

# Summer Fun Begins June 16 at North Portland Library

By: Kirby McCurtis  
North Portland Library  
Administrator

The arrival — at last — of sunny weather means we can finally start thinking about endless summer days.

At Multnomah County Library, we're celebrating summer with our annual Summer Reading program. Starting June 16, North Portland Library (and all other Multnomah Library locations) will encourage reading throughout the summer by offering young people an opportunity to win prizes and participate in free library activities. Learn more at [multcolib.org/summer-reading](http://multcolib.org/summer-reading).

Reading during the summer is a great way for kids to build a habit of reading while also maintaining achievement gains they made in the previous school year.

This year's Summer Reading program offers kids prizes for participating, including tickets to a Portland Thorns game and a Trail Blazers preseason game. Participants who finish the program will be entered into the Grand Prize drawing for a trip for four to Great Wolf Lodge waterpark!

Babies, kids, and teens are all welcome to participate in Summer Reading. Come into any Multnomah County Library branch to sign up.

If getting your child into the library for voluntary reading during the summer sounds like a challenge, here are some ways to encourage a child to participate:

**Start small.** Read aloud to your child or try one of the suggested learning activities on the Summer Reading game board.

**Keep the reading fun** by letting kids choose

their own books.

**Encourage an hour of "unplugged" time** (without an electronic device) each day.

**Help your child to find a "reading nook."** For me as a kid, it was a tiny corner of my neighborhood library away from the chaos of my house. Now it's a window seat in my living room with my pit-bull curled up next to me.

Schedule trips to the library. Library staff love to offer suggestions, and we can help even the most reluctant reader find something good. Plus, during the summer all library locations offer free summer programming for babies, kids and teens.

Check out some activities happening this month and we look forward to seeing you soon!

- Juneteenth: 6 p.m. June 19, North Portland Library.
- Bugs make the world a better place: 2 p.m., June 21, Kenton Library.
- Face painting with friends: 3:30 p.m., June 26, Midland Library.
- Create and design your own skateboard camp (for teens): June 26-30, Rockwood Library. There will be several workshops; visit <https://multcolib.org/events/create-and-design-your-own-skateboard-camp-teens> for times.

For more information about the library's summer reading program and activities, come into your local branch, visit [multcolib.org](http://multcolib.org) or call (503) 988-5123.

Summer Reading is supported by gifts to The Library Foundation, a local nonprofit dedicated to our library's leadership, innovation and reach through private support.

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beloved pet pooch from a ruthless gang. Featuring Famke Janssen, Jason Momoa, John Goodman, Kal Penn and Wood Harris.

**The Recall** (R for violence, profanity and some nudity) Sci-fi thriller about five friends whose vacation at a cabin in the woods is ruined by an invasion of aliens bent on abducting hu-

mans. Co-starring Wesley Snipes, Jeediah Goodacre and Laura Bilgeri.

**Score** (Unrated) Musical documentary affording an inside look at the challenges associated with composing a Hollywood film score. Featuring commentary by Quincy Jones, John Williams, Hans Zimmer, Danny Elfman, and Randy and David Newman.

# FILM REVIEW: Marine Bonds with Combat Dog in 'Megan Leavey'

by Kam Williams  
For The Skanner News

Five years ago, Mike Dowling published "Sergeant Rex," a memoir about the unbreakable bond he'd forged with a bomb-sniffing dog while conducting over 35 missions on the front lines of Iraq. Now, another Marine, Corporal Megan Leavey, is the subject of a docudrama "based on a true story" chronicling her suspiciously-similar relationship with the very same German shepherd.

Directed by Gabriela Cowperthwaite, the film stars Kate Mara as the title character, with veteran thespians Edie Falco and Will Patton in support roles. At the point of departure, we find the rudderless protagonist enlisting in the service more out of a lack

of direction than a sense of patriotism.

But after completing basic training on Parris Island, she finally finds her true calling upon being assigned to the K-9 unit. Uncontrollable Rex is on the verge of being declared unfit for active duty by the base's impatient veterinarian, Dr. Turbeville (Geraldine James), when an intrepid dog whisperer begs for an opportunity to soothe the savage beast with a little TLC.

Drill Sergeant Martin (Common) intervenes on her and the hound's behalf. Then, exhibiting the patience of Job, Megan is the first soldier with the tender touch



Kate Mara as Corporal Megan Leavey with Sargeant Rex

necessary to tame Rex. The two soon become inseparable and, the next thing you know, they're shipped overseas to search for IEDs buried in the dangerous desert sands of Iraq's Anbar Province.

The deployment initially proves uneventful other than Megan's crossing paths with potential love interest, Corporal Matt Morales (Ramon Rodriguez). Too bad he likes the Mets while she's a rabid Yankees fan.

Unfortunately, before love has

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