

Early Call for Rose Festival Celebration

Waterfront Village opens for Memorial Day weekend

For the first time ever, Waterfront Village opens Friday for the Memorial Day weekend. The new three-weekend format offers a whole extra weekend of Rose Festival fun.

Nestled between Portland's downtown business district and the Willamette River at Tom McCall Waterfront Park, the Waterfront Village provides a parkload of whimsical kids adventures, hysterical vaudevillian acts, festive bands, and thousands of smiling families each day.

Event hours are 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily, except Friday, May 22 when gates open at 5 p.m. Also Friday, at approximately at 9:45 p.m. on the waterfront, the Rose Festival Fireworks Spectacular will light up the evening sky.

Other major Rose Festival



For the first time ever, Waterfront Village at Tom McCall Park, downtown, will open for the Memorial Day weekend on Friday. The early opening will give Portlanders three weekends to take in the rides, booths and music during the annual Rose Festival.

events include the Starlight Parade, downtown on Saturday, May 30 at 8:30 p.m. The Junior Parade is on Wednesday, June 3 at 1 p.m. in the Hollywood District, starting at 52nd and Sandy Boulevard.

The Grand Floral Parade is Saturday, June 6 at 10 a.m., starting from the Memorial Coliseum to downtown Portland.

Highlights include a fantastic lineup of 15 beautiful floats, including Reser's Beauty and the Beast and an offering from St. Mary's Academy, celebrating 150 years of educating local young women; 112 horses, carrying riders, pulling wagons and even dancing; more music than ever, including 19 great marching bands; the most special entries in recent history, giving everyone something to cheer about!

The drum line and dancers from Portland's Self Enhancement, Inc. will share their pride and passion as they lead the parade.

The Queen Coronation precedes the Grand Floral parade, beginning at 8:30 a.m. at the Coliseum.

Resources for Businesses

Portland State University's Business Outreach Program helps small businesses, including emerging, minority and women-owned businesses, achieve their potential while providing opportunities for learning.

With a full-time staff and

undergraduate business students, the program provides an array of consulting services, including in-depth market research, business plan development, interactive workshops, one-on-one business consultation, and more.

Not only do entrepreneurs discover their own strengths

and potentials, so do the PSU students.

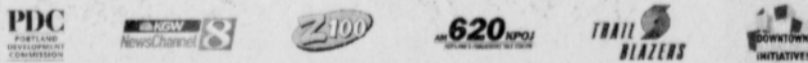
Projects range from bookkeeping to marketing a new product.

To learn more about getting involved with the PSU Business Outreach Program, email bop@sba.pdx.edu or call 503-725-9820.



**BUSES RETURN TO
5TH AND 6TH AVENUES
DOWNTOWN
MAY 24**

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Poisoned Soldiers Get Hearing

Lawmaker calls for compensation

BY JAKE THOMAS
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Larry Roberta, a former Oregon guardsman, remembers a strange yellow substance staining the sand and concrete as he stood guard over KBR workers who were reconstructing a water plant in southern Iraq.

The substance blew onto his chicken patty at meal times and into his face during the day.

Now he can barely walk to his mailbox without needing to puff on an inhaler, and has to take painkillers every single day.

Roberta was one of hundreds of members of the Oregon and Indiana National Guards who were exposed to sodium dichromate, a cancer-causing chemical, while they guarded KBR (a Haliburton subsidiary) workers in 2003. A number of these soldiers have become extremely ill.

Last week the Oregon House Rule Committee heard emotional testimony concerning House Bill 3480, which would set aside \$20,000 for Oregon guardsmen who develop cancer from their exposure to this chemical.

Rep. Chip Shields, D-Portland, who sponsored the bill, acknowledged at the hearing that the amount of money was small, but the bill shines light of the failure of KBR and the country to look after these

soldiers.

"Passing this bill is a very modest recognition of their pain and sacrifice," said Shields, who added that documents from a lawsuit against KBR and a congressional investigation leave "virtually no doubt" that the company was aware that soldiers were being exposed to these chemicals.

Scott Ashby, another Oregon guardsman, choked back tears as he recalled being told by the military that the substance wasn't a big deal while he watched his comrades fall ill.

"I stand her today to ask for help," he said.

The bill passed the committee and is now before the House Ways and Means Committee.

Neil Kelly Scholarship Winners

Five outstanding high school seniors - all residents of north and northeast Portland - were awarded Neil Kelly Memorial Scholarships Friday at the Albina Rotary Foundation's scholarship awards luncheon.

Each student received a \$1,000 annual college scholarship, which will renew annually for three more years, following them as they pursue their undergraduate studies.

The winners are Aqtos Girima of Jefferson High School, Amy Marsha of Grant High School, Shantel Monk of De La Salle North Catholic High School, and Shreena Narend and Shawn Spears of Benson High School. Quanisha Anderson of Jesuit High School.

Each of the students was selected for their strong academic skills, but also out-

standing service to their school, family and community.

The scholarship program was started 12 years ago to encourage higher education in north and northeast Portland and also honor the memory of Neil Kelly, who started Neil Kelly Co. in the Albina community in 1947 and spent decades in community service, with particular emphasis on education.

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