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Murrayhill Celebrates
Little Leaguers
third in World Series
See Sports, page B6

Wrecking Ball Coming
Whitaker-Adams
school demolition is
expected to begin
See story, page A3



Week in The Review

Bells Toll 1 Year after Katrina

Bells tolled in the shattered city of New Orleans Tuesday morning, marking the moment one year earlier when New Orleans' levees buckled and unleashed a torrent of water that ripped homes from their foundations and sent tens of thousands of residents into an uncertain exile. See story, page A2.

Storm Moves into Florida

Tropical Storm Ernesto's leading edge drenched Miami and the rest of southern Florida on Tuesday as it steamed toward the Sunshine State with a potential for more than a foot of rain. But forecasters said there was only an outside chance it would strengthen into a hurricane.

DNA Clears Confessor

Boulder, Colo. prosecutors dropped their case against John Mark Karr Monday in the slaying of JonBenet Ramsey, saying DNA evidence failed to put him at the scene of the crime despite his insistence that he sexually assaulted and strangled the 6-year-old beauty queen.

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Poverty Rate Finally Slows

The nation's poverty rate was essentially unchanged last year, the first year it hasn't increased since before President Bush took office. The Census Bureau reported Tuesday that 37 million Americans were living under the poverty line last year.

Apple Laptops Recalled

Apple Computer Inc. on Thursday recalled 1.8 million Sony-built laptop batteries that could overheat and catch fire. The recall came 10 days after Dell Inc.'s recall of 4.1 million faulty laptop batteries, also made by Sony.

Morning-after Pill Approved

Women may buy the morning-after pill without a prescription — but only with proof they're 18 or older, federal health officials decided Thursday. Girls 17 and younger still will need a doctor's note to buy the pills, called Plan B.

SAT Scores Drop Big

The high school class of 2006 got stuck with a new, longer version of the SAT and didn't fare well on it. Average reading and math scores fell a total of seven points — the sharpest decline in 31 years.

Links to Success

Women from the Portland Chapter of the Links, Inc., team up with the Portland Observer to distribute hundreds of school supplies to local children. The distribution was held Saturday in the parking lot of the Portland Observer offices in northeast Portland. See additional photo, page A6.



PHOTO BY ISAIAH BOUIE/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Youth Gatherings Turn Violent

Advocates try to turn tide after a few serious incidents

BY SARAH BLOUNT
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

About 150 kids wreaked havoc in a north Portland neighborhood by throwing chunks of concrete at police officers, jumping on and caving in the hoods of at least two cars and severely beating a man who tried to intervene.

The Aug. 19 gathering of African American teenagers was indicative of a new trend that has brought authorities, parents and youth advocates to Friday's regularly scheduled Gang Violence Task Force meeting at the Northeast Po-

lice Precinct.

The packed room agreed that the young people involved in these gatherings aren't entirely gang-related. The groups form with the rapid-fire technique of using cell phones and MySpace to send out exponential invites. What makes the sudden events dangerous is the mob mentality they conjure. Some of the participants are as young as 12, and now neighbors are upset.

Until the midnight curfew, police have little authority over the gatherings at public events, private



Regena Williams, an advocate for area youth with her non-profit Northwest Country Community Outreach program, confers with a local resident passing by her offices on Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard.

PHOTO BY SARAH BLOUNT/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

parties, neighborhood streets and city parks. But they are forced to take an aggressive approach before innocent bystanders become the centerpiece of unruly behavior.

"We've been herding them around, dealing with the same problems all summer long," said police Lt. Mike Stradley. But with just one person run-

ning the city's Youth Gang Outreach Program, it has become clear that police officers and city agen-

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Clothesline Swollen with Tears from Abuse

Unspoken truths bring pain and hope

BY CHARITY PRATER
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Lines of tattered, multi-colored shirts hang swollen with heavy tears from the painful memories of violence against women.

Each brightly-colored shirt has a story of rape, torture, kidnapping and domestic or sexual attacks. The words haunt passerbys who gaze at the unspoken truths. They are memories of hope, loss and sadness for the Portland Clothesline Project.

"I'm not going to cry," one anonymous woman writes in red print. Another writes, "The silence was killing me," and yet another, "I wore red that day".

Saturday's event was held in



PHOTO BY CHARITY PRATER/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Messages of hope, sadness and pain are expressed by survivors of domestic violence in words painted on shirts in the Portland Clothesline Project.

conjunction with the 86th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitu-

tion, giving women the right to vote. It also marked the 15th anniversary of the Clothesline Project in Port-

land. Rachel Carey-Harper, now 55, created the project 16 years ago in

Cape Cod, Mass. The idea came to her when a very distraught woman approached her at the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C. with the statistic that the number of women who have been murdered by their intimate partners is greater than the number of soldiers killed in the Vietnam War.

Although lucky enough to not have had a personal history with violent crime herself, as other women have, Carey-Harper believes that all women are connected by domestic violence.

"One person's experience is my experience," she says.

The Clothesline Project was brought to Portland by three women, Fran Petschek, 76, Pat Hollingsworth, 83, and Yvonne Simmons, 59.

Simmons is a survivor of violent crime and was empowered by

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