

METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

Community Calendar

Justice and Peace March

On Saturday, May 24 join those outraged by the killing of Kendra James at noon for a march and rally in her name at Alberta Park. The walk will end at the North Skidmore Street I-5 overpass where the May 5 shooting took place. For more information, call 503-287-7377.

Sabin Sidewalk Art Show and Sale

On Saturday, June 7 at the Starbucks Coffee House on Northeast 15th and Fremont, there will be a sidewalk show and sale kickoff to benefit the Sabin Elementary School art program. Students will show off their talents by painting on easels, there will be student art for sale and a silent auction on selected pieces. Following the kickoff the sidewalk sale will continue throughout the summer.

Pet Photo Contest

Animal enthusiasts can enter pictures of their favorite furry friends in the Oregon Humane Society's annual photo contest. Winners will take home gift certificates to local camera stores and will have their images featured in the Human Society's summer magazine and popular website. Awards will go to photos of the top dog, cat, other animal, funniest animal and the best photo of a child and a pet. Entries must be labeled on the back with the submitter's name, address, telephone number and the pet's name. There is a \$5 per household entry fee and all entries should be sent or delivered to the Oregon Humane Society, 1067 N.E. Columbia Blvd., before Monday, June 9 at 7 p.m.

Write Around Portland Benefit

The Liminal Theater at 403 NW Fifth Ave. will host an Annual Facilitator Reading to benefit Write Around Portland on June 12 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. There will be wine, food, music, a raffle and other revelry. Write Around Portland facilitators are the people who volunteer to work behind the scenes to offer workshops that bring the power of writing to people throughout the city. There will be a \$10 suggested donation for the reading. For more information, call 503-796-9224.

Summer Camp at the Oregon Zoo

Children four years of age through seventh grade can spend five exciting days at the zoo learning about various endangered species. The camp, which runs from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. June 16 through Aug. 29, includes daily lunch breaks and instruction from the zoo's most experienced animal keepers. For more information or to register, call 503-220-2781.

Radical Women Rummage Sale

Come to the Bread and Roses Center, 819 N Killingsworth, on Saturday, June 21 and Sunday, June 22 to check out tons of pre-owned stuff in prime condition. Furniture, small appliances, retro-clothing, children's items and books will be priced to sell, and coffee and bake goods will also be available to eat while you browse. All proceeds will benefit the 'Freedom Socialist' newspaper. For more information or to donate items, call 503-240-4462.

Ethos Sees Opportunity in Old Lodge

Music education group wins bid for building, plans renovation

BY SEAN P. NELSON,
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The Portland Public School Board unanimously approved the sale of the former Mt. Hood Masonic Lodge across from Jefferson High School.

Ethos Inc., a not-for-profit corporation that provides instrumental and vo-

cal music instruction to children in the Portland area, will pay \$320,000 for the 1923 building, located at 5308 N. Commercial.

The grand structure with towering pillars has stands empty since a 1981 fire. Theft and vandalism in subsequent years did even more damage.

Plans are to remodel the building to create 20 high-tech music classrooms, a 400-person theater, office spaces and dormitories to house music camp kids from around the state.

"I think it's a great opportunity for both Ethos and the school district," said Ethos Executive Director, Charles Lewis.

"The school district gets the money for teaching kids and we get a great building."

The total price tag is estimated at \$2.4 million, which Ethos will raise from private donations.

"We basically will take a couple of months to do the architectural work," Lewis said. "We will start from scratch with the shell of the building. Once we have the drawings completed we will start a seismic upgrade as part of the rebuilding process."

Lewis called the seismic upgrade

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The dilapidated interior of the former Masonic Lodge across from Jefferson High School in north Portland. The non-profit music group Ethos, Inc. won a bid to purchase the building from the Portland School District. It plans a complete renovation of the historic structure.



Former Trail Blazer Kenny Carr oversees part of the construction at Jackson Hall on the Cascade Campus of Portland Community College in north Portland. Carr has his own construction business since retiring from the NBA.

Former Blazer Frames College Hall

Kenny Carr gets a piece of campus expansion business

Former Portland Trail Blazer power forward, Kenny Carr, no longer runs the hardwood and dives for loose rebounds.

Today, Carr runs his own construction business, Carr Construction, which was an integral part of the Jackson Hall construction on the Cascade Campus in north Portland.

Carr's company recently worked on the structural steel framing and the joining of pre-fabricated slabs to expand and remodel the campus building.

He said the work is a byproduct of a profession he relishes.

A long-time West Linn resident, Carr

is no stranger to the public eye. After retiring from the NBA, he and his family put roots down in Oregon.

He said he established the company after a friend gave him a taste of the business.

"It was nothing planned," explained Carr. "I had friends in the business and got started in 1986. I remember one of our first jobs was Columbia Villa. I started as a general contractor but eventually moved into the specialty work of sub-contracting in the early 1990s, which I like better."

Carr said he is proud to see the economic renaissance in north Portland area, punctuated with the bond construction at the Cascade Campus.

"I've been extensively involved with this area for 21 years and have seen it grow," he said. "We have had a lot of investment in the north Portland area and

it's had a boom in construction lately, raising property values. It's been great to have been a small part of that."

The soft-spoken Carr says his top objective during construction is the safety of his crews, which can grow to as many as 60 workers.

Carr said that he plans three months ahead of time to ensure he always has projects lined up for his crew.

"We have very competent people," Carr said. "So I want to secure future work to keep them going."

This is the second construction project for Carr at PCC Cascade.

The current job is part of the college's Minority, Women and Emerging Small Business effort. The program is aimed at spreading the college's subcontracting work to underrepresented workers and companies.

Murder Suspect Denied Bail

Court hears description of man who preyed on kids

(AP) — A Multnomah County judge has refused to grant bail to the man accused of raping and killing 14-year-old Melissa Bittler as she walked to school from her northeast Portland home.

Ladon A. Stephens, 34, faces 31 counts of aggravated murder, rape, sodomy and kidnapping in the Dec. 13, 2001, killing of Bittler; the April 2002 sexual assault of an acquaintance; and three sexual assaults of teenage Portland girls in 1997. His trial is set for August.

The first of Stephens' alleged rape victims in 1997 — a Portland woman who was 15 at the time — attended Thursday's hearing. She sat near Tom and Mary Bittler, the parents of Melissa, discovered dead in a neighbor's back yard.

They heard graphic and lengthy descriptions of each of the crimes and detailed descriptions of DNA analysis that linked Stephens to each case. They also listened to the playing of a frantic 9-1-1 call from another rape victim. She identified Stephens as her attacker on April 28, 2002. He was arrested the next day.

The state said Stephens routinely shaved all body hair, including his underarm and pubic hair, to avoid leaving evidence at crime scenes.

All the alleged crimes occurred while Stephens was on parole for the 1989 attempted kidnappings of young Portland girls. He was released from prison in December 1996.

The state said Stephens duped his parole officer to avoid submitting a DNA sample in the spring of 2002, after Bittler's death. He told the officer he could not obtain an oral swab of his mouth because he had just visited the dentist, and his mouth was swollen, Detective Paul Weatheroy testified.

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Miracles Club to Host First Annual Community Affair

Area residents invited to evening of food and music

Get dressed to impress and come down to Miracles Club, Portland's premier clean and sober entertainment establishment at 4069 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., on Saturday, May 24 for an evening of food and music.

Designed to introduce those who may not know about the club's functions, the Miracles

Club First Annual Community Affair is an all ages event that will feature a home-cooked dinner, entertainment by the Black Notes, testimonials from club members and a mime group.

"This is a way to show people how much fun we can have without alcohol and drugs," said event organizer Michael R. Booker.

He added that most Miracles Club members do not get the chance to dress up for a night on the town. For many people, going to church in their Sunday's best is the only chance they get to glow in fine attire.

"It will give our members an opportunity to come out, dress nice and feel good about

themselves," Booker said.

Invitations were sent to city officials and community members and all the public is invited to attend. Booker said he hopes the turnout is good because as economic times get worse, more and more people turn to addiction to help them through the days.

Even those without chemical dependency problems are encouraged to attend because the evening may spark interest to spread the word to those who may need help.

"Chances are, even if you don't have a problem, you know someone who does," Booker said. "Everybody has a son or daugh-

ter, brother or sister grandparent or friend who needs some help."

Miracles Club features a host of different 12-step programs, entertainment events, children's activities and has a full-service snack bar opened most days during meeting hours.

Those who need more information on the club and those who would like to make a donation are encouraged to contact Michael R. Booker at 503-267-3192 or send contributions in care of Booker at the club at 4069 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd, Portland, OR 97211.