

State connects youth with elders

A new state program unveiled this week will connect high-school kids living in local hotels after becoming homeless with elderly people who lived through the Depression.

The new program will concentrate on developing relationships with younger people and elders through projects like, "How to do your homework by candlelight," "Going to sleep on an empty stomach," and "Robbing Peter to pay Paul economics."

"We feel like a lot of people can learn from past generations," says the Director of the non-profit set to get the state contract. "It's about understanding that we've all been through rough times before, and passing these important lessons on to the next generation."

One of the programs, "What to do when Mom and Dad breakdown," will focus on bringing together families over Kraft Macaroni and Cheese to discuss ways to plan for the future.

For example, one option in the new program is for the oldest sibling to quit school, and to find work. Another is for how to lie to peers about your family living out of their van and using the Wal-Mart bathroom to wash before school.

The new program is being praised around the country from places like Florida, Arkansas and Ohio. It's thought that some of the program curriculum could be used in Michelle Obama's war on obesity as well, and introduced into schools in every state as soon as next year.

New tax-credits available for working Oregonians

Tax-credit legislation in Salem is expected to pass next week that will affect more than one million working Oregonians. Those affected will not realize, or understand the legislation until long after the deadline to receive the tax-credits has passed.

"It's important legislation affecting all Oregonians. It's bills like this that will keep our economy going," says one Oregon Congresswoman representing from Eugene. "We don't necessarily expect to be able to explain what exactly the new law will mean in layman's terms, nor do we expect people who will qualify for the new program to totally grasp the complexities of it all, but we're sure happy it passed."

Attorney General puts out more press releases than ever before

Oregon Attorney General John Kroger put out a press release saying that six more press releases would follow this afternoon — tackling everything from non-profits who don't know how to put together an annual report to defending the rights of all Oregonians to create as many press releases as possible.

Kroger said in one press release that non-profits who have not created spreadsheets that show they are spending more than 70 percent of money raised through the non-profit on services — would be required to take Excel and Quickbooks workshops currently offered in local correctional facilities.

Kroger denies another press release, released early in the week, that says Kroger will run for Governor.

State Treasurer Ted Wheeler followed suit by releasing a press release with a headline that says, "I'm not scared."

The press release went on to say that he was not commenting on a potential run for governor in the future.

Another press release from Governor John Kitzhaber says, "He isn't scared either, and that he is governor, so there."

Kroger had no comment on the latest developments and said more press releases in the future would clarify the matter.

If you've missed a copy of Street Roots, check with your local vendor or stop by the Street Roots office at 211 NW Davis St. Or read up on past stories and comments at www.streetroots.wordpress.com.

Wu fang clan?

Rep. David Wu's tendency toward fuzzy outfits dates back further than previously suspected

STAFF REPORTS

Rep. David Wu's unusual behavior dates back further than previously thought, according to new information uncovered by the Willamette Week.

Earlier this year, the WW wrote about the Congressman's reportedly unusual behavior prior to the election in November, followed by several of his staffers resigning following allegations that they were intending to shut down his campaign.

Included in the evidence of erratic behavior was a photo of Wu in a "plush tiger" Halloween costume, sent to staffers' e-mails.

Now it's been learned that Wu's propensity for dressing up as animals began long before last year.

These photos, recently uncovered by WW, indicate that year after year, a young Wu dressed up as animals just before November elections. Among the menagerie is a muskrat, teddy bear and an adorable lil' lobster.

Wu, 55, has been elected eight times, serving since 1999. What this may mean for Wu's future in politics remains to be seen, however, there is speculation that if he continues to dress up in furry outfits in the future, particularly as the father of two young children, his career could be compromised.

"Clearly this shows a pattern of behavior unacceptable to the American people who have come to expect more from their elected officials," said Sarah Palin, former vice presidential candidate who spent \$150,000 on outfits prior to the 2008 November elections.



Mime freed from glass box, tragedy ensues

BY JUNIOR BOUFFON
STAFF WRITER

Portland Police Department and rescue crews were dispatched Saturday afternoon to Portland Saturday Market in response to a 911 call for help in an effort to rescue one of Portland's most renowned street performers.

It seems that Willy the Mime found himself in quite the pickle when he was in the middle of his world famous performance in which he locks himself into a glass box. When interviewed by Street Roots, Officer Heinz of the Portland Police Department stated, "We were out of options. It came down to the Jaws of Life" Officer Heinz also told SR, "We really did not expect it to end this way."

Witness One Man Band, one of the few Portland-native street performers, a guitar playing musician on roller skates, told Street Roots "The rescuers seemed confused at first," he said. "It was as if they thought that the mime was on fire and tried to put him out." Harry followed, saying, "Then they were playing tug-o-war for sometime before Willy just gave up."

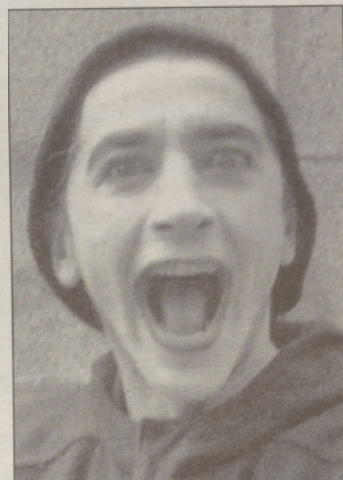
"I was on my way back from lunch when I

noticed Willy was in trouble, fellow performer Twisty the Flexible said. "Then the police and fire department began to focus on talking Willy down from Skidmore Fountain." When asked if he thought the mime might have actually jumped off the fountain, officer Jordan responded, "That was our gut feeling."

Willy was unresponsive to Project Respond's request for a commitment to a safety plan. "We really need to have a verbal commitment of that he will avoid glass boxes for at least 24 hours," outreach worker Anitta Hand told SR. "Even after the officers Tazed Willy, he still was unresponsive."

According to police reports, Hobble leg restraints, approved for use when officers feel that the offender is experiencing excited delirium, were eventually used to subdue Willy.

Portland Police Department has refused to give an official statement regarding Willy's injuries sustained when police officers used the Jaws of Life, but an unidentified officer at the scene said, "We were shocked to see all the glass break so easily, we did not expect him to lose an eye."



Willy the Mime in happier times, before his rescue and the loss of his right eye. Here he demonstrates his silent scream, once a crowd pleaser outside Pioneer Square Mall, now an eerie reminder of his last performance.