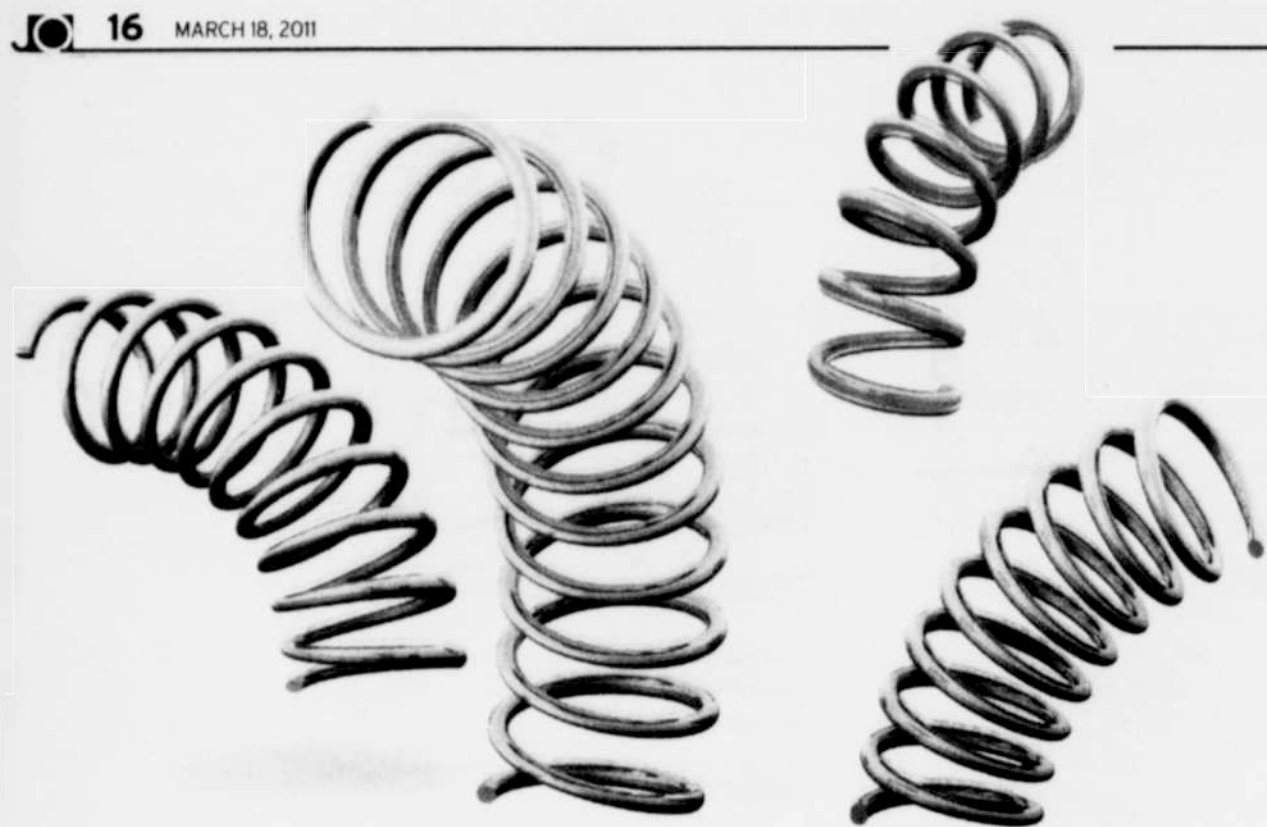




SPRUNG!

Just Out springs about home, garden, town and more

That notorious groundhog already had his say. It's a fortnight plus past, um, February. And we certainly need not wait for those April showers. Our allergies, and anxious "get here already!" rumblings, prove positive: Spring is in the air—and, right about the moment you're reading this, officially on the calendar.

With that in mind, we step back into the yard with the return of our resident Sassy Gardener, LeAnn Locher. And into the closet—not that way, folks—for a little spring cleaning courtesy of fashion maven Kevin Lennox. Since the season starts at home, we've asked local designer Michael Reper for the best ways to bring spring indoors. And because we're all a bit stir-crazy at this point, travel guru Andrew Collins offers a few suggestions for getting out and about, in town, on a budget, overnight—or over a long weekend.

That's not all. From planning ahead for an LGBTQ family-friendly summer camp (p. 30) to a wary tale about raising chickens (seriously, just turn to p. 26), this issue is everything you need to venture forth as the temps warm and the clouds break.

And stay tuned—our spring sports spectacular is just around the corner. In the meantime, visit justout.com for more seasonal scuttlebutt.

—AMANDA SCHURR

Get Out, Stay Put

Three cool vacations, all within PDX city limits

BY ANDREW COLLINS

I'd be perfectly happy never again to see the word "staycation." The odious, gimmicky term became popular in 2008, following the economic downturn, a rise in gas prices, the U.S. dollar's poor rate of exchange against many currencies and worries about crime or instability in a number of erstwhile international hotspots. These conditions still apply to varying degrees, especially with gas prices back on the up, but I've never agreed with the notion that we should only consider vacationing near home based on a negative perception of traveling afar. If you're a regular reader of *Just Out*, you probably either live in the Portland vicinity or you enjoy visiting the area. And you already know that P-Town's a cool spot for a vacation, whether or not you're a resident.

If the idea of spending the night or two at a local hotel sounds odd, or at least extravagant, consider all the fun reasons for doing so: It's a chance to get to know a neighborhood you might otherwise rarely visit, it frees you from having to drive home late at night after seeing a show or enjoying a few cocktails, it's a wonderful way to celebrate a special occasion or impress a date, and it's also a festive way to party with a few friends, perhaps before or after seeing a concert or attending a social event (the Red Dress Party, for example, is coming up on April 16).

With that in mind, here are three approaches to vacationing right here in Portland, be it for a simple overnight or perhaps even a long weekend.

East Side Offbeat

Portland has no shortage of lively, pedestrian-friendly East Side neighborhoods that enjoy a strong following among nonconformists—the retail and restaurant strips along

Hawthorne, Belmont, Division and Mississippi immediately come to mind. The challenge is finding a noteworthy hotel that's within walking distance of one of these interesting neighborhoods. The funky Kennedy School (mcmenamins.com/427-kennedy-school-home), a reasonably priced hotel and entertainment complex carved out of a vintage 1915 former elementary school, is one lodging that fits the bill. It's a four-block walk from the slew of queer-frequented coffeehouses, lounges, galleries and shops in the Alberta Arts District. And it's even closer to the smaller pod of revered restaurants around Killingsworth Street and NE 30th that include such standouts at Beast (beastpdx.com), Autentica (autenticaportland.com) and Yakuza Japanese Pub and Izakaya (yakuzalounge.com).

There's actually plenty to keep you busy right on the premises of Kennedy School, which is operated by the weirdly endearing McMenamins family of hotels, restaurants, bars and theaters (many of which are kooky, if occasionally creepy, old buildings that have been imaginatively re-adapted). Inside the Kennedy School, you can dine in the old school cafeteria, now the sunny—and still very old-school—Courtyard Restaurant. A bar has been installed in the former boiler room, and other lounges are themed after detention and honors halls (I know which one I'm better suited for). One former classroom currently houses the Theater Bar, which adjoins the old school auditorium—now a cinema screening mostly second-run movies (you can sip McMenamins ales brewed at the on-site Concordia Brewery and eat pizzas and burgers while watching the flick). Finally, enclosed by lush gardens, a saltwater soaking pool

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