

King Boulevard to Get Spiff-up

The North/Northeast Business Association is hosting the second-annual Spiffin' Up Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard event, Saturday, April 19.

More than 400 neighborhood businesses, community members and citywide friends will pick up trash, clean graffiti and remove street debris along three miles of the street, from Northeast Broadway to Lombard Street.

"Spiffin' Up MLK exemplifies the essence of Dr. King's vision for community respect," said Joice Taylor, NNEBA board president.

"It is a pleasure to be providing a public demonstration of the pride felt for this boulevard considered by many to be the soul of Portland."

At the inaugural Spiffin' event in 2007, volunteers removed more than a quarter ton of trash and debris. Twenty-two local businesses contributed more than \$14,000 in donations to make the clean-up possible.

Volunteers will assemble at Friends of Trees, 3117 N.E. MLK, for registration beginning at 8 a.m. with drinks and pastries provided.

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Albina History Gets Renovation

Dawson Park's signature commemorative dome, which once topped the main street of Albina's thriving African-American community, is taken down and placed under plastic last month for renovation by InLine construction-company workers.

Governor Promotes Fair Housing

Welcomes state investigations

Gov. Ted Kulongoski has declared April "Fair Housing Month" while promoting a new state law that allows fair housing investigations to be filed, investigated and resolved right here in Oregon.

Since 1992, all housing-dis-

crimination claims based on federal fair housing laws have been routed to the federal Housing and Urban Development regional office in Seattle, with some of these cases taking upwards of two to three years to be resolved.

But last year, Sen. Margaret Carter, an African-American Democrat representing north and north-east Portland, successfully spon-

sored a bill to bring the state back in line with the federal fair housing laws.

Incoming Labor Commissioner Brad Avakian, said, "I am proud to be the first Labor Commissioner in 15 years to oversee fair housing investigations right here in Oregon. I look forward to working with the advocates from both the landlord-tenant coalition and

the Fair Housing Council as we move forward."

April 16 marks the 40th Anniversary of the Federal Fair Housing Act as part of the 1968 Civil Rights Act signed into law by President Johnson.

For information on fair housing complaints, contact the Bureau of Labor and Industries at 971-673-0761.

Grandparents Raising Kids

continued from Metro

that fear of the state's child-welfare system is a barrier for some to seek help.

For Smith, the matter rests on overcoming the perception of non-traditional households being any less equipped to care for children. She looks forward to the day when any-

one who sees the five basketballs in her yard can understand that neighborhood grannies have a familiar set of challenges and abilities.

The Grandparents Raising

Grandchildren Retreat will host a variety of speakers and workshops focusing on related issues, as well as fun and relaxing activities. It takes place Thursday, April 3, at the New Columbia Learning Center, 4605 N. Trenton, from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

In Loving Memory: Eric Botts

Eric Botts, 44, liked to say he wasn't right-handed. He was left-hooked.

A one-armed bartender, he was just kidding when he offered you a "mean hook" or added humor to a frantic request by saying, "I'm a little short-handed right now."

Eric was a community ambassador and host for many charitable events.

He was the talented auctioneer for countless fundraisers and bingo nights at the Fox and Hounds Restaurant and Bar, downtown, where he was employed and helped raise thousands of dollars for the Oregon Humane Society, Friends of People with AIDS, Esther's Pantry, Todd's

Corner and other causes.

He was active in the Imperial Sovereign Rose Court where he competed as Eric Fox and was honored as Community Support Award winner in 2001.

He was born Nov. 29, 1963, and graduated from Ontario High School. He entered college in Pennsylvania before moving to Portland.

Survivors include Maynard Klenzing, his life partner of 10 years; a brother, Darren; two sisters, Arelene Thomas and Ella Wilverding; a nephew, Nathan; other family members and many friends.

Remembrances in his honor may be made to Camp Starlight in care of the Cascade AIDS Project.



History Made 100 Years Ago

One hundred years ago, on April 1, 1908, Portland Mayor Harry Lane put the city in the history books when he swore in Lola Greene Baldwin as the first woman police officer in America.

The 48-year-old Baldwin joined women in the fields of social work, public health and juvenile justice to fulfill the Progressive Era definition of a "Municipal Mother." Baldwin went on to organize the Portland Juvenile Court in 1905, and was named its first probation officer for girls.

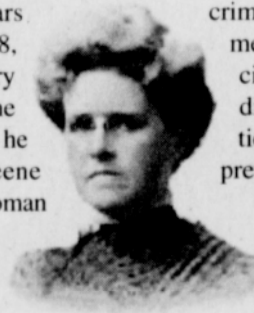
Baldwin advocated for the right to vote, pay equity and a living wage to keep young women workers from lives of prostitution or

crime. Baldwin was a charter member of the Oregon Social Hygiene Society which disseminated sex education and venereal disease prevention information.

After she retired from the Portland Police Department in 1922, she served several terms on the Oregon Parole Board and

the National Board of Prisons and Prison Labor. Baldwin remained a tireless lobbyist for police and women's issues, both locally and nationally, until her death at 92 in 1957.

Tuesday, the Friends of History at Portland State University presented a tribute to Baldwin and the policewomen who followed in her footsteps.



Lola Greene Baldwin

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