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LOCAL NEWS



Mariachi bands and the folkloric Mexican dancers will be staging their annual performances throughout the weekend.

Cinco De Mayo Fun

Portland's legendary waterfront celebration returns

The 31st annual Cinco De Mayo Festival opens Saturday at the Tom McCall Waterfront Park. The celebration presented by the Portland Guadalajara Sister City Association has been recognized as one of Oregon's best heritage and cultural events. It serves as a major fundraiser for the group's charitable activities and will include authentic food, live entertainment, carnival rides, and dozens of unique events and competitions, including a Miss Cinco de Mayo beauty pageant. A Day of the Dead exhibit along with a world record attempt for the most sombreros worn at once will also be featured. This year's festivities will also include a tequila and beer cantina for adults, a traditional Lucha Libre masked wrestlers competition, and a live butterfly exhibit. The festival will be open May 2, 3, and 5 from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. The festival is closed on Monday, May 4.

Beloved School Worker Killed

A beloved cafeteria worker at Woodlawn School in northeast Portland was killed at her home Saturday in the 7900 block of North Kerby Avenue and her husband is charged with her murder. Samantha Ann Coffey, 42, was "the type of person who knew every kid by name," said Portland Public Schools spokesperson Christine Miles. Her death has been tough for the school to swallow, and students who may have interacted with her for the past eight years



Samantha Coffey

are just coming to terms with their grief. Woodlawn has set up a room for the community to remember and grieve Coffey, with extra counselors to provide support. Her husband John Grant Coffey, 57, was booked Sunday morning on charges of murder and unlawful use of a weapon. The couple had been reportedly known each other for 18 years and had been married for 15. They had a history of domestic violence, officials said.

Survey Finds Rental Discrimination

A new report confirms what many Oregonians may have suspected – racial discrimination is still a problem in Portland's rental market. The Portland Housing Bureau released results from a study last week, showing that landlords gave preferential treatment to white renters in 12 out of 25 cases. Renters of color also faced more demands in order to access housing – like in one case where a Latina prospective renter who was asked to give her Social Security Number right away to run a credit check, but a white peer who had a similar background and applied for the same apartment was not. Pegge McGuire, the executive director of the Fair Housing Council of Oregon, said she was disappointed with the results and pledged to file a formal complaint against the landlord who discriminated against the one Latino renter.