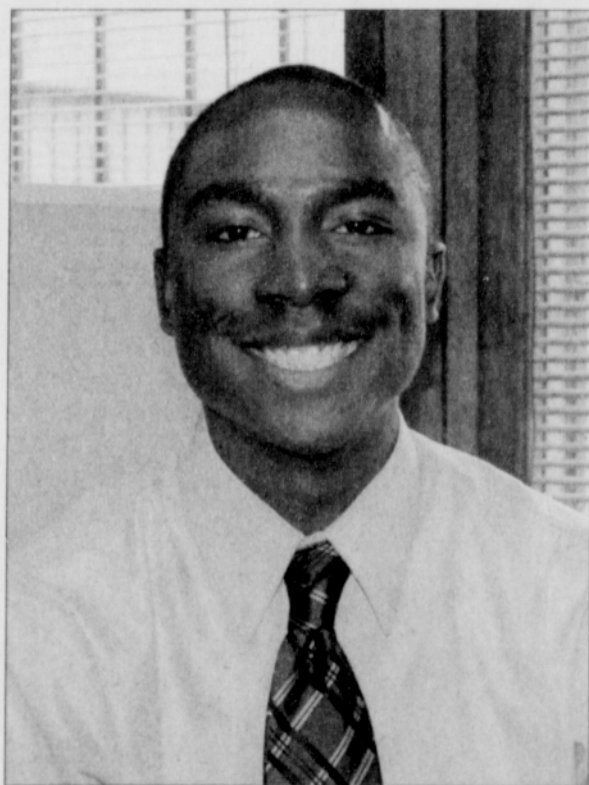


PHOTO BY SARAH BLOUNT/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER  
Hakim Jones is one of many young urban professionals who have recently moved to Portland.

modern investment planner is more of a consultant.

"The world has changed and investors are more savvy," Jones said. "But a lot of people don't understand the psychology of investing and will react when the market moves."

Outside his professional life, Jones said he and other members of the Urban League group are hungry to learn about the city - its key areas, where to get involved and faces to meet.

"I'm still trying to find a center of influence," Jones said. "My goal is to find a mentor, and I hope to be one someday."

As he pursues his professional goals, Jones acknowledges the importance of work in the community.

"I get tied into the office dealing with day-to-day operations," he said. "It's easy to forget there are people less fortunate in the community, but it's nice to be involved with people who need help. There's more to life than just work."

### Mixing Business with Pleasure

Here are a few organizations serving Oregon and Southwest Washington that help young professionals meet, greet, and everything in between.

continued ▼ on page B6

36  
years of  
community service