



The Portland Observer

40 years of community service

Volume XXXX, Number 26

Established in 1970
Committed to Cultural Diversity

www.portlandobserver.com

Wednesday • June 30, 2010

Happy 4th of July!

Blues festival, fireworks pack calendar

Imagine grooving to the best blues in the world while relaxing on the grassy banks of the beautiful Willamette River, viewing the glacial peaks of Mt. Hood to the east and the stunning Portland skyline to the west—all the while smiling at the thought that you are also helping to fight hunger.

No wonder more than 100,000 blues fans from throughout the world will head for the Safeway Waterfront Blues Festival, Friday, July 2 to Monday, July 5 at Waterfront Park, downtown.

Now in its 23rd year, the blues extravaganza, presented by First Tech Credit Union, is the largest blues festival west of the Mississippi and the second-largest blues festival in the nation.

Blues fans will enjoy more than 120 stellar performances on five stages, plus artist interviews and workshops, five Delta Music Experience Blues Cruises on the Willamette River, activities for kids, dances, After-Hours Blues Jams at the Marriott Ballroom, fireworks and more.

Touted as one of the best-run festivals anywhere, the Waterfront Blues Festival remains a grassroots festival, produced and operated by Oregon Food Bank, a nonprofit, charitable organization, with the help of a



Starting Friday, music fans will once again pack Waterfront Park for four days of July 4th activities during the annual Safeway Waterfront Blues Festival. A daily admission of \$10 and two cans of food supports the Oregon Food Bank.

thousand volunteers. The festival raises food and funds to help people who are hungry throughout Oregon and southwest Washington.

“The need for emergency food remains at alarmingly high levels. The magic of this festival is that it brings people together from throughout the world and from all walks of life

to not only enjoy great music but also to create hope for people in need,” says Food

continued ▼ on page 19

Fireworks Back at Fort Vancouver

July 4 event has renewed focus

After a year's hiatus, July 4th fireworks are returning to Fort Vancouver. For 46 years, the Vancouver community celebrated July 4th with a day-long event culminating in a spectacular fireworks show over Fort Vancouver.

In 2009, the nonprofit Fort Vancouver

National Trust which produces and finances the event, cancelled it due to limited funding. This year the trust, with support from Bank of America and other partners, corporations and individuals, is bringing a renewed holiday event to the Vancouver community.

Attendees will enjoy a renewed focus on family, community and fun. The gates open Sunday, July 4 at 8 a.m. The venues, including entertainment on four stages spread throughout the historic site, begin at noon. The fireworks show begins at 10:05 p.m.

Returning to the event's roots, the celebration will culminate with a spectacular fireworks show launched not from a barge in the Columbia River, but from Pearson Field, as it was years ago. Not only will the fireworks be a half-mile closer than in recent years, but the display will be directly overhead and will include a wider range of pyrotechnics compared to past fireworks shows. The best place to view the fireworks is at the Fort Vancouver National Site. It is unlikely that the fireworks will be visible for people who are not at Fort

Vancouver.

New this year is a fireworks prime viewing area where prime viewing area ticket holders will enjoy a catered picnic by Beaches, live music on the acoustic stage and a spectacular view of the launch site and the fireworks.

Families will find a full slate of fun activities to enjoy throughout the day. The atmosphere will be like an old-fashioned country fair with a fun, family-friendly focus.

continued ▼ on page 17