

# Teen Idol Coming

## Portland's own singing competition

BY SARAH BLOUNT  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Portland Parks and Recreation will host a singing competition for teens modeled after "American Idol."

"Portland's Teen Idol" comes with a grand prize of a \$500 savings bond and a head start on local fame when he or she gets to record a song written by a local band. The group has yet to be determined but the city is talking with the rock group Storm Large and the Balls. The winner will perform this song all summer long at different city park events, and the tune will be available on the Jammin' 95.5 website.

Those who make the top 10 will also receive prizes of iPods ranging from 2 to 80 GB.

Jeff Milkes of Portland Parks and Recreation said that teens will choose their own songs throughout the preliminary rounds of the competition.

"The first rounds will be acapella to show their talent," he said.

In another parallel to the real show, Portland's Teen Idol will feature local celebrity judges. As of press time judges were still being selected, but Mayor Tom Potter and Miss Oregon are possibilities, Milkes said. Would-be volunteers are encouraged to call, he added.

Money for the competition comes from a pilot program to

increase teen participation in parks and recreation programs as part of a budget that also extends hours in community centers and beefs up outdoor recreation programs.

Teen Idol hopefuls must be between 13 to 19 years old (7th through 12th grade students) and can audition at the following times and locations:

March 23-24, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Mt. Scott Community Center; March 24 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Montavilla Community Center; March 30 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Community Music Center; March 30 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at East Portland Community Center; March 31 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. at St. Johns Community Center; April 7 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Matt Dishman Community Center; April 7 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Southwest Community Center; April 8 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Peninsula Community Center; and April 8 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Southwest Community Center.

Elimination Rounds are held April 13-14 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Community Music Center with the Final Round taking place May 19 from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. at a location to be announced.

To sign up or for more information call the PDX Teen Idol phone line at 503-823-6714, email pdxteenidol@ci.portland.or.us or visit myspace.com/pdxteenidol.



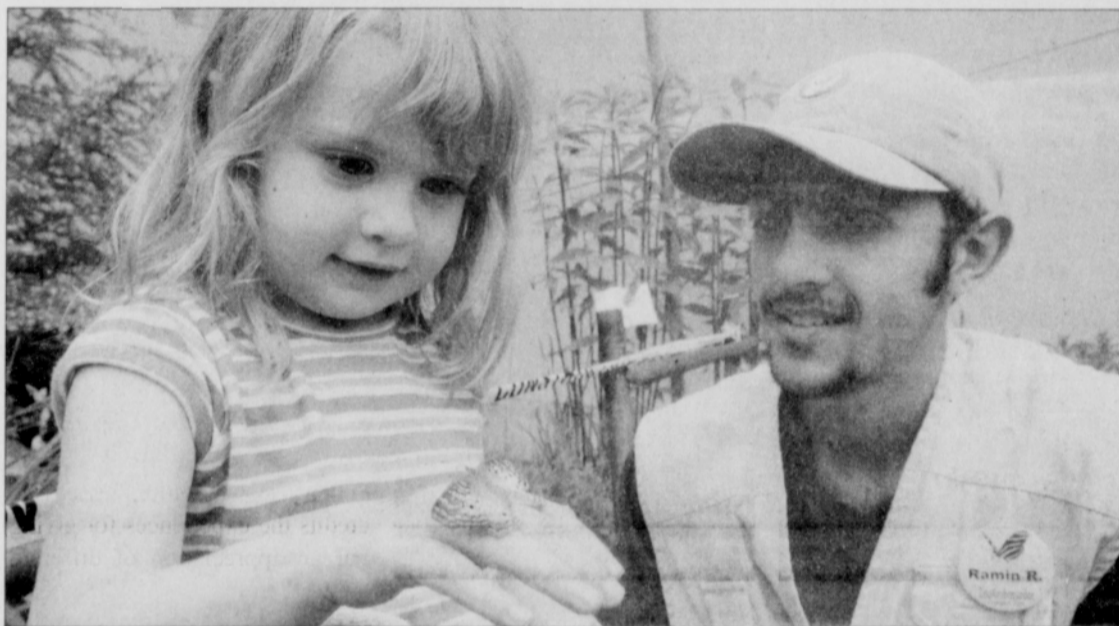
# Multicultural Learning

Local children celebrate Chinese New Year at Clark Elementary School in southeast Portland thanks to an education program provided by Panda Express. The recent event introduced kids to the traditions and heritage of Chinese people and the Zodiac calendar.

## Zoo Recruits Volunteers

Do you enjoy interacting with people and animals? The Oregon Zoo has opportunities for youth and adult volunteers to work at least one 3 1/2 hour shift per week from mid-May to Labor Day in the Winged Wonders butterfly exhibit as Zoo Ambassadors.

Entire families are encouraged to apply. Orientations begin March 31. For more information, call 503-226-1561, extension 5397.



A young Oregon Zoo visitor learns about a delicate butterfly from a Zoo Ambassador.

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Cool Nutz (left) and Luni Coleone come together to record "Every Single Day."

## Rap Artists Produce "Every Single Day"

Hailing from Sacramento and Portland, Luni Coleone and Cool Nutz have come together to record an incredible album coming to stores in June.

The two rap artists have played an intricate role in the growth of West Coast independent hip-hop and have set the bar high with the completion of the new CD titled "Every Single Day."

It features the hit single "That Doe" with an appearance and production work from Super Producer Bosko (E-40, Kanye West, Tupac Shakur and more). The tracks are considered a sure guarantee to burn radio station airwaves this summer.

"Every Single Day" also features appearances from Key Loom, Maniac Lok, E-Dawg, Mr. D.O.G. and more.

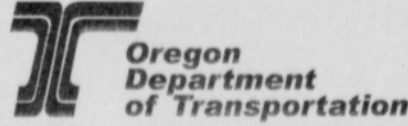
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## ODOT IS KEEPING OREGON ON THE MOVE

**Interstate 5 is under construction!**


Be safe, be prepared and be patient as the Oregon Department of Transportation repairs and modernizes our highways and bridges.

Drivers will pass through more than 20 active construction zones on I-5 between Portland and Medford in 2007. In the

Portland metro area, crews are currently replacing two highway bridges outside Wilsonville and will begin a project between Capital Highway and the Tualatin River this spring.

How can you prepare? Stay informed with up-to-the-minute information about traffic and construction by visiting TripCheck.com or calling 5-1-1.

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