

METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

Community Calendar

Foster parents needed

Short-term foster parents are needed to care for teens who need a safe place to stay for a few days. Weekly orientations are held every Thursday from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Boys and Girls Aid Society of Oregon, 018 S.W. Boundary Court. Reimbursement for care, Food Bank help and on-going training is provided.

Halloween fun

You will find Halloween haunted hallways, trick-or-treating and a carnival at the Police Activities League's Bud Monnes Youth Center, 424 N.E. 172nd from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Friday. Cost is \$1 for kids five and older or two non-perishable food items.

Alberta gallery to open

Our Dream gallery hosts a grand opening celebration Thursday from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. at 2209 N.E. Alberta. The gallery features a wide range of contemporary African-American artists from throughout the country and offers a complete range of media and styles, along with professional art services.

Mexican folk art

The Mexican folk art exhibit Day of the Dead, curated by Patricia Mahan and mixed media works by David Childers are on display Nov. 6-28 at the Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center, 5340 N. Interstate Ave.

Parenting help

Do you have questions about parenting? Do you want to meet other young parents in your neighborhood? Common Bond offers free playgroups, parenting classes, field trips and health nurse services to area residents with children 0 to 3 years old. Call Lisa or Ime at 280-1616.

Auction ready to begin

The Catlin Gabel School's 53rd Annual Rummage Sale is held Thursday, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Expo Center. The merchandise will feature everything from high-quality furniture to antiques, to artwork, fine jewelry, vintage and designer clothing, toys, books and hundreds of other items.

West Side Story

Tickets are now on sale for West Side Story, playing Nov. 11-16 at Portland Civic Auditorium. Rave reviews and hot box office sales make this one of the best-loved national theater productions in recent memory. The last Portland engagement of the Broadway musical sold out in 1995.

Spaghetti dinner

St. Charles Church, northeast 42nd and Emerson, holds its popular spaghetti and meatball dinner Sunday from noon to 6 p.m. Cost is \$7 for adults and \$3.50 for children. Full takeout available.

Women's conference

Humorist Peggy Kline will address the one-day conference for women "A Day for You: Nurturing the Needs of Women Through Humor, Hope and Health," presented Saturday, Nov. 8 from 8:30 to 4 p.m. at the Portland Hilton Hotel by Providence Health System and Smith Barney. Registration is \$25 by calling 215-6595.

Arts on display

Current work by the members of the Wy'east Artisans Guild is on view at the Multnomah Art Center Gallery, 7688 S.W. Capitol Highway. The group show reflects a common interest in the arts and crafts.

Living with Asthma

A free conference on living with asthma is Sunday at 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Adventist Medical Center, 10123 S.E. Market.

SUBMISSIONS: Community Calendar information will be given priority if received two weeks before the event date.



Military spending protestors march in Portland.

(Photo by Neil Heilpern)

Group demands military shift to human needs

New generation of peace activists question government

A handful of anti-military protestors meandered through downtown Portland Friday, visiting programs where they would love to divert some of the Pentagon's funds.

It was a new generation of young pacifists surfacing during the event coordi-

nated by Peace and Justice Works, Oregon Peace Works and the Oregon Community for War Tax Resistance.

They marched from Lincoln High School, carrying protest signs which read "Food Not Bombs," "Consider Non-Military Solutions First," "War Is Stupid!" and "People Matter."

First stop for the two dozen people was Outside-In, a transitional youth housing center at Salmon and 13th, where John Coomler told them the "need for more space and

services for people "should take precedence over military spending. "Help us shake that money tree."

Noting the need to compete with other social service programs, Coomler told The Portland Observer.

"Every year we have kids die because there are insufficient resources to make the connections with them," Coomler said.

Organizer Dairl Helmer led the group to other underfinanced public programs

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Takin' it to the streets

Bus murals promote crime prevention

Giant murals on a Tri-Met bus and educational brochures are promoting October as National Crime Prevention Month.

The bus is operating on routes in the northeast community, but will also branch out to travel on Tri-Met buses throughout the Tri-County area.

The Association for Portland Progress, Obie Media, Tri-Met and Portland Police are co-sponsors of the public service campaign.



Crime prevention wins the support of East Precinct Commander Mark Parefi

(Photo by M. Washington)

KBOO's Boo Ball

This is it... The Portland area's original and best Halloween costume ball... The 16th Annual Boo Ball! This year's Boo Ball promises to be one of the best ever!

The music will get you dancin' with electric blues guitar master Clarence "Gatemouth" Brown. Best known for his



A Star Wars soldier on earth takes hostages in northeast Portland. It's a perfect prelude to the characters you'll see at Saturday's Boo Ball.



Saffire-The Uppity Blues Women's incomparable guitar work, this versatile Grammy-winning virtuoso is also proficient on the fiddle and harmonica, and equally adept at playing blues, country, western-swing, Cajun and jazz.

Additionally, Saffire-The Uppity Blues Women will perform their

unique brand of sassy, witty and fiercely independent acoustic blues filled with spirit and soul.

Don't miss this opportunity to join in the fun of Portland's best costume ball with prizes for: Best Overall Costume, Funniest, Scariest, Best Couple, Best Group and Best Political. A variety of Full Sail Ales, wine and other beverages and food will also be available.

The Boo Ball is the largest fundraiser for KBOO 90.7 Community Radio, aside from its on-air membership drives.

The Boo Ball will be held on Saturday at 8 p.m., at Portland Art Museum Grand Ballroom, 1219 SW Park. Tickets are \$15 in advance for KBOO members/ \$17 advance for non-members, and \$20 day of show for all.

Tickets are available at all Ticketmaster Outlets, all Music Millennium stores or charge by phone at 503-224-4400.

Kennedy School's unsung hero

Entertainment magnet, reality with persistence of resident Melissa Darby

By LEE PERLMAN

A week before its official grand opening, the Concordia neighborhood came to the new McMenamin's Kennedy School to pay tribute to Brian and Michael McMenamin - and the project's unsung heroes.

The brew brothers received due credit for their \$4 million renovation of the 40,000 square foot former school, for 22 years a vacant community eyesore. Thanks to them, it now sports an indoor and outdoor restaurant, movie theater, bar, wine tasting room, public gym, meeting space (including a room reserved for the neighborhood association's use), garden, and 35 simple but comfortable guest rooms that still show their classroom origin.

However, the McMenamins would never have had a chance to work their magic without the contributions of many other people.

The supporters included consultants Dan Steffey, Sumner Sharpe and Don Genasci; Barbara Madigan of the Bureau of Housing and Community Development; David Nemo of the Portland Development Commission; community volunteers Ron Fossum and Jim Roberts; Michael Harrison and his Bureau of Planning staff.

Still, commissioner Gretchen Kafoury struck a cord when she said the three people most deserving of credit were "Melissa Darby, Melissa Darby, Melissa Darby." The 300 people present agreed, giving her a standing ovation.

It was Darby, year in and year out, who fought longest and hardest to preserve the structure when the Portland School District had determined to demolish it.

"I was driving by with my husband one day and said, 'Boy, it sure would be nice to do something with this,'" the red haired neighbor recalls.

Rebuffed by deputy school superintendent Don McElroy, who had already allocated funds to tear it down, she had the 1915 building declared an historic landmark, blocking demolition.

McElroy kept to his original course. According to Darby, he didn't return phone calls when the private Waldorf School offered to buy, and instead allowed the building to deteriorate toward the point where demolition would indeed be the only option.

A breakthrough came in 1992. Steffey put together what became known as the Pilot Project, a massive exchange of property and money among the City of Portland, Multnomah County, the Housing Authority of Portland and the school district.

The city was to receive Kennedy School. After 18 months of negotiations and prodding by Darby, Steffey and Fossum, president of the Concordia Neighborhood Association, the deal was made.

To determine the next step the city set up a task force, staffed by Madigan, Nemo, Genasci and Sharpe and chaired by Roberts.

The group quickly developed three guidelines for the property's future use: It had to preserve the building, put at least part of it to community use, and "be an asset to the community in function and design."

To these requirements were added others: The use had to be self-supporting, since no public funds were available to maintain it, and the use could not be housing, since a large multi-family structure clashed with Concordia's goal of stabilizing its single-family community.

"The highest and best use was another school," Darby says, "but no one thought we'd get something we wanted, just something we could live with."

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