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PHOTO BY JULIE KEEFE

A December graduation for the Gang Resistance Education And Training (G.R.E.A.T.) Families program, at the Regence Boys & Girls Club in New Columbia, drew dozens of happy kids and their parents. Family members of the graduates, teen interns in the program and City Commissioner Amanda Fritz were joined by Portland Police officers who led the training included Officer Jorge Mendoza; Officer Christina Hanson-Tuma; Sgt. Frank Gorgone; Officer Rachel Strobel; Lt. Bob Heimbach; Officer Michael Schmerber; and Capt. Kevin Modica.

Breakfast

continued from page 1

sense take the increasing usefulness of simple media tools – like cellphones - - to keep up with breaking news has caught the attention of journalism institutions around the world.

But more importantly, Ellyn’s close examination of how these same tools are quickly becoming the glue that holds together communities and social groups places her on the sharpest edge of fast-paced journalism trends today.

An award-winning multimedia journalist who has helped shape current trends in news coverage, Ellyn teaches and consults with newsrooms and media development organizations including National Public Radio, The Associated Press, the National Association of Black Journalists,



Online News Association, Journalism That Matters, and many more.

Since joining the faculty of the journalism think tank the Poynter Institute three years ago, Ellyn has mastered and shared insights on multimedia

development, social networking and how news organizations connect with users through interactive media tools.

Last year Ellyn travelled to the Institute for the Advancement of Journalism in South Africa, where she taught and researched new approaches to “mobile storytelling” – use of Twitter, Foursquare, Facebook and other social media on cellphones and other mobile computer devices, to build community, share information and tell compelling stories.

Reserve a table at The Skanner News 25th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast by emailing MLKBreakfast@theskanner.com. Call 503-285-5555 for more information, or go to www.theskanner.com. Follow breaking news from around the world on our website, our Facebook page, or follow us on Twitter @TheSkannerNews. Learn more about Ellyn by following her on Twitter @EllynAngelotti.

Tasered

continued from page 1

for Women for her charity work in North Portland and for Hurricane Katrina evacuees, Pastor Smith’s voice still shakes when she describes what happened late on Christmas Eve.

“All I could think about was—here we go again,” she told The Skanner News. “Exactly four years from the time they Tased my great-grandson.”

Smith founded the Sir J Millage Drop-In Center for Change, a day center for autistic youth, after her disabled great-grandson was Tasered repeatedly by Portland police officers in December of 2006 because he would not respond to their commands.

In that incident, a severely autistic 15-year-old, Sir Millage, had wandered away from home in the middle of the night and was wandering into traffic on the Broadway Bridge without a shirt on.

Officers tried to stop the nearly 6-foot tall, 250-pound teen, but he was too disabled to speak or understand their commands. Saying they feared he would attack them, Officers Andrew Griggs and Michael Chapman Tased Millage and beat him with

a baton.

While police accounts say the teen was Tasered half a dozen times, the family says emergency room records showed more than a dozen Taser rounds were used.

Pastor Smith had maintained a special medical alert with the Portland police that included a description of Sir Millage and his disabilities, just to guard against such an outcome; she brought a \$3 million lawsuit against the city and the officers in 2007.

Now she says the family is horrified by what happened to Collins – who is very close to Millage because they’ve grown up together and are the same age.

“Actually they thought he was dead because when I picked him up he still had his EKG things on him,” Pastor Smith said. “I’m really glad it wasn’t a fatality like they thought it was.”

Smith, who says she is retaining an attorney to look into the citations, and Collins maintain there was a disturbance at the club but Collins was completely uninvolved.

“I just think it was like totally unnecessary,” he says.

“Somebody called and said they saw somebody lying on a stretcher that looked like him, but it took me about two hours to find out exactly where he was,” Pastor Smith said. “I got up there and he came out,



he was all beaten and bruised up, and he sat down in the car, and he said ‘Grandma, I wasn’t in a fight.’

“He said, ‘The police did all this, and now

I know how Sir felt,’” Pastor Smith said.

“He said, ‘Grandma, when that Taser first hit my neck, I felt like I was going to be electrocuted -- like they were going to kill me,’” she said.

Everybody Reads Book Project 2011: The Other Wes Moore

What if everybody read the same book? We’d talk to each other about issues that matter, and we’d celebrate the power of books in creating a stronger community. For the ninth annual installment of Multnomah County Library’s Everybody Reads project, the book selected to prompt meaningful questions and discussions is *The Other Wes Moore* by Wes Moore. Everybody Reads 2011 begins January 2 and culminates March 7, when the author visits Portland.

The Other Wes Moore is the story of two boys with similar backgrounds but very different destinies. It is an especially powerful story about hope, the influence of family and community, opportunity, and the cultural and societal barriers to success. It is a story that transcends race and will resonate with anyone who is, or has ever been, at a crossroads.

There are several ways to participate in Everybody Reads 2011. First, readers can borrow or download the book or audiobook from the library. While supplies last, all library locations will offer free extra copies of the book that don’t need to be checked out and won’t accrue late charges.

THE OTHER WES MOORE

ONE NAME, TWO FATES

The chilling truth is that his story
could have been mine.
The tragedy is that my story
could have been his.



Readers are encouraged to share these special copies with friends, coworkers and neighbors. (Items checked out from the library must be returned or renewed as usual.)

Then, readers can share their thoughts and learn more at numerous book groups, lectures and panel discussions held at libraries, local bookstores and elsewhere in the community throughout February. Last, the library encourages readers to find out what they can do to make a difference in their own lives or in the life of a young person, and provides resources to help.

See MOORE on page 8