

Celebrating Musical Success for Youth



PHOTO BY KATHERINE BLACKMORE/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
Music students of the Celebration Academy of the Performing Arts in north Portland practice after school with instructors Andy Bell (far left) and John Tolbert (far right).

continued ▲ from Front

blues, funk, R&B and classical are represented, but Tolbert's biggest passion is gospel.

"Gospel shows the history of the African American people struggling through slavery. It's used to encourage each other. Harriet Tubman used it as a form of commu-

nication to help set them free," Tolbert said.

He wants to keep gospel going "so that the next generation can continue to use it and be blessed by it."

Tolbert emphasized the need to target at-risk children with after-school programs, especially in north and northeast Portland, not

only to keep kids out of trouble, but to help those who wouldn't ordinarily have access to dramatic arts realize their potential.

"It helps them have a great deal of confidence," Tolbert said. "One of the most fascinating things is watching a young student's gift develop."

Eighth grader Alexis Holland can

attest to that. Through singing, as well as playing flute and violin for audiences, she's become less nervous about her abilities.

"I used to feel scared singing in front of people, but now I feel confident," she said.

Dreydon Wooden, a seventh grader who favors the drums, is also more than enthusiastic about what music lessons have done for him. Garnering inspiration from his

father, who plays drums, and his instructors in the program, Wooden encourages other youth to get involved.

"It takes a lot of work but you have to have patience and discipline. It's not an easy thing," Wooden said. "After you learn it, you're good to go."

Tolbert is willing to give the first four music lessons free to anyone who wants to try out the program.

A 15 percent discount is also applied to students who meet free lunch program requirements.

Registration for Celebration Academy's after school program began early last month for the fall term, but sign up for the winter term begins Dec. 27. The program runs Monday through Thursday from 4 to 6 p.m. at 8131 N. Denver Ave. For more information, call 503-285-7234 or e-mail jt88keys@msn.com.

Do you have an idea that would enhance the community near I-5 in North Portland?

ODOT will be funding Community Enhancement projects to be constructed as part of the I-5 Delta Park freeway project. A citizen advisory board will oversee the process and recommend which projects to fund based on applications received from the community.

Talk to friends & neighbors and submit your own project!

Application deadline—January 13, 2006.

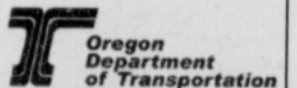
Details at www.oregon.gov/ODOT/HWY/REGION1/I-5DeltaPark/
Contact Joyce at (503)731-8565 or Joyce.a.felton@odot.state.or.us with questions or to have application materials mailed to you.

Networking & Application Writing Workshop

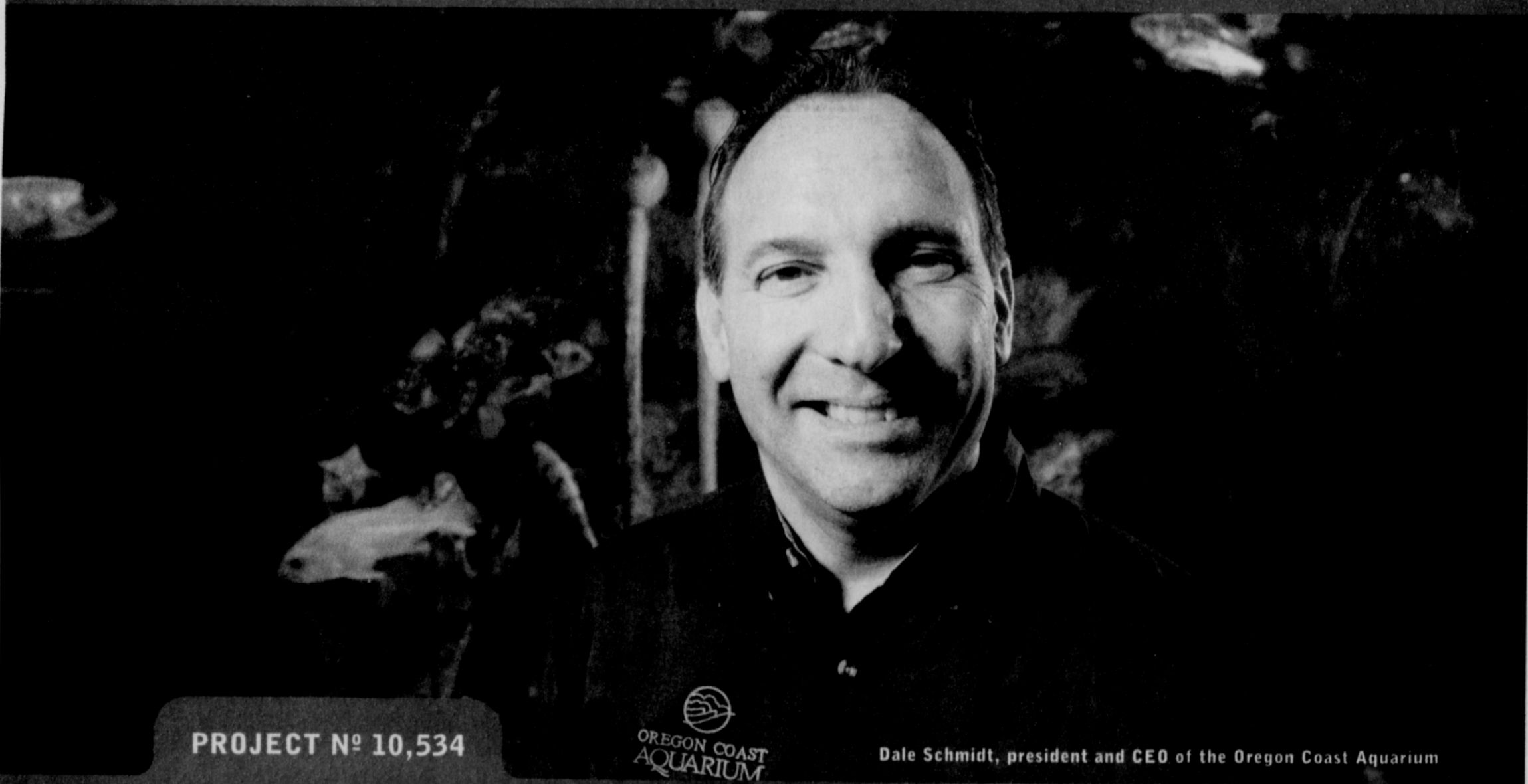
6:00-8:00 p.m. Thursday, November 3, 2005

ODOT Public Meeting Room, 123 NW Flanders

Accessible by all MAX lines at Old Town/Chinatown stop and by TriMet Buses 1, 4, 8, 10, 33, 40, & 77.



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Dale Schmidt, president and CEO of the Oregon Coast Aquarium

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Aquarium except, possibly, the coast itself. And, with the support of Lottery profits, the aquarium has become an important part of what makes Oregon Oregon, attracting tourists and providing jobs as well as entertaining and educating close to half-a-million curious minds a year. Since 1985 more than \$4.2 billion in Lottery profits has gone to economic development, education, parks and watershed enhancement across the state. itdoesgoodthings.org

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