

# SPORTS



A Portland Parks and Recreation swim instructor works with a beginner swimmer.

## Free Swim Lessons Offered

Learn the lifetime skill of swimming for free during the upcoming winter break from school.

Portland Parks & Recreation is offering free swim lessons for beginners, including parent/tot classes.

Talented and certified instructors will teach

and improve your child's swimming and water safety skills. Registration is required and is now underway. Classes run Dec. 17, 18, 19, and 20.

For registration, more information, and a complete schedule, call the East Portland Community Center and Pool at 503-823-3450.



Joe Simpson named to the Grant High Athletic Hall of Fame.

## Longtime Coach Honored

Congratulations to Joe Simpson on being inducted into the Grant High School Athletic Hall Of Fame.

The long time teacher, coach, counselor and vice principal was rewarded by his alma-mater in a recent induction ceremony recognizing Simpson's 35-plus years of facilitation at the northeast Portland school.

In addition to coaching football and track at Grant, Simpson taught social studies, physical education and career skills. He also coordi-

nated special projects for disadvantaged and special needs students.

Officially retired, Simpson still mentors administrators new to the Portland Public School District and is regularly called on as a substitute administrator at Grant.

The Portland Observer acknowledges Joe Simpson's dedication and tireless efforts to teach, coach and counsel youth through their formative high school years. Thank you Mr. Joe Simpson for a job well done.

## NCAA Picks Portland for 2015 March Madness

Portland will host the second and third rounds of the NCAA Men's Basketball Championship at the Rose Garden in 2015, the Oregon Sports Authority announced.

This will mark the third time during a seven year period that the Rose Garden has played host to March Madness – the only arena in the nation to do so. Earlier this year Portland played host to eight NCAA men's basketball teams, including Louisville, which went on to the

2012 Final Four in New Orleans, and Indiana, currently the top ranked college basketball team in the nation.

The successful NCAA Tournament bid for 2015 was submitted by the University of Oregon, Oregon Sports Authority, Rose Quarter and Travel Portland, the same partnership that hosted the NCAA Tournament earlier this year and in 2009. Ticket information will be forthcoming

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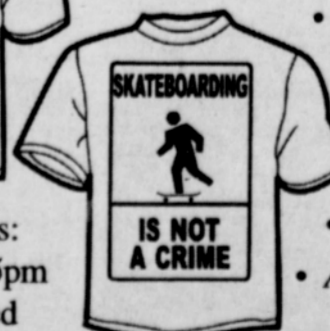
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