

METRO

The Portland Observer



Energy, Talent on the Home Front

The Jefferson Dancers are a 'must see' as they take the Newmark Theater stage
See Arts & Entertainment, inside

37
years of
community service

SECTION B

Community Calendar

Women in Trades Fair

Discover high-paying careers in construction-related trades during this year's Women in Trades Career Fair from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, May 5 at the NECA/IBEW Electrical Training Center, 16021 N.E. Airport Way. Call 503-335-8200 x21 or visit tradeswomen.net.

Help Loaves & Fishes

The Two Rivers Loaves & Fishes Center, 9009 N. Foss St., needs volunteer drivers for meals-on-wheels to ensure that homebound seniors in St. Johns receive nutritional meals and a bit of companionship. Call 503-988-4088.

"Say Hey, NW!"

Thursday, May 10, from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m., Partners in Diversity, 224 N.W. 13th, host the quarterly reception to welcome new professionals of color relocating to Oregon and Southwest Washington. For more information, email nakashimav@mac.com.

African American Council

You're invited on the third Tuesday of each month from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. when the African American Advisory Council meets at the King Facility, 4815 N.E. Seventh Ave. Call 503-823-0000.

Free Comic Book Day

Saturday, May 5, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Bridge City Comics, 3725 N. Mississippi Ave., welcomes guest of all ages to adventure into the world of comic books with hundreds of free comic books, and autograph signings by Adam Gallardo and Rick Remender.

Healing Revival

Wednesday, May 9 through Friday, May 11, at 7 p.m., the Allen Temple CME Church, 4236 N.E. 8th Ave., welcomes the community to a 'Spring Revival' for renewal and recovery, and rejuvenating of the spirit. For more information, call 503-287-0261.

Amnesty Now!

Saturday, May 5, at 7 p.m., the Freedom Socialist Party and Radical Women present the forum to explore the democratic, multi-racial labor movement against legalized indentured servitude at the Bread and Roses Center, 819 N. Killingsworth St. At 6 p.m. an international buffet will be served for an \$8 contribution.

Community Support

The African American Health Coalition, a non-profit that touches the lives of millions of African Americans each year, reminds you to support your community organization. All donations, grants, and gifts are tax deductible. For more information, visit aahc-portland.org.

PIL Basketball Classic

Saturday, May 26, at SEI, 3920 N. Kerby, you invited to encourage and support high school athletes compete in the Portland Interscholastic League Basketball Classic. Doors open at 2:30 p.m. with tip-off at 3 p.m. Proceeds to benefit the Joyce Washington Memorial Scholarship Fund. Call Mark Washington at 503-288-0033 for more information.

Solidarity for Peace

Sunday, May 6, from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m., at Sellwood Park, Southeast Seventh Avenue and Miller Street, the Selmor Project invites everyone to attend a non-political, non-religious solidarity for peace event featuring live music, toys for the kids, a 'Human Peace Symbol' and canned food drive to stop hunger.

Lent Home Buying Fair

Saturday, May 12, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Kelly Elementary School, 9030 S.E. Cooper St., the Lents Homeownership partners will provide this informative home buying opportunity, and three \$5,000 down payment assistance grants will be raffled off. For more information call 503-788-8052 x105 or visit: roscdc.org/homeownership.html.

Strike Against War

Saturday, May 26, at 7 p.m., the Freedom Socialist Party and Radical Women, invites you to the Bread and Roses Center, 819 N. Killingsworth St., for a grass roots make Portland a "sanctuary city" for soldiers refusing to deploy to Iraq. The forum will be preceded by a buffet at 6 p.m. for an \$8 donation. Call 503-240-4462 for more information.

Fiesta Cinco de Mayo



The nation's largest Cinco de Mayo fiesta opens Thursday, May 3 and continues all weekend at Tom McCall Waterfront Park, downtown.

Annual bash at Waterfront Park

The entire city is invited to celebrate four days of family fun at the nation's largest Cinco celebration during the 23rd Annual Cinco de Mayo Fiesta, Thursday, May 3 to Sunday, May 6 at Tom McCall Waterfront Park in downtown Portland.

The celebration, hosted by the Portland Guadalajara Sister City Association, will ring in Portland's summer festival season.

Cinco de Mayo opening day is billed as a "Sneak Peak" with free admission all day, as well as offering discounted rides. However, a suggested donation at the gate will benefit scholarships for regional Latino students.

The fiesta blasts off its famous Fireworks Spectacular on Friday, May 4 at 10 p.m. The entire festival features two stages to showcase a diverse musical entertainment schedule, including



Bobby Pulido

Latino pop, salsa, traditional Mexican music, South American music, funk and more.

This year's headliners include San Antonio based hit-maker Bobby Pulido, E276, La Potranquita, Los Sierreros, Banda Blanca and Beta Terrazas.

The region's finest restaurants, preparing savory Latin flavors, will tempt celebrants each day along with a beer garden and tequila tent. Shopping will feature a mix of local merchants and a special Artisano's area featuring Guadalajara-based jewelers and craftspeople.

The event also features the Plaza de Niños, or Children's Plaza, where children experience hands-on crafts and art opportunities and entertainment by magicians, balloon artists, clowns, face painters, and the traditional breaking of candy-filled piñatas.

The fiesta is open each day from 11 a.m. to 11:30

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Local Vets Cautious on Pet Food Supply

Recall aftermath spikes interest in origins of food

BY SARAH BLOUNT
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Judging from a decrease in reports of illness and death, the pet food scare may be soon be over, but in the aftermath consumers are thinking more about where their pet food comes from.

Glenn Kolb, executive director of Oregon Veterinary Medical Association, said hopefully the recalls have reached the critical point, because the organization is receiving fewer and fewer suspect cases from doctors statewide.

However, he added that it takes a long time to find out if there are other toxins responsible for the illnesses and deaths.

The best advice for a pet owner, he said, is to keep a close eye on your pet. If they become lethargic or begin vomiting or excessively urinating, there's a



Dr. Deborah Seemann of the Lombard Animal Hospital checks out Zaphyl, a client's cat. Seemann said a series of pet food recalls raises questions about the safety of ingredients used in the pet food industry.

good chance they have kidney dysfunction. A veterinarian must then conduct a blood test and if necessary flush toxins out of their system.

Pet-related organizations across Portland say consumers are relying on retailers to keep the bad food off the shelves.

Pets on Broadway in northeast Portland has beefed up staffing levels in response to a spike in customer interest. Manager Don Shawcross said customers' main concerns are where the food is made and who owns the companies.

He said he keeps in constant contact with the manufacturers' representatives on the stores 30 brands and believes the safest food bets are brands without wheat gluten, corn gluten or rice protein, but he also recommends brands that have voluntarily joined the recall list.

The recalled food is gone and their other flavors were not affected, he said, so they are safe.

At the Oregon Humane Society in

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Letter Carriers Fight Hunger

Donations will be picked up May 12

On Saturday, May 12, letter carriers will collect non-perishable food donations left by mailboxes to feed people who are hungry or struggling to survive because of financial difficulties.

The goal is to collect 1.5-million pounds of food for the Oregon Food Bank during the National Association of Letter Carriers Food Drive. Last year, more than 1.4-million pounds of food was collected by the postal workers throughout Oregon and southwest Washington.

"The National Association of Letter Carriers Food Drive is particularly important this year due to a drop in the amount of food we receive from the U.S. Department of Agriculture," says Rachel Bristol, Oregon Food Bank executive.

"Last year we saw a dramatic 26 percent decline in USDA product - a drop of 2.3-million pounds of food," she said. "We continue to look for additional sources of food to make up the loss."

Nutritious, shelf-stable food is particularly important for the growing bodies and brains of the estimated 72,000 children each month who eat meals from emergency food boxes.

Local residents are encouraged to donate nonperishable food such as tuna fish, soups, stews, chili, canned fruits, vegetables, beans, rice and pasta. Do not include glass items, homemade items or previously opened containers.

Place the filled bag by your mailbox on the morning of Saturday, May 12. The letter carrier food drive annually takes place on the second Saturday in May.

For more information or to make a cash donation, call 1-800-777-7427 or 503-282-0555 or visit www.oregonfoodbank.org.