1215 ENTERTAINMENT



A young girl has fun at Portland's annual Obon festival.

Obon Fest Saturday

The Oregon Buddhist Temple presents Obonfest, a free community festival on Saturday, Aug. 7 from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Portland temple, located at 3720 S.E. 34th Ave.

The festival features Bon Odori (public dance), taiko performances by Portland Taiko and its youth group Tanuki Taiko, martial arts demonstrations, and temple talks for those interested in learning about Jodo Shinshu Buddhism.

Asian crafts and popular traditional Japanese foods prepared by temple members (including yakisoba, yakitori, shave ice and manju) will be for sale, along with soft drinks, water, and micro-brewed beer. The Bon Odori or Obon dance is a celebratory tribute to Japanese ancestors. Dancers of all ages, ethnicities and walks of life circle a tower housing the temple taiko. Some dancers, practiced in their movements and dressed in traditional Japanese yukata, form the inner circle of the dancing procession. Others follow along, joining the inclusive spirit of this "gathering of joy".

"Obonfest gives our temple the chance to share our celebration of the ancestors with the larger community", said Rev. Jundo Gregory Gibbs, minister of the Oregon Buddhist Temple. "It's a time for shedding self-consciousness and just having fun dancing."

Spectacular Summer Hikes

The Mount St. Helens Institute has handpicked a spectacular group of family-friendly Friday hikes as well as Sunday hikes throughout this summer.

Participants will explore the most spectacular vistas, interesting geological stories and beautiful waterfalls around the southside of Mount St. Helens. Along the way, guides will tell Mount St. Helens tales that make the landscape come alive for youth and adults alike.

All hikes cost \$10 per person. The Sunday

hikes are scheduled Aug. 8 at Ape Canyon and Aug. 22 at Siouxon Creek for hikers ages 14 and up. Friday hikes for the whole family are Aug. 13 at June Lake and Aug. 27 at Lava Canyon.

To register for a hike, visit mshinstitute.org. The Mount St. Helens Institute is a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping people of all ages gain an understanding of the natural processes and cultural heritage of the Pacific Northwest's volcanic landscapes.

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