

METRO

The Portland Observer

A Takeover of Spirits

Milagro Theatre to host spectacular traditional forces

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SECTION B

Community Calendar

Roots and Wings

Saturday, March 29, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., the Lloyd Center Mall will host this free family event featuring fun activities, a children's parade and useful information for children and families. For more information, visit Ourcommission.org.

Health Wellness Fair

Wednesday, April 23, from 4 to 8 p.m., Self Enhancement, Inc. will host the wellness fair to promote awareness to children about nutrition, health and fitness.

Portland Parks Board Seeks New Members

The Portland Parks Board invites the public to apply for one of four vacancies to be filled on the board. For more information, call Karen Loper at 503-823-5123 or visit Portlandparks.org.

Spring Beach Cleanup

Saturday, March 29, between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m., SOLV needs thousands of volunteers for the 24th-annual beach cleanup to restore the coastline to pristine condition. To get involved, call 800-333-7658.

Humboldt Family and Friends

Tuesday, April 1, from 5 p.m. to closing, McMenamin's Chapel Pub will donate 50 percent of the evening's sales to the Humboldt School. Enjoy a great evening while helping the school.

Buckman Art Show & Sell

Friday, April 11 and Saturday, April 12, at Buckman Elementary School host the fundraiser featuring arts, crafts, ceramics, jewelry, gourmet foods, music and dance. For more information, visit buckmanelementary.org/artsale.

Free First Friday Nights

The Portland Children's Museum has partnered with Target to provide free admission to everyone the first Friday of each month from 5 to 8 p.m. The event kicks off Friday, April 4.

Concordia Candidate Forum

Tuesday, April 1, from 6:30 to 9 p.m., the public is invited to attend a free forum featuring candidates for the Portland City Council at McMenamin's Kennedy School, 5736 N.E. 33rd Ave.

Health Inequities

The public is invited to join in the dialogues with community members, organizations, business leaders and local elected officials to discuss the root causes of health inequities as well as long term solutions in a this seven-part series. For neighborhood locations, dates, and times visit mhealth.org/healthequity.

Send in the Clowns

Character Clown Corps is a three-day workshop for people interested in performing at the Grand Floral Parade. Twenty participants ages 14 and up will be selected through an interview process. For details, visit Rosefestival.org.

Learning English

Every Tuesday and Thursday, starting April 8 ending May 29, the SUN Center at Marshall Campus, 3905 S.E. 91st Ave., will offer the free open English as a Second Language classes to anyone interested. For more information, call 971-570-1384.

Kids Who Help K.I.D.S.

Sunday, March 30, from 9 a.m. to noon, kids ages 12 and under who bring a new clothing item with tags attached to their nearest Sweet Tomatoes Restaurant will receive a free breakfast meal; all clothing to be donated to Kids in Distressed Situations. For more information, visit sweettomatoes.com or kidsdonations.org.

Camp Fire Incredible Kids

Camp Fire USA Portland Metro Council invites the public to honor any incredible child. Honorees will receive an award, coupons and their name in print. The fee is \$25 per child, with registration available until March 31. For more information, call 503-224-7800, extension 142.

Walk Run for the Animals

Saturday, May 3, beginning at 7:30 a.m., at the Esther Short Park in downtown Vancouver, a walk-run will benefit the Southwest Washington Humane Society. To get involved, visit the website Southwesthumane.com.



PHOTO BY RAYMOND RENDLEMAN/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

In Jefferson High School's Community Room, Keesha Rasheed works with Colin McCormack, a community-engagement coordinator for the mayor's office and former director of the Native American Youth and Family Center.

City Following up at Jefferson High

What's happening after the mayor left

BY RAYMOND RENDLEMAN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

"I just hope that she tells me about some of the real things that go on in colleges," says Jefferson High School junior Karricha Williams soon after meeting a mentor from the mayor's office.

More than a month following the hoopla of "Jeff Week," when Mayor Tom Potter conducted a week's worth of city-hall business out of the educational building in north Portland, the mayor's employees are

returning to fulfill their promise of continued engagement.

The government officials aimed to jumpstart progress on the school administrators' goal to find mentors for all of the nearly 600 attending the campus by starting with some of Jefferson's homeless students in Project Return.

Like the other nearly dozen potential match-ups, the mentor working with Williams that day had gained enthusiasm for working in the building.

"The school in general drew me, so this was a way to continue being involved," says Whitney Egbert, who was one of the main organizers of Jeff Week as an assistant to the mayor.

The main organization of the Jefferson mentoring

initiative has been delegated through a nonprofit Innovation Partnership grant to a Portland State University student. Facing shoestring budgets has made it difficult to overcome many obstacles, according to Daniel Capuia, who's majoring in international studies.

"Nonetheless, it's beginning to come along," he says, citing interest from prominent alumni. "Right now it's looking very positive that we're going to have something significant."

Egbert sees the mentor plan as key to the achievement of at-risk students.

"You need someone who can be more than on the surface," she says. "The big thing that a lot of high-

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Finalists for PSU President Announced

Candidates to visit with students, community

Three finalists for the new president of Portland State University were announced last week.

The finalists are Kathie L. Olsen of the National Science Foundation; Wim Wiewel of the University of Baltimore and Jon Whitmore of Texas Tech University.

The new president will begin PSU leadership in the late summer or early fall to replace interim president Michael Reardon, who was appointed after last summer's departure of President Dan Bernstine, an African American who served in the posi-



Kathie L. Olsen



Wim Wiewel



Jon Whitmore

tion from 1997 to 2007 and left to be CEO at the Law School Admission Council.

Olsen has served as deputy director

and chief operating officer of the National Science Foundation since 2005. In this role, her responsibilities include oversee-

ing program creation and administration, long-term planning, budget, day-to-day operations and international cooperation in research. She was born in Portland, Oregon and graduated from Cleveland High School.

Wiewel has served as provost and senior vice president for academic affairs and professor of public affairs at the University of Baltimore since 2004. During this time he has led the revamping of the university-budget model and process, created greater transparency, reorganized enrollment management, spurred significant enrollment growth, promoted diversity among faculty and staff, and strengthened shared governance.

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Lost Bat Finds Identity

In a tender upcoming production

Tears of Joy Theatre is proud to present its original adaptation of the enchanting book *Stellaluna*.

Stellaluna is the story of a baby fruit bat, separated from her mother, who finds herself adopted by a family of birds. She tries to fit in and be the best bird she can, but she soon begins to wonder why she's so different. And during one secret night-flight she finds out!

Written and illustrated in 1994 by award-winning author and librarian Janell Cannon, *Stellaluna* has quickly become a classic children's favorite. Emily Alexander, daughter of Tears of Joy founders, has adapted *Stellaluna* for the stage and created magical, large-sized puppets for this exciting new production premiering at downtown Portland's Winningstad Theatre.

Alexander fell in love with *Stellaluna* after seeing a puppet production in Seattle

by a Dutch touring company. "I was deeply touched by the sweet and tender nature of the story," she says. "It takes you from tears to laughter over and over again. It's my favorite dynamic!"

Based in northeast Portland, Tears of Joy Theatre is nationally recognized for its commitment to excellence and innovation in puppetry for 35 years. Its touring performers entertain and inspire more than 250,000 people annually in theatres, community centers, festivals and schools throughout the U.S. and abroad.

The show runs April 5 through 20 on Saturdays at 11 a.m. and Sundays at 2 and 4 p.m. at the Winningstad Theatre, 1111 S.W. Broadway. A special opening performance will be held Friday, April 4 at 7:30 p.m. to be attended by the author.

Tickets are available for children, \$13 and adults, \$16. For more information, call 503-248-0557 or visit Tojt.com.



Stellaluna, a baby fruit bat separated from her mother, finds herself adopted by a family of birds in a Tears of Joy production opening April 4 at the Winningstad Theatre downtown.