

Portland **Family**
Observer

Boys & Girls Club Youth Honored

Everyone knew that Nita Likes was a winner. Now it's official. The four-year member of The Boys & Girls Club has been selected as the club's 2001 Youth of the Year.

The Youth of the Year program recognizes superior leadership skills, academic achievement, obstacles to overcome and outstanding service to Boys & Girls Clubs and the community.

Nita, a senior at Hillsboro High School and member of the Hillsboro Boys & Girls Club, is secretary of Nike Swoosh Club, a member of Keystone Club, Blazer Community Builder Youth Corps and Leaders in Training. She is the Torch club advisor and is involved in many community service projects.

Nita came to the Club on the advice of a family friend. "At the time, I didn't have much self-confidence, and my grades and social skills needed work," says Nita. Today, Nita knows just about everyone around the club, and she stops and talks to every person each day she's there. After graduating from high school this spring, Nita wants to attend either Portland Community College or Arizona State. She is interested in politics and wants to



Portland area Boys & Girls Club members Nita Likes (from left), Eno Akpan, Katrina Schell and Morgan Daugherty are recognized for their achievement and service to the community.

be the first woman president.

According to Nita, club members and staff are like a large second family, but so is Nita's primary family. There are 18 children in her family. Nita is one of four adopted children. In addition, there are 12 foster children and two biological children in her family.

"My goal is to promote the Club to show what it's done for me and what it can do for you. Without it, a lot of kids would be in trouble," says Nita.

Likes will compete against other Boys & Girls Club youth for the Oregon state Youth of the Year title. If Likes wins, she will receive a \$25,000

scholarship for post-secondary education from Oprah Winfrey's Angel Network. This will mark the third year that the talk show host's Angel Network provided scholarships for youth of the year winners.

Five regional winners selected from among the state winners will compete for the national honor in Washington D.C., where the President will officially install the national Youth of the Year in a White House ceremony in September. Nita was one of four finalists representing Boys & Girls Clubs of Portland's four main Clubs.

Each candidate is an excellent example of the Clubs' success in helping young people achieve their full potential.

"These are four great young people who have come to Boys & Girls Clubs and found a place to blossom," said Virginia Hensen, Executive Director. "Each has faced challenges in their lives and been able to use the Club as a way to excel. The other three finalists are Morgan Daugherty, Wattle Boys & Girls Club Youth of the Year; Eno Akpan, Blazer Boys & Girls Club Youth of the Year; and Katrina Schell, the Fred Meyer Boys & Girls Club Youth of the Year.

Law Would Lower Age Requirement for Legislature

Cassandra Miller can vote, drive, serve in the military and buy cigarettes.

The 18-year-old high school senior can do most everything adults can do — except serve in the Oregon Legislature.

Miller and more than a dozen others testified before lawmakers recently to support a bill asking voters to lower the age requirement for legislators from 21 to 18.

"If younger representatives and senators were elected, Oregon's youth would have a venue through which to express fresh ideas and opinions," Miller said.

Secretary of State Bill Bradbury proposed HJR 16 after a student at a town hall meeting last spring asked why 18-year-olds can't run

for state office. Bradbury, who didn't have an answer, said the bill would "chip away" at the political disillusionment many young voters feel.

Six percent of the votes in the 1998 primary election were cast by 18- to 34-year-olds, Bradbury said. Yet in the 17 states with lower age requirements for the Legislature, there was a 5 percent higher turnout in the 1996 general election among 18- to 24-year-olds than in states with higher age limits, he said.

The average age in the Oregon Legislature is 53.8 years.

"We've got to engage young people in the political process now if we want to build a good, strong foundation for the future," Bradbury said.

Banners To Beautify Portsmouth

Beautiful street banners are coming to north Portland's Portsmouth neighborhood!

Area residents initiated the "walking together" banner project to beautify the Portsmouth neighborhood, nurture community awareness and pride,

celebrate the diversity of the community, and enhance the sense of community ownership. Banner designs will be created in community sessions facilitated by artist Ping-Khaw-Sutherland. Designs will then be reproduced into patterns,

which will be transferred to nylon banners sewn by local volunteers. The colorful banners will be hung along major Portsmouth streets this summer.

Portsmouth Vision 20/20, a local Target Area neighborhood improvement program spon-

sored by the Bureau of Housing and Community Development, received a grant from the Regional Arts and Culture Council to coordinate a community banner project. For more information, contact Celestial Cassman at 503-283-1096.

Teens Need School Voucher For Driver Licenses

Spring is here and summer is just around the corner. At Oregon DMV, that means a lot of teenagers are getting ready to try for their drivers license. "We want teens to be prepared when they come in," said Lorna Young's, ODOT Deputy Director for DMV. "One thing they need to be certain to have is the Statement of Enrollment form filled out by their school. If they don't have that, we can't issue a permit or a license."

Legislation went into effect last September requiring youth under 18 to show that they are enrolled in school in order to obtain driving privileges. That can be done with a Statement of Enrollment form, available through local school districts and educational school districts. Teens who have completed high school or who have a GED can show their diploma or a certificate of completion.

If you plan on coming into DMV to get your Oregon li-

cence or instruction permit for the first time, make sure you obtain a completed form while school is still in session.

Teenagers need to show compliance with the requirement when applying for an instructional permit, a provisional driver license, a special student driver permit, an emergency driver permit or a moped restricted driver permit. The requirement isn't necessary when applying for an identification card.

Those who are home schooled or exempt from attending school also need to obtain the form through the school district or educational service district.

"A person only needs to show the form the first time they're issued a driver license or a permit," Youngs said. "That should be it, unless their license is cancelled, revoked or suspended for non-attendance at school."

Mental Health Provider Names New CEO

Choosing a course of consistency and stability, Unity Inc. — the state's largest nonprofit provider of mental health services appointed Wayne Miya as president and chief executive officer.

A retired PacifiCorp, Inc. manager, Miya 54, replaces James G. Gaynor who has been named Director of Mental Health System Redesign by Multnomah County.

The Unity Board of Directors also has asked Douglas E. Babb to serve an unprecedented third year as chair of the volunteer board. Babb, 51, is a senior associate for Conkling Fiskum & McCormick, Inc. a Portland-based consulting firm specializing in public affairs, strategic communications and research.

Miya, a Beaverton resident, is an experienced business manager. Before his retirement



Wayne Miya

in 1999, he has a 30-year career with PacifiCorp.

He held various management positions in customer's service and human resources. A native of Salt Lake, Utah, Miya earned his BA in Mathematics at the University of Utah, where he also received an MBA.

Good mood lighting.

Dimmers are another way to save energy.

And it's important that we all find as many ways as we can to reduce our energy use. By working together, we've been able to make a difference and keep the power flowing. But the cold weather's not over yet. We still need to be thoughtful about how and when we use electricity.

Installing dimmers in areas where they make sense, like the dining room and bedroom, will help lower energy use. The amount you dim equals your energy saved. For example, dimming lights by 15 percent cuts energy consumption by 15 percent.

Here are some other tips that can save you energy and money on lighting:

- Turn off extra lights, especially between 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. And get in the habit of switching off the light every time you leave the room for more than a few minutes.
- Put compact fluorescent bulbs in light fixtures that are used more than three hours a day. These bulbs use one-quarter the energy and last 10 times longer than regular lightbulbs.
- Use low-wattage bulbs when you can. Bright lights are often not needed in hallways and closets.
- Clean lightbulbs and fixtures. Dust can reduce light output by as much as 10 percent!
- Install motion sensors or timers to automatically turn lights on and off. Motion sensor lighting is great for outdoors and in your workshop or laundry room. Timers are the right choice if you'd like an indoor light switched on and off at specific times.
- When working at a desk or workbench, use task lighting. Other lights in the room can then be turned off or dimmed.



Let's all do our part. Wait 'til late to use electricity. Call us at 1-800-222-4335, and ask for a copy of our Bright Ideas booklet for more energy-saving tips.

PACIFIC POWER

a birthday tribute to
ella fitzgerald

Thursday, April 26, 7pm
performance by Lily Wilde and The Jumpin' Jubilee Orchestra with Bryan Dickerson
21 and over \$7 admission

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McMenamins
5736 NE 33rd
Portland, Oregon
(503) 249-3983
www.mcmcnamins.com