

METRO

The Portland Observer

Retreat Unites All Faiths

Lineup set for
Women Empowering
Women conference
See Religion, page B5



SECTION B

Community Calendar

Drums, Dance for Kids

Chata Addy offers drumming and dance classes for children, Wednesdays through Aug. 30 at North Star Ballroom, 635 N. Killingsworth Ct. Participants can learn the sounds and rhythm of Ghana, West Africa. Healthy lunches and snacks are catered. For more information and to sign up, email chata@pacifier.com.

Northeast 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 unite for peace in our neighborhoods, communities and the world. This Interfaith Peace gathering is open to anyone and participants are invited to have discussions with their peers.

Rose City Ghost Walk

Join the Rose City Roamers Saturday, July 29 and Sunday, July 30 for a walk/run along many north Portland ghost sites, including the infamously haunted sites of the White Eagle Saloon and the Falcon Apartments. Participants can either walk or run a 5K, 10K, 15K or 20K route. Event start times are 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Overlook Park and ends at 4 p.m. at the same location. For more information call Noreen Kirk at 503-285-2915.

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. Racers can reserve a canoe or kayak, paddles and personal floatation devices, or may bring their own boat and equipment for a \$5 donation. For more information, visit www.columbiaslough.org.

Teen Summit at IFCC

The Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center will host Teen Summit, a live television show for and by African American teens, Saturday, July 29. To be a member of the studio audience, call 971-235-5197.

Adopt a Cat or Dog

The Oregon Humane Society will host several adoption events for those wishing to bring a dog, cat or possibly a rabbit into their homes, Saturday, Aug. 5 at Forever Pets, 1902 N.E. Broadway, and Sunday, Aug. 6 at Wild Oats, 2825 N.E. Burnside. Both events are from noon to 4 p.m.

Body Rocks!

The Oregon Children's Museum presents Body Rocks! The celebration of physical fitness, movement and athleticism continues through July 30. For more information, visit 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.

36
years of
community service



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE PORTLAND POLICE BUREAU

Police Open Precinct Doors

Portland Police Officer Kenneth Reynolds strikes up a friendship with Ja'Shayla Schlafle during a North Precinct open house. Future precinct open houses, which introduce the community to police officers and specialized

units like the mounted patrol and explosive disposal units, are scheduled for the Northeast Precinct on Saturday, July 29 from noon to 4 p.m., and Central Precinct, Saturday, Aug. 12 from noon to 3 p.m.



There's no better way to cool off and have fun than with water that will spray, gush, dump and pour from colorful and whimsical devices at the new water spray ground at Blue Lake Regional Park.

Blue Lake Antidote to Hot Weather

Park offers new, old ways to keep cool

A revamped Blue Lake Regional Park just off Northeast Marine Drive in outer northeast Portland is offering a perfect antidote to this summer's hot weather.

The park's new spray ground is open every day 10:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. until mid October.

Designed for children ages one to 10, the water spray ground is lively and fun. Features include interactive and accessible oversized nozzles, buckets, cannons and arches.

Swimmers can also jump into the cool, spring-fed waters of Blue Lake. Water is provided from the park's wells and local aquifer and recycled through an on-site water treatment facility to ensure that the water is safe for play. "The addition of the water spray ground offers a fantastic new activity for residents in the area who do not swim," said Metro Councilor Rod Park. "In the Portland metro area, particularly in East Multnomah County, there are very few opportunities for water-related outdoor recreation. Other than Blue Lake, there is no other nearby lake, few public swimming pools, and the two major

rivers are pretty dangerous for swimming. Old and new visitors to Blue Lake Park have loved this great new addition."

All water activities are free with park vehicle entry fee. Ride TriMet's Blue Lake Shuttle to Blue Lake Regional Park and get in free. For more information, visit metro-region.org/bluelake or call 503-797-1850.

Blue Lake Regional Park is located between Marine Drive and Sandy Boulevard off Northeast 223rd Avenue. From Interstate 84, take the Fairview exit 14 and go north on 207th Avenue to Sandy Boulevard. Turn right onto Sandy and travel east to 223rd and turn left. Proceed north to Blue Lake Road and the park.

Free Internet Construction Begins

Network will blanket city

Construction has started on a Wi-Fi network that will make free Internet Web access available in almost all of Portland.

Silicon Valley startup MetroFi Inc. began building the network Thursday immediately after the Portland City Council approved a contract. The construction will cost less than \$10 million, according to MetroFi chief executive Chuck Haas. The company will finance and operate the network itself, making money from advertising and by providing private network services to the city of Portland.

MetroFi won the contract over two competing finalists, Portland-based VeriLAN Inc. and national Internet service provider EarthLink Inc.

VeriLAN's Clive Cook said MetroFi's ad-supported network "doesn't seem to pencil out in my mind."

Portland officials acknowledged the gamble, but said it's an opportunity to make the Internet more affordable without spending taxpayer money on network construction. "It's a bet. We don't know whether this will work or not," Commissioner Erik Sten said. "I have my fingers crossed, and my laptop ready to turn on."

Design work for Portland's Wi-Fi network has been under way for several weeks.

Plans call for download speeds of 1 megabit per second, and upload speeds of 256 kilobits per second — slower than most cable and DSL access, but much faster than dial-up.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.