

METRO

The Portland Observer

Jefferson Holds Their Own in 5A

See Sports, page B6



37
years of
community service

SECTION B

Community Calendar

Bike Fair at PCC

Portland Community College is hosting a Bicycle Safety Fair from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, March 24 in front of the Public Service Education Building at the Cascade Campus in north Portland. Children will receive a free bicycle helmet (while supplies last) and get to navigate a bicycle safety course.

Camp Fire Party

Saturday, March 17, from noon to 2 p.m., the Camp Fire USA Portland Metro Council will host their 97th birthday party with fun for all ages. Activities include live entertainment, games, prizes, music, and even birthday cake. Call 503-224-7800 for details.

End the War Now Rally

Sunday, March 18, at 1:30 p.m. at the South Park Blocks, local residents will mark the 4th anniversary of the Iraq War with a peaceful march through downtown Portland. Call 503-230-9427 for more information.

Spring Beach Cleanup

Saturday, March 24, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., thousands of volunteers are needed to help restore the coastline to a pristine condition. Volunteers can call 800-333-7658 or visit solv.org to register.

Zoo Teens Needed

The Oregon Zoo needs 300 high school students for the summer to assist in educating zoo visitors. If you love animals and teaching others, call 503-220-2449.

Spring Break Art Journeys

Monday, March 26 thru Friday, March 30, the Portland Art Museum hosts the instructional art series for children ages 7-12. Contact 503-226-2811 or visit portlandartmuseum.org, for more information.

Used Book Sale

Wednesday, March 28, from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m., the Multnomah County Library used book store at 216 N.E. Knott St. will celebrate its 19th anniversary by offering all used merchandise at 55 percent off.

Ghana Women's Art Exhibit

WSU Vancouver, 14204 N.E. Salmon Creek Ave., hosts a powerful West African art exhibit with guest lecturer and well-known Ghanaian art historian Nii Quarcoopome. The gallery hours are Monday thru Thursday from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Fridays 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, call 360-546-9580.

Life After High School

Monday, April 9, from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., PSU's Smith Ballroom, will host the Career and Educational Opportunities Fair, a venue for local businesses, trade apprenticeships, summer work programs and educational organizations to present career opportunities available within their organizations. For more information call 503-230-9427.

Fostering Diversity

Thursday, April 26 thru Friday, April 27, Mt. Hood Community College and Portland State University, will host the two-day conference to address critical diversity-related issues in the Portland and Gresham communities, with educational, business and cultural leaders. Call 503-491-7254 for more information.

Community Support

The African American Health Coalition, a non-profit that touches the lives of millions of African Americans each year, reminds you to support your community organization. All donations, grants, and gifts are tax deductible. For more information, visit aahe-portland.org.

Diabetes Support Group

Legacy Emanuel Hospital hosts a diabetes support group the first and third Thursdays of every month, from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m., in Room 1027.

Bradley-Angle House

The Bradley-Angle House needs volunteers to help its outreach against domestic violence. Women of color and bilingual women are encouraged to call. For more information, call 503-282-9940.

Parenting Classes

Newborns don't come with instruction manuals but parents and parents-to-be can attend classes through Providence Health Systems to learn about a variety of topics. For a schedule of events, call 503-574-6595 or visit: providence.org/classes.

Responders Lack Emergency Supplies

Short on food, water, first aid

BY J E BOLES
FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Portland Mayor Tom Potter, in response to directives from the federal government, issued emails to all city bureaus about 15 months ago, telling bureau heads and all employees they should be ready for the "Big Earthquake," or any other disaster, according to Mario Rubio, official spokesman for the mayor.

Did the bureaus get ready? We decided to check up.

Could Northeast Precinct stay open after a big earthquake hit? Could its staff keep it running? How about the average fire station? Are the supplies in place to support those hard-working first-responders?

Or would Portland see a fiasco like New Orleans in the Katrina disaster, where so many police officers did not get institutional support they needed, so they turned in their badges?

At the Northeast Portland Police Precinct, 449 N.E. Emerson St., the news was bad. With more than 120 staff, the precinct has approximately 1,000 16.9-ounce bottles of water on hand on a day. According to Cmdr. Bret Smith, the amount of water is not enough to support the staff for three days. Food was also scarce - simply none.

Smith was able to locate and cover a tabletop in his office with small gadgets and tools for working a rescue detail. First aid items like kneepads and hand wipes were also found. The precinct could not support its own staff and certainly not the communities.

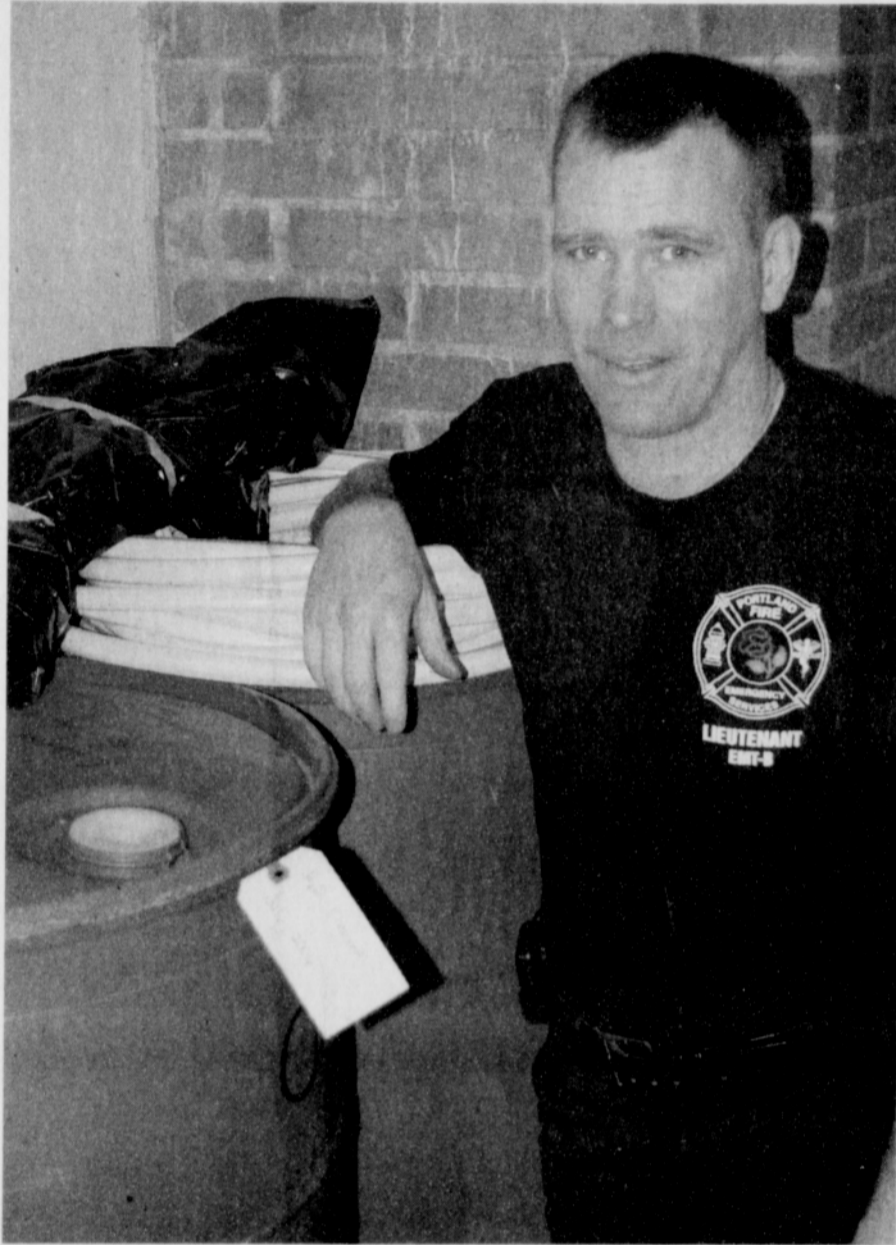


PHOTO BY NICOLE RONAL HOOPER/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Lt. David Woodhouse kneels next to two 55-gallon drums of water at Fire Station 8, 7134 N. Maryland Ave. The drums are enough to sustain the fire station crew for a few days during a disaster, but expired two months ago.

Smith believes, on the other hand, that the citizens "need to take ownership of their own safety and take responsibility for themselves so they don't become dependent on government to take care of their needs."

The responsibility of the police is law enforcement, more than rescue, he pointed out.

At Fire Station 8, 7134 N. Maryland Ave. behind the Interstate Fred Meyer, two 55-gallon drums of water and two cases of C-Rations decorate the most remote and darkest corner of their basement, enough to sustain the men of the station over a long weekend of disaster, according to Lt. Martin Getch. The drums are supposed to be changed every six months, but they expired two months ago.

If the city's water system was out of order, firemen could obtain water to put out fires from swimming pools and the Willamette River, he said. Fire stations also have emergency portable generators for obtaining truck fuel from their supplier, Pacific Pride, if the electricity supply is interrupted.

Police Chief Rosie Sizer said in a later interview that a federal grant would cover some of these needs. However, a spokesman for the Tactical and Operations Division in the Police Bureau said that grant had no food or water in it and that federal regulations prohibit purchase of these supplies.

Both precinct and firehouse have emergency generators sufficient to operate the buildings.

Neither Getch nor Smith was familiar with the fresnel lens, an inexpensive solar collector suitable for sterilizing water and starting fires without flames. And neither man was familiar with the advantages of freeze-dried food over C-Rations (MREs).



Portland's international soccer team "Abyssinia," a First Division champion in the North American Ethiopia Sports Federation League, consists of players and coaches from around the world. The team hopes to grow local support to bring the league playoffs to Portland in 2008.

International Team Unites Cultures

Division winner brings goodwill to city

Portland's championship soccer club "Abyssinia" is uniting players from around the world in a spirit of unity that transcends world politics and religion.

The team has taken to the practice field again as it begins a new season following last year's First Division trophy in the North American Ethiopia Sports Federation League. Now its players and coaches hope to grow local support to bring the league playoffs to Portland in 2008.

"Regardless of our origins, the common language of soccer or 'football' brings out the best qualities in leadership, teamwork, sacrifice, commitment, punctuality,

friendships and hard work," says Uzoma Izunagbara, an Abyssinia team defender and native of Nigeria.

All the team's players live in Portland but have countries of origin that include Ethiopia, Mali, Cameroon, Ghana, Senegal and Nigeria. Abyssinia is the name given to Ethiopians during the biblical time of King Solomon.

A team leader, recruiter and assistant coach on the Portland team for 20 years, Fereja Seifu says the club is proud of accepting upstanding players of all ethnic backgrounds.

The dedication to sportsmanship is a



Fereja Seifu

tribute to the league's founder Fesseha Wolde Emanuel of Los Angeles, a native Ethiopian who starred in the 1968 Olympics and was a professional soccer player for the L.A. Galaxy and contemporary of the great soccer player Pele.

Seifu is helping coordinate local sponsorships to bring the league championships to Portland. He is also building support for Emanuel's AGAR Foundation helping orphan and impoverished children in Ethiopia.

A contribution of \$150 for example pays for an Ethiopian child to attend school for a year, a school uniform and a meal each

continued ▼ on page B5