

# METRO

The Portland Observer



## NFL Owner Makes History

Arizona businessman Reggie Fowler is the first black owner of a National Football League Team

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SECTION B

## Community Calendar

### Overcoming Obstacles

Speaker Frank Mungeam will explain practical techniques toward achieving dreams and overcoming the obstacles to get there at the Multnomah Central Library from noon to 1 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 17. Free. For more information, call 503-614-7308.

### Art Supply Swap

Art on the Peninsula will hold an Art Supply Swap on Saturday, Feb. 19 at the Kenton Firehouse at 8105 N. Brandon St. The swap is a free event and allows artists to sell or swap art tools and supplies.

### Sustainable Food Workshop

A workshop to explore ways to make foods affordable, nutritious and culturally appropriate is from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 19 at St. Andrew Community Center, 4940 N.E. 8th Ave. Cost is a \$10 donation and lunch will be provided. Call 503-221-1054 ext. 203 to register.

### Asian New Year Celebration

Portland Community College will celebrate the Asian New Year with music, entertainment, food, vendors and door prizes at the Southeast Center on Monday, Feb. 21 in the Great Hall. This is a free event open to the public. For more information, call 503-788-6262.

### Garden Planning Workshop

Oregon Food Bank will hold a free vegetable planning workshop on Tuesday, Feb. 22 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at 7900 N.E. 33rd Dr. For more information, call 503-282-0555 ext. 268.

### Eating Disorder Awareness

"A Decade of Awareness, Prevention and Treatment," the ninth annual professional conference on eating disorders, will be held on Friday, Feb. 25 at Washington State University in Vancouver. For more information, call 503-295-7890.

### Preschool Open House

Tillamook Cooperative Preschools holds its open house on Saturday, March 5 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 935 N.E. 33 Ave. Financial aid is available. For more information, call 503-234-1691.

### Used Bookstore Sale

The Multnomah County Library's Title Wave Used Bookstore at 216 N.E. Knott St. will hold its 17th anniversary sale during the month of March. Sales will change daily. Hours are Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call 503-988-5021.

### Get Fit, Stay Healthy!

Sankofaa Health Institute offers a free diabetes support group from 6 to 7:30 p.m. every third Thursday at Alberta Simmons Plaza, 6707 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. For more information, call 503-285-2484.

### Love the Pooch

Problem pooch classes are a must take for anyone who may be new to the world of pet parenthood or is interested in considering adopting a new friend. Come to the Oregon Humane Society to find out why your dog does those silly little things. Meetings are every first and third Saturday of the month at 11 a.m. For more information, call 503-285-7722.

### Business Meeting

Join North/Northeast Business Association meetings on the first Monday of each month from 6 to 8 p.m. at Albina Community Bank, 2002 N.E. Martin Luther King Blvd. Morning networking meetings are the third Wednesday of each month from 7:30 to 9 a.m. at the Blazers Boys and Girls Club. Call 503-249-0487 or visit [www.nneba.org](http://www.nneba.org).



PHOTO BY KATHERINE KOVACICH/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Skye Knoche, 7, performs "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star" on her violin as her instructor, Laurita Jauregui, applauds at Ethos, Inc., the non-profit music program at 27 N.E. Killingsworth St.

## Ethos Bringing Music Back to Children

### Non-profit program offers classes

BY KATHERINE KOVACICH  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Learning how to play an instrument can have lasting effects on a child in their education, work ethic and overall sense of well being.

It would seem confusing, then, that massive budget cuts have forced music education out of many Portland public schools. This is why Ethos, Inc. was created in 1998 — to continue the idea that music is an important and enriching opportunity for youth.

According to the non-profit group, headquartered in northeast Portland, studies link music education with greater academic achievement, increased self-esteem, higher SAT scores, and improved early cognitive development. Music can also reach at-risk youth, instill self-discipline and increase cultural understanding.

Ethos offers music classes to disadvantaged students within the Portland metro area. Instrument drives and benefit concerts have helped with the upkeep of the organization, in addition to grants. So far, Ethos has enacted music programs at more than 76 public and alternative schools, as well as community centers.

"We've got a great team and there's a huge need. We're trying to make sure every kid can have music in their life," said Charles Lewis, Ethos' founder and executive director.

Ethos has 40 paid music instructors and five volunteer instructors. The students pay via sliding scale. For those on free or reduced lunch at school, 10 weeks of lessons is a mere \$30. The next 10-week session for Ethos begins on March 28. The deadline for sign-up is March 7.

"People think of music as a luxury and not a necessity, which it is," Lewis said.

Lewis said there's been a steady decline in Portland music programs since 1995. He sites the disconnect between those who see music as essential and the Legislature that doles out the funds.

After serving in the Peace Corps in 1995, Lewis honed the ideas behind Ethos in his Master's Thesis for Harvard University. Using credit cards to pay for the endeavor, Lewis now runs on a \$400,000 a year budget. Michelle Boss, Ethos' current director of programs and a number of other volunteers joined the staff soon after to help make the community aware of Ethos.

Ethos is turning the lives of Portland's youth around.

"One kid in particular, seeing him at the recitals as a kid who could barely stand to be

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PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The former Masonic Temple on North Commercial Avenue, across from Jefferson High School, is slated to become home to the non-profit music education group Ethos, Inc. once fundraising for remodeling costs are complete.

### Future Music Center Gains Support

Future Center Grows Support  
The long-term hope for Ethos, Inc. is to restore the dilapidated Masonic Temple on north Commercial Avenue into a music academy.

Beyond housing a space for students

to practice and perform, the Ethos Music Academy will feature innovative environmental solutions with solar panels, natural ventilation and a water cooling wall.

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## Grass Roots Business Startup Help Offered

### Panel to boost plans with financial support

BY KATHERINE KOVACICH  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Small businesses hoping to grow in north Portland might want to look to the Enterprise Community Commission. With two requests for proposals, the commission hopes to see a growth the economy of the north and northeast Portland communities.

"Any community that has a diversity of business is a community that has a larger opportunity for constant improvement for their quality of life," said Shelia Holden, Enterprise Commission chair and local African-American leader.

"When you have both strong

businesses and you have residents who are capable of buying power, then you have a mix for better quality of schools and housing," Holden said. "You create a vital and vibrant and sustainable community."

She explained the grim statistics that show that in any 10-year period, if 10 businesses open up, only around three tend to stay.

"An entrepreneur may have a great idea but may not have the infrastructure to allow longevity," she said.

ECC will be awarding a total of \$150,000 in investment capital funds to small businesses (five or less full time employees) or larger businesses



Shelia Holden

that are adding jobs reserved for low income residents of north and northeast Portland.

The money can be used for anything that will lead to business growth except for construction or debt reduction. Amounts will range

from \$1,000 to \$150,000, depending on the business growth and the number of jobs to be created.

"Our economy is supported by over 75 percent small businesses," said Faye Burch, an Enterprise Community Commission member and another local African-American leader. "Three out of every five workers are employed by a small business and small businesses provide more jobs in Oregon than any other business sector. They hire and train from their communities, many who might otherwise be unemployed."

The second proposal of the commission is to find workforce development projects for north and northeast Portland residents. Plans must focus on preparing low-income residents for work and paying them in living wage jobs with

benefits. Organizations may apply for \$50,000 to \$150,000 and must either fit the federal government's definition of a Community Based Development Organization or apply in partnership with employers that have committed to hiring the low-income workers they train.

"The thing that's most important here is a fund that is built to address the needs for businesses that are out there who're trying to make a difference for themselves and local residents. We want to be a part of helping them be a success," Holden said.

Funds for these grants come from the City of Portland Bureau of Housing and Community Development and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. A

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