

# METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

## Community Calendar

### City of Bridges

The Eastside Bridge Club teaches the fascinating and fun-filled game in a friendly environment at Easybridge Class, from 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 11. Classes are \$5 including refreshments. 1435 N.E. 81<sup>st</sup> Ave. Call 503-252-1318.

### Get in Shape

Providence Health Systems offers Westside fitness classes at 4015 S.W. Mercantile Dr., Lake Oswego. Classes include step, ball and bar, cardio mix, cardio step, gentle-paced fitness, group strength training and Tai chi. For info call 503-574-6595 or visit [www.providence.org/classes](http://www.providence.org/classes).

### Prostate Awareness Month

Legacy Health System will screen for prostate cancer, the second leading cause of cancer death among American men, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Sept. 20, at the Legacy Clinic Northeast Medical Plaza Building, 300 N. Graham St., Ste. 200. There's a \$25 fee and appointments are required. To register, call 503-335-3500.

### Meals on Wheels Benefit

Patrons of Widmer Gasthaus, 929 N. Russell, can enjoy a night out and help feed Portland's homebound seniors from 4 p.m. to close on Sept. 16. Half the proceeds on that day will benefit Loaves & Fishes Centers, the Meals-On-Wheels People.

### Wellness Within Reach

Wellness Within REACH Walk will draw more than 500 people to the streets of northeast Portland at 8 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 6. The African American Health Coalition event encourages donations to support community health activities. Register for the walk by sending a \$15 check to 2800 N. Vancouver Ave, Ste. 100. For more information, call 503-413-1850.

### Award-Winning Produce

The City Garden Fair features homegrown tomatoes, beans, squash, herbs and flowers for judging and display from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 6, at the South Park Blocks, across from Portland State University.

### Bones and Brews

The Bones and Brews festival on Sept. 6 and 7 may sound violent, but it's really just about beer, barbecue, music and neighborhood fun on Flanders Street between 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Avenues.

## School Gets *THE BEAT*

Students from Jefferson High are already fine-tuning their natural talents for rhythm and dance as part of the school's new drum line, a high-energy band. The Drum Line is a first step in rebuilding the school's music program.

PHOTO BY  
MARK WASHINGTON/  
THE PORTLAND  
OBSERVER



### Jefferson rolls out high-energy drum line band

Neighbors of Jefferson High School are hearing the beat, beat, beat of drums as students in a Drum Line Band Camp practice Monday and Thursday nights on the school's football field in north Portland.

Members of this high-energy band are expected to commit to the hard work and discipline that will lead to academic development.

"To be part of this exciting new athletic and musical opportunity at Jefferson, students must meet and maintain all Oregon School Activities Association academic and conduct requirements," said Marshall Haskins, the school's athletic director.

The drum line will complement Jefferson's drill team—providing another opportunity for participation in student activities. The

goal is to help kids develop their natural talents for music, rhythm and dance, and improve school spirit at sporting events.

Moreover, with its intergenerational instructors, drum line will provide mentors for students and help build a stronger community.

The drum line will perform from the stands as donations are raised to purchase the light-weight instruments necessary for the high-stepping formations which are the hallmark of drum lines.

"The Jefferson Drum Line is the first step in rebuilding Jefferson's music program that has been virtually eliminated due to budget cuts over recent years," said Ronnye Harrison, the Drum Line's director.

Middle school students in the Jefferson cluster are encouraged to join the drum line.

Students who want more information and members of the community interested in supporting the Jefferson Drum Line should contact Ronnye Harrison at 503-312-0465.

## Hundreds to Join Hands Across The I-5 Bridge

### Labor Day event on I-5 span celebrate addiction recovery

Hundreds of local residents will celebrate their freedom from alcohol and drug addiction on Labor Day when they join hands to span the Interstate 5 Bridge that links Oregon and Washington.

The second annual Hands Across the Bridge event is set for 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. on Monday, Sept. 1. The ceremonies on both sides of the Columbia River are aimed at promoting the benefits of substance abuse

treatment.

"At this event, the strength and experi-

ence of people in recovery from addiction and alcoholism—together will support from their friends, family and community members—will counter society's negative stigmas attached to addiction," said co-organizer Louise Wedge of Portland's Recovery Association Project. "On Labor Day, our communities will stand together to build bridges of understanding

that treatment works, recovery is possible and communities do heal.

*We want to show that recovery from drug addiction and alcoholism works.*

—Louise Wedge of Portland's Recovery Association Project

By joining hands and spanning the Interstate Bridge, we want to show that recovery from drug addiction and alcoholism works," Wedge added. "Last year's event drew over 200 people whose lives have been touched by addiction recovery—and we expect a larger turnout this year. People in recovery, people supporting loved ones in

recovery and those praying for someone who needs recovery are all welcome."

Event co-chair Patty Katz said greater investment in substance abuse recovery programs is needed in both states.

"Budget cuts have reduced the number of beds in treatment facilities in Washington and Oregon, and citizens need to understand that these reductions affect all of us," Katz said. "Treatment works, and our treatment programs create healthier families and a more productive workforce while lowering health care costs and reducing crime rates."

In Portland, the event will open with a

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## Nose in the Books

Local residents fill need when summer school is eliminated

BY JAYMEE R. CUTI  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The sorry state of Portland Public Schools is not news to anybody. The district has been cutting budgets for years, and faces an uncertain financial future.

When funding was cut for a summer school program last year, and a popular summer school program at Tubman Middle School was cancelled because of costs, one church member and community organizer got mad. Then got organized.

Jim Anderson of St. Andrew Church coordinated a four-week-long summer school program for King Elementary School's fifth grade graduates that do not meet state benchmarks in read-



Shanta Parker (left) and Olivia Magnano find pleasure in reading during a summer school session for local kids.

ing. "There were no funds for kids that were behind to go to summer school, so I was angry about that and tried to get some volunteers," said Anderson, a former chairman for the King Neighborhood Association. "I was overwhelmed by young people wanting to help."

Anderson gathered 20 high school students and six adults to act as mentors, instructing 16 soon-to-be sixth graders in reading, writing and math.

The summer school group practiced reading

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## One Backpack at a Time

BY JAYMEE R. CUTI  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Some local students will get a boost this fall when they receive backpacks stuffed with a year's worth of school supplies.

Tools for Schools, a nonprofit group led by Radio Cab driver David Yandell, connects area-businesses with local elementary schools in need. Businesses adopt a school, fund a year's worth of supplies and elect volunteers to fill and deliver those backpacks on the first day of school.

The project is in its second year, with support from businesses such as Radio Cab, Mentor Graphics, Louisiana Pacific, Northwest Natural Gas, Pacificorp, the Damon Stoudamire Foundation, Pixel Works, Comcast, Net and Clarity IQ, Regents Blue Cross Blue Shield of Oregon and others.

The project, also supported by Schoolhouse Supplies, will give 5,100 kids the tools they need to start the school year without worrying about



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER  
Laura Oviatt (left) and Lisa Backstran fill backpacks with supplies for Humboldt Elementary School students.

pens and paper, crayons, rulers; 11 items in each backpack.

"When we distributed at King, that was the most powerful day of my life. I busted a tear," Yandell said.

Of the 11 schools selected, some of

the north and northeast elementary schools include Humboldt, Boise-Eliot, King, James John, Woodlawn and Applegate.

For more information, call 503-380-8027.