

METRO

The Portland Observer



Impressive Doo-Wop Revival

Yesteryear's artists to draw wider audiences at the Schnitz
See A&E section

38
years of
community service

SECTION B

Community Calendar

Degree Program Explained

Learn about Oregon State University's Master of Arts program in immersion program in Portland for early childhood and elementary education during a meeting at Reflections Coffee House and Talking Drum Bookstore, 446 N.E. Killingsworth St., Thursday, Nov. 15 from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. The program aims to help students teach more effectively in our increasingly diverse world.

Ranger Lantern Tours

Saturday, Nov. 17, from 7 to 9 p.m., with lantern in hand and a skilled ranger leading the way, explore the history of Fort Vancouver, 612 E. Reserve St. in Vancouver, Wash. Call 360-816-6243 for more information.

Daddy and Me

Saturday, Nov. 17, parents and children ages 5 and under, are invited to enjoy this free family event filled with sports, games, food, contests and prizes; the event will be held at the McCormack-Matthews Headstart Center, 6930 N. Kerby St., from noon to 3 p.m.

4th Annual Turkey Swim

Currently through Sunday, Nov. 18, the Portland Public Pools will provide an entry form to all paid admissions at any of Portland's Parks and Recreation swimming pools. On Nov. 19, six lucky winners will receive a free turkey.

We 'Moon' Unveiling

Thursday, Nov. 29, from 7 to 9 p.m., Mother Tongue Ink and In Other Words, 8 N. Killingsworth, are proud to present the unveiling of the We 'Moon08' calendar 'Mending the Web': presented by Gaia Rhythms for Womyn; discussing the centuries of damage caused by injustice leading to the Earth being in crisis.

Urban Arts

The Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center, 5340 N. Interstate Ave., awakens multicultural awareness through the cutting edge of art forms including hip-hop dance, spoken word and television. Classes are offered throughout the year. Call 503-823-4322 or info@ifcc-arts.org for more information.

Photography Classes

Mt. Hood Community College will be offering four special photography classes to the public throughout November and December; for complete schedule and registration information contact 503-491-7572 or visit mhcc.edu.

Weatherization Workshops

Thursday, Nov. 15, from 6 to 8 p.m., Alice Ott Sun School, 12500 S.E. Ramona, will host the free educational workshops to self-weatherize your home; qualifying participants will receive a free weatherizing kit. Free weatherization is available for seniors. Call 503-284-6827 to register.

Holiday Craft Bazaar

Saturday, Nov. 17, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Milagro's, 5433 N.E. 30th Ave., will host a Holiday Bazaar as part of "Portland Grows a Cure" supporting a cure for the rare and deadly disease Langerhans Cell Histiocytosis. For more information, visit milagrosboutique.com.

Seven Principals of Kwanzaa

Thursday, Nov. 29, at the Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center, 5340 N. Interstate, former senator and PSU Professor of Black Studies Program, Avel Gordly, will share her latest trip to Africa which inspired seven artists and a poet to create altars highlighting each of the Seven Kwanzaa Principals; visit ifcc-arts.org for more information.

Holiday Ale Festival

Beginning Thursday, Nov. 29 through Sunday, Dec. 2, from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., the 12th-annual festival at Pioneer Courthouse Square, 701 S.W. 6th Ave., provides beer lovers the opportunity to sample some or all of the 36 rare beers featured. Visit holidayale.com or contact 503-252-9899 for more information.

Santa Paws Comes to Town

The Oregon Human Society's annual fundraiser event, Santa Paws Pet Portrait, takes place throughout the holiday season at eight local Fred Meyer stores. Get keepsake photos of your pet with Santa and help animals in need; visit oregonhumane.org for dates and locations.

Roosevelt Theatre Comes Alive

Ending decade-long drought

BY RAYMOND RENDLEMAN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Thanks to political coaxing, demographic shifts, alumni contributions and devoted staff, Roosevelt High School has a theatre program for the first time in 10 years through its academy for Arts, Communication and Technology.

Theatre instructor Jo Lane entered the Portland school system during some of its darkest days for funding support in the late '90s, but her dedication to the arts has produced results even in the most difficult circumstances.

Lane's commitment to Roosevelt follows her success at the K-8 Winterhaven School in southeast Portland, where she used her free time outside of English instruction to take a theatre program from its infancy eight years ago to a point where the district this year hired a fulltime theater instructor to replace her.

Willing sacrifices for theatre came again when Lane realized that somebody had to pay for the rights to "This Is a Test," last month's inaugural production at Roosevelt.

The play's \$612 in ticket sales will barely begin to cover other expenses, let alone needed money for refurbishing the north Portland school's aging theater facilities and materials.

Lane said she moved to Portland from Arizona with the "sad misperception" of the Pacific Northwest being a mecca for supporting the performing arts.

But while looking over the 1,200 seats in the school's 1920s-era auditorium, Lane pointed out that there's a fresh coat of paint courtesy of Comcast that suggests a veneer of stability returning to Portland schools through the patchwork of corporate donations and temporary, local tax levies.

"If people don't believe that tax measures can make a difference, they've got to look around," she said.

Roosevelt's theatre program was one of the city's many arts casualties following statewide passage of Measure 5 in 1990. The school board justified closing art programs before making alternative slashes because federal tests sought achievement in English and mathematics.

"What most people think of when they hear theatre is doing a bunch of shows, but what it really means is developing a



Gloria Valdez (left) and Shannon Duncan act out a scene in front of their Beginning Theatre class at Roosevelt High School in north Portland. By spring, the classroom will also serve as a "black box" theatre.

PHOTOS BY RAYMOND RENDLEMAN/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER



Roosevelt theatre instructor Jo Lane goes backstage to show the upgrades needed for the 1920s-era facilities, including a primitive intercom system.

curriculum that supports other areas of learning," she says.

With a key aspect of her job to solicit donations, Lane actively pursues playbill advertising and people willing just to cut a check, saying, "If folks want to contribute very specifically, I can show them a wish list so that they can say, 'I bought that drill, and it's being used.'"

Above all, Lane tries to bring theater to the classroom that will make a connection with students.

Her choice of the play "Test" was made because the play is set in a school and is conducive to improvisation, promising fun without requiring hard-to-find set pieces or finely tuned acting.

Not knowing the extent of Roosevelt student talents, she sees the upcoming "Oklahoma!" production in March as "a huge leap of faith on my part." The choice

continued ▼ on page B6



Sasha Jenkins, Zoe O'Toole and Grace Goldrich-Middaugh, all 10, of Sunnyside Environmental School in southeast Portland, hold up their green-painted hands in a Pledge to the Planet to represent a commitment to caring for the environment.

Making a Pledge to Planet Earth

More than 30 fourth grade students at Sunnyside Environmental School in southeast Portland showcased their hand-made "eco-inventions" Thursday to demonstrate their vision for an eco-friendly future and offer solutions that

will help the environment or help people to care for the environment more easily.

The event had the support of Doubletree Hotels and its Teaching Kids to Care program which teaches young people the importance of caring for the

environment and reinventing "A Better World."

The program is meant to inspire and empower a generation of kids to take simple steps toward conserving and preserving the earth's natural resources.

Say Hey Turns Five Diversity group to celebrate

Say Hey will be celebrating five years of quarterly welcome parties to greet new professionals of color moving to Oregon and Southwest Washington when the group gathers Thursday at Gerding Theater at the Armory, 128 N.W. 11th Ave.

The special event, from 5:30 to 8 p.m., will welcome many newcomers but also salute many of the Say Hey honorees the group has welcomed over the years.



Vicki Nakashima

The newly remodeled Gerding Theater at the Armory will serve as a festive backdrop for what's planned as an elegant party with music, new and old friends and lots great stories to share about what is like to be in the Northwest.

Major local employers have joined forces with Partners in Diversity to support Say Hey and its programs promoting diversity in the workplace and community.

Say Hey was started to honor professionals of color relocating to this area and

continued ▼ on page B6