

METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

Community Calendar

Improve Your Handwriting

Can't read your own handwriting? Learn how to improve it for free! Come and celebrate National Handwriting Day at a FREE Handwriting Improvement Workshop at Portland State University on Saturday, January 22, from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Contact Alba Scholz at 503/725-4890.

Music Marathon

Ethos, Inc., Portland's nonprofit multicultural music center, is sponsoring a "Music Marathon" to benefit music education programs for disadvantaged youth. This benefit will take place at the Portland State University Ballroom in the Smith Center on December 11, 1999 from 3 pm - noon. Music will be provided by nine local bands. Tickets sold at the door are \$5 for students and \$7 for general admission. People can donate a musical instrument and get in free. Call 503/241-8824 or see www.ethos-inc.com.

Holiday Luncheon

You are invited to join us for a "Holiday Luncheon" on Saturday, December 18 at Shenigan's Restaurant, located at 4575 N. Channel at 11 a.m. The special guest speaker will be Prophetess Pat Hyche of Seattle, Washington. Donation amount is \$25. The event is sponsored by the Kings Temple Christian Center Pastor Sam Bailey. For further information, please call 503/287-5177.

Parenting Teens

Positive Discipline, Betsy Davenport, instructor. Saturday, December 11, 9 am to noon. \$30 indiv, or \$35 for 2 adults, same home.

NCNM Natural Health Clinics

The National College of Naturopathic Medicine is now offering its "20/20" college student healthcare package to all Portland area college students. Now, students can go to NCNM's three primary locations for only \$20 a visit, and get a 20% discount on all natural medicinal purchases during teaching visits. For more information, call 503/499-4343, ext. 1116.

Christmas Fantasy Trail

Take a walk through a lighted, wooded trail decorated with thousands of lights. We have an assortment of Christmas trees, cedar boughs, swags and holly are for sale. Refreshments are available. Open from 6 to 9 p.m., Mondays through Saturdays at Wenzel Farm, 19754 South Ridge Road, Oregon City. Admission costs are adults \$3, ages 12 and younger \$2.

The Journey Within

Authorized representatives of Sant Thakar Singh will be offering a free program which includes instructions for the inner Light and Sound meditation. This process, which brings inner peace, can be learned by young and old alike regardless of faith, religion or lifestyle. Sessions will be held in Mollala, Woodburn and Hillsboro on December 10, 11 and 12. Call Jackie Brown, Program Coordinator at 681-9791 or 1-888-681-9791.

The Miracle of a Million Lights

CONTRIBUTED STORY
FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

This classic example of Victorian architecture

was built in 1885 by retired ship captain, David Cole. The mansion was a present for Cole's new bride, Laura Boone, the great granddaughter of Daniel Boone. The 6,300-

square-foot Queen Anne style mansion is in North Portland is the oldest of its kind in the city, and one of the oldest on the entire West Coast.

The house was constructed entirely by local craftsmen on a 629-acre land grant located on the original riverbank of the Columbia. The interior is lavished with original light fixtures and museum quality Povy stained glass windows.

Left untouched for over a hundred years, the ornate gingerbread and spooling woodwork was milled right on the premises. Breathtaking details include a winding front staircase and even a third-floor ballroom where it is said that Mrs. Cole died in a fire.

Listed on the National Historic Register, the landmark exterior is decorated with gingerbread detail, beautiful doors and trim work and a massive wrap-around covered porch. It is truly a magnificent site.

Each year, nearly 200 weddings, anniversaries, and other gala events grace the vast 2-1/2 acres of trees, flowers, grass and curving walkways. Included is a 42' diameter gazebo that is enclosed in the winter and a fountain garden. The entire property is enclosed for privacy and yet is large enough to hold well over 2,000 people on the grounds and in the house.

The Queen Anne Victorian Mansion opened on Saturday, November 27, 1999, with the lighting of the spectacular 2.5 million lights. Other festivities included: a children's winter wonderland, Santa Claus, and a performance by premier northwest saxophonist Patrick Lamb and his band; along with, special guest gospel artist Debra Crowe.

The Miracle of a Millions Lights presented it's sole benefactor Camp UKANDU. This American Cancer Society camping program helps children whose illness would otherwise prevent them from enjoying such childhood experiences.

Admission is \$4.00 for adults, and \$2.00 for children 3-13, and the event will run from 6pm-11pm. The mansion is located at 1441 North McClellan in Portland. Other sponsors include, KJZ, KATU, Daisy Kingdom, Superior Coffee, Coast Crane, Interstate Hauling, West Coast Productions, Ourtown, and Albertsons. For more information please call 503.283.3224.



Jefferson principal accepts new position

CONTRIBUTED STORY
FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Lela Roberts, current Jefferson High School principal, has accepted a new assignment in Portland Public Schools to support student achievement in reading among all schools in the Jefferson High cluster, Superintendent Ben Canada announced. Roberts will begin her new position on Jan. 4, 2000. Canada has

Roberts will begin her new position on Jan. 4, 2000. Canada has appointed Kevin Bacon, Jefferson's curriculum vice principal, as interim principal. Bacon has worked as a teacher and administrator in Portland for 13 years, including the past three years at Jefferson.

"Lela has a strong track record in turning around student achievement in low-achieving schools, particularly in reading," Canada said.

"She's also leaving Jefferson in very good hands with Kevin. This is good news all the way around."

Roberts said she proposed her new assignment to Canada because she believes it is critical to increasing academic achievement at Jefferson. "The past 18 months as principal have convinced me that the single most important way to increase achievement at Jefferson is to bring up reading scores at the elementary and middle schools that fed into Jefferson," Roberts said.

Canada said that Roberts will help principals and teachers implement best practices in reading achievement at the Jefferson feeder schools, several of which recently have initiated new reading

programs to increase achievement. "This level of reading support can have an immediate impact in the schools we've targeted for continued success," he said.

In fall 2000, Roberts will become principal at one of the Jefferson cluster elementary schools while continuing to assist Jefferson feeder schools in their reading efforts, Canada said. Roberts has worked in Portland Public Schools for 28 years, where she has been an elementary and middle school teacher, and principal at Ball, Hayhurst, Humboldt, Kenton and Markham elementary schools in Portland. She was named principal at Jefferson in July 1998.

Canada said Bacon will serve as interim Jefferson principal through this school year. In January, the district will launch a national search for a permanent principal, a position for which Kevin may choose to apply.

"Kevin has done an excellent job as vice principal at Jefferson," Canada said. "He has strong support from the Jefferson students, staff and community."

Bacon said he will focus his efforts on implementing the school improvement plan developed by Jefferson's Site Council, which calls for increased achievement for all students.

"We're developing our curriculum to meet the needs of a diverse student body - ranging from honors students to those who need to strengthen basic skills," Bacon said. "We've got a great group of teachers dedicated to meeting students' needs."

"This is a terrific opportunity," he said. Bacon has served as a teacher and administrator at Jefferson, and as a teacher at Whitaker and George middle schools.

Canada said his administration is committed to providing the guidance and support needed to help the new administration succeed. He intends to name a new curriculum vice principal by Dec. 15.



Lela Roberts, current Jefferson High School principal
PHOTO BY M. WASHINGTON

ODOT advises patience, planning due to Fremont Bridge closures

CONTRIBUTED STORY
FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

In the wake of a commute that saw extra-long backups coinciding with the construction closures on the Fremont Bridge this week, Oregon Department of Transportation officials are warning motorists that patience and planning ahead are two strategies that will pay off for them in approaching their daily commute.

"Nobody likes being stuck in traffic, especially when they are trying to reach a destination on a deadline," said ODOT Region Construction Manager Walt Bartel. "At the same time, commuters can help out their own cause by planning to use alternate routes, varying the timing of their commute, carpooling, or by using public transit."

The project on the Fremont Bridge involves the replacement of expansion joints, which have worn out since the structure opened in 1973. This necessary work requires crews to completely remove the old joints prior to installing the new joints. During this process, the roadway becomes unusable and must remain closed to traffic. This is why, officials explained, the road can't be opened up to traffic during commute times, as is the case with other construction projects.

Traffic is now restricted to one lane on both U.S. 30 ramps approaching and leaving the bridge. On the I-405 ramps to and from the bridge, commuters have the use of two lanes. At no time will any ramp on the Fremont Bridge be completely closed to traffic.

The project, which carries an \$804,000 price tag, is scheduled for completion by April 30.