

THE Sentinel

Neighborhood News for North, Northeast and Far Northwest Portland

OCT 2008

Latinos in Linnton
Latinos give Linnton Community Center a lift
Page 7



Silver celebration
IFCC commemorates 25 years of creativity on Interstate
Page 9



Ghost story
Haunting under St. Johns Bridge exposed
Page 5

NEWS FORUM AT PORTLANDSENTINEL.COM • STREET EDITION • FIRST WEDNESDAY • VOLUME 8 ISSUE 10

They have taken over. Most of the ones I've seen aren't on a leash. My family doesn't like dogs.
- Rosena "Suga Mama" Overstreet

"I almost never use a leash, sort of to make a statement ... to show that nothing is going to happen."
- anonymous dog owner

"I see a nonchalance in white folks, when their dogs jump on black folks. There's an assumption that my dog is nice and you're over-reacting."
- Ricci Franks

DOGGIE TALES

The Sentinel and mediator Judith Mowry sponsor a series of public discussions on dogs and gentrification. See pages 18-19



ESL at RHS OK?

Battle heads to the Feds

By James Reddick

A 14-year battle between two community activists and Portland Public Schools over English as a Second Language (ESL) policies and programs has brought Madison, Marshall, and Roosevelt high schools under investigation by the U.S. Department of Education.

In May of this year, North Portland activist Marta Guembes and Richard Luccetti filed another complaint against the Portland Public Schools as part of an effort to end what they view as discriminatory practices against students of "limited English proficiency."

Guembes, who is the chair of the ESL/Bilingual Parent Advisory Council, contends that education for English Language Learners (ELLs) at these schools is "utterly dismal and totally unacceptable" to such an extent that it constitutes a violation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, which guarantees equal treatment of all races and ethnicities in federally funded programs.

For its part, Roosevelt claims
See ESL / Page 16

A place called Hope

Neighbors tussle with proposed foster home

By Mara Grunbaum

If Portland's City Council finalizes the lease in October, the former site of John Ball School at 4221 N Willis Blvd. will become a multi-generational planned community for foster children, adoptive families and senior citizens.

Portland Hope Meadows will replicate a flagship community in Rantoul, Ill., that opened in 1994. The Portland site would provide 32 low-rent apartments for seniors, who commit to volunteering in the community, and eight homes for families working to adopt foster children. Each family receives a stipend from state foster care funds. Hope Meadows will focus on foster children who are

older or have siblings because they are traditionally harder to find homes for, said Executive Director Derenda Schubert.

"The children provide purpose and meaning to seniors, and seniors provide support and care to parents and children," explained Brenda Eheart, who founded the Rantoul project. "It's just like your family or my family."

But some neighboring Portsmouth families are wary of the development. The Portsmouth Neighborhood Association and local activist Richard Ellmyer have both stated their opposition to the project and intend to testify against it at City Hall in October.

See HOPE MEADOWS / Page 8

First responders

City honors civilian, officers for heroic rescue in St. Johns car crash

By Carolyn Neuhausen

It's not every day that a civilian is honored for being a hero, but that's just what happened the afternoon of Sept. 5 at North Precinct. Civilian Seth Russell and Officers Ryan Derry and Christina Hansen-Tuma of North Precinct were commended for their role in responding to a vehicle accident and fire.

At 12:35 a.m. on Aug. 30, Russell and his girlfriend, St. Johns resident Wendy Martin, were driving across the St. Johns Bridge and noticed that a car had crashed on the hillside just west of the bridge. While

See RESPONDERS / Page 6



Portland Police Chief Rosie Sizer presents an honorary medal to civilian Seth Russell. PHOTO BY JASON E. KAPLAN

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Columbian Cemetery, haunted with history

By Mara Grunbaum



Columbian Cemetery:
Historic and haunted?
PHOTO BY MARA GRUNBAUM

Nestled between I-5, the railroad tracks, a construction site, and an ice factory, the historic Columbian Cemetery is easy to miss. But the small and weedy graveyard is the eternal resting place of pioneer families, North Portland notables, and veterans of every war since 1850.

"It has just a fantastic history," said Glenora Chamberlin, who stumbled into stewardship of the cemetery after discovering that her uncle was buried there.

Columbian Cemetery began in the 1850s as the burial place for the family of Captain Lewis

Love, the pioneer and lumber industrialist who drove the first steamship down the Columbia Slough.

Other cemetery denizens include:

- James John (1809-1886), the benevolent hermit who first settled St. Johns and donated the land for James John Elementary and Roosevelt High School

- John Mock (1838-1916), a pioneer who once encountered a wild panther in what is now Mock Crest

- Daniel Drew (dates unknown), a minister and Civil War veteran who joined Union troops after they freed him

from slavery

- Luella L. Cannon Miller Dempsey (1869-1924), a maker of bonnets

- A certain St. Johns ghost (see page 5)

The cemetery has been haunted for years by litter, vandalism and, once, a beheaded chicken thought to be part of a Santeria ritual. Families of the interred clean up when they can, Chamberlin said, but there hasn't been a groundskeeper since late 2007.

"People are not flocking out to help us," she said.

Recently, with help from the Oregon Department of Transportation, the short fence around

the cemetery was replaced by a taller fence with decorative lighting.

Graveyard vandalism no doubt incites some angry phantoms. "There are some [ghost hunters] who say they found orbs and heard voices," Chamberlin said. "I don't even know how much of it I believe, but it is a very interesting place to be."

Internet reports claim a ghost named Lydia wanders the cemetery at night. There are at least three Lydias buried at Columbian; none could be reached for comment at press time.

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Big events in history, small gestures in the neighborhood

As I write this editorial on Friday, Sept. 26, preparing to go to press, the morning news was abuzz with the federal seizure of Washington Mutual. This comes on the heels of a month of financial upheavals and an historic political campaign that will hold its first debate this evening. With such big events unfolding (and goodness knows what will happen between now and the time this paper reaches you), it seems odd that our cover story this month is rather small potatoes: what some people think about dogs.

Portland is a famously dog-friendly city. Portlanders love their dogs. I'm one of them. I got my first dog in 1979, an English Sheepdog named Fluffy. But some dog owners in North and Northeast might not be aware of what a loaded symbol a dog can be to some African Americans. I know I was unaware of it for many years when I lived in the Eliot neighborhood. When I became aware, I saw that it was tied, at least in some ways, to race and class issues that come up time and again with gentrification.

So this month we've teamed up with Judith Mowry, one of the creators of the Gentrification Restorative Listening Project, to try and model a newspaper story after GRLP's story sharing events. Like the GRLP, The Sentinel's Full Circle Project takes on what could be an emotionally charged issue in order to see if we can learn a little more about the place we call our neighborhood and the people we call our neighbors.

The resulting feature is not so much a balanced view of what dog lovers and dog haters have to say. It is not an attempt to point fingers or assign blame. The story is more of a glimpse into an African

American point of view that few whites often see or understand.

So it all boils down to class and race relations, really. That's a big issue, right?

We as a nation are now considering electing a black president. That's a big deal. Maybe it isn't such a bad time to point out that, for some, the frontiers of race relations are not great battlefields like segregation or hate crimes. Instead, the new race frontiers are the subtle battles, the thousands of small hurdles in our daily lives that come up when we live in a diverse community. The act of looking a stranger in the eye, saying "Hello" and meaning it. Taking the time to ask your neighbor their opinion about problems on your block, before calling the police. Or just trying to see things from another point of view ... even if you don't agree ... maybe the little gestures will go further toward improving the country's race relations.

I apologize for spending this much time on the soapbox this month. We've brought you another edition of The Sentinel not to preach but to inform. To that end, there's lots of other neighborhood happenings, local events and arts and culture stories to go with all the rest.

As always, the street edition is merely the tip of the iceberg of information available to you about your neighborhood. With a scant 20 pages to work with this month, it's important to remember there's lots more at portlandsentinel.com.

See you in the neighborhood and on the Inter-webs.

Cornelius Swart
Editor/publisher

THE Sentinel

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CAN I QUOTE YOU ON THAT?

PIRATE EDITION

*Have you ever
seen a ghost?*



Randy Delany

Age: 54

"I [once] lived in St. Johns in a house on Ivanhoe that was 100 years old. There are apartments there now. You would hear people walking up and down the stairs all the time. The doors would open and close. People who would come and stay would say, 'Man, you got a ghost.' I think that's why they knocked the place down."



Mark Axton

Age: 47

"We [once] lived in an old house by Pier Park. Strange things happened all the time. I was lying in bed one night when I had this dream of a woman ... in this old dress ... with this mean, angry face. She was coming down the hallway straight at me. I woke up and sat bolt upright. Just as I did the bedroom door [to the hallway] slammed shut."



Bruce Lawson

Age: 48

"Once ... I woke up after a dream and I saw my wife's grandmother, Neenee, sitting in a rocking chair in our bedroom. She spoke to me and said, 'Everything is going to be ok.' I looked at the clock. It was 6:36 a.m. I went back to bed. We found out the next day she had died [in Seattle] at 6:32 a.m."

LAST MONTH: Headlines and Deadlines from...

THE BLOG AT WWW.PORTLANDSENTINEL.COM

THE MARKET ACTIVITY ON "THE STREET"

Last month saw a flurry of business turn over in St. Johns and ... uh University Center? A new toy shop, **Grammy & Nonna's**, opened up on Lombard across from Taco Bell. Down the street, **Spoil Me Nails & Spa** opened next to Copy Pilot and Encanto. Meanwhile, in St. Johns proper, shiny and ironic **Greg's** closed at the corner of Lombard and Richmond. Olé Olé closed and then the space quickly reopened as **Thai Cottage**. Wall Street may be going crazy, but at least things are still bullish on the Peninsula's main street. On that note, the **North/Northeast Business Association** was awarded a "Transforming Main Street" grant from the state of Oregon. That should mean investments and marketing assistance to streets like MLK and Northeast Killingsworth and Alberta is on the way.

NORTH PORTLAND GREENWAY GETS SHOT AT MONEY?

Advocates for the North Portland section of the **Willamette Greenway Trail** are hoping

to get a chunk of change that would help to fund the trail from Cathedral Park to Swan Island. According to the group, "Twenty-six applications have been submitted to Metro requesting over 52.5 million dollars of funds, in amounts from \$222,000 to 5.2 million dollars." There is an open comment period from Oct. 10 to Dec. 1.

Go to portlandsentinel.com or npgreenway.org to comment. The money would come out of Metro's 2010-2013 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Plan budget. That's right: It would be another **MTIP** project (gasp!).

PARKS PLANNING

By the time this paper hits the streets, an Oct. 1 meeting to plan **Overlook's newest park** will have taken place. According to our blog posting, "The site is known as Pittman Addition to nearby neighbors who have 'adopted' the site. Located just north of the sound wall along Going Street and east of the pedestrian overpass, between Concord and Colonial. This type of project is known as a hydro park

because it sits on water bureau land. Typical hydro parks often include ... walking paths, picnic tables and benches." Meanwhile, last month the **Cathedral Park Master Plan** had its final unveiling on Sept. 25. For all the details go to portlandsentinel.com.

COLWOOD CLEARS ANOTHER HURDLE

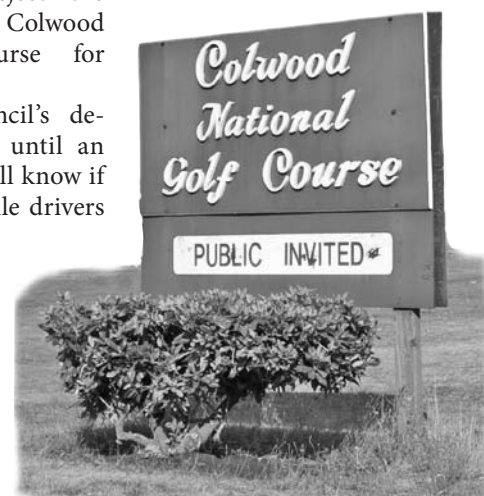
The movement to keep **Colwood Golf Course** zoned as open space chalked up another victory last month. The Portland City Council unanimously voted to reject the proposal to rezone Colwood National Golf Course for industrial use.

However, the council's decision won't be final until an Oct. 22 vote. Then we'll know if it's driving irons or pile drivers that lay in Colwood's future.

STREET FAIR, MUSIC, POLISH, PIRATES FESTS AND TBA KAFETCH!

North and Northeast was smothered in festivals last

month from one end of the month to the other. The month kicked off with from Music Fest NW and the TBA fest with significant venues in Eliot and in Arbor Lodge, then the Alberta Street Fair busted out on a sunny Sunday [check day], then up to St Johns for Pirate Festival Weekend and closing the month out the Polish Festival was a bright spot Interstate Ave. By the time the month ended we believe the community was completely sick and tired of having a fun. ☺



LETTERS AND WEB COMMENTS

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PRINT/WEB INTERACTIVE



CRITIC CRITICISM

The fur flies over Art Beat Box columnist Vanessa Anthony's criticism of band's descriptions of their "sound" and musical genre.

Vanessa —

I generally love your work. But this was just ... wrong.

"Listening to the five tracks sent to the Sentinel on a homemade disc, I'd say they sound a bit more like Kim Gordon of Sonic Youth with a dash of Dusty Springfield and a sprinkling of fiddles." Which tells us nothing about how the band sounds. Too bad you had to fall back on the same tired clichés you seemed to criticize earlier. You can't describe what it is either. So you have no standing to criticize their attempt to do so.

Pop-music criticism desperately needs some objective, readable way to put its ideas across. This isn't it.

posted by anonymous

IF I'M A JACKASS WHAT ARE YOU?

In reaction to The Sentinel's coverage of the DNC, in which we

used snarky, derisive terms referring to Democrats.

Dear Editor:

I don't know who you think your reading audience is, your suggestion that this nomination event was attended by a "sea of back-biting white liberals" is not only categorically false, but utterly offensive to the base you purportedly want to reach via your publication. Newsflash: PORTLAND IS A SEA OF WHITE LIBERALS. And after 8 years of an incompetent, reckless, criminal Republican administration that has destroyed our economy, global reputation, allowed thousands of our military service men and women to die unnecessarily in a tragic and pointless war, and perpetuated gross inequalities in health care, education, and income taxes, we will gladly stand alongside the diverse residents of North Portland in supporting the only candidate who promises real change for our country and its citizens. If that makes us jack-

asses, I'd love to know what that makes you.

posted by anonymous

CIVIL RIGHTS VS. CIVIL RESPONSIBILITY

A response to a civil rights complaint against three PPS schools for failing to meet the needs of ESL students:

Over the past 15 years I've witnessed firsthand the growing Hispanic population in my neighborhood school (in the Roosevelt cluster) and, spending a great deal of time there, I've also witnessed the extreme challenges posed by the language barrier alone. ... Everyone in this country has a "civil right" to public education and to attain what that education can lead to. But the fact that this country is predominantly English-speaking cannot be overlooked. Therein lies civil responsibility: If you expect to achieve success in an English-speaking culture you must be able to speak the language well

enough to do so. ... I know that if I moved to Mexico I would have little choice but to become as language-proficient as possible if I had any hope of succeeding in any way. In the United States civil rights are sacrosanct, but that should absolutely not be at the expense of every individual's civil responsibilities.

posted by anonymous

DON'T FORGET ABOUT ME, ST..... JOHNS

Dear Editor:

It has come to my attention that you have not seen fit to include me in your work. Normally, I am a ubiquitous and, indeed, unavoidable presence in the name "St. Johns." However, you seem to abhor my very presence to the point of excluding me altogether, leaving me out of words where I clearly belong. ("St Johns"? Please, I should be in there, getting cozy with the "t.")

Respectfully yours ...
(emailed)

Murderous mayhem in St. Johns

For years, the ghost of Thelma Taylor has been thought to haunt Cathedral Park

By Cassandra Koslen

For almost 50 years, Cathedral Park has been said to be the harbored home of a murdered girl's restless ghost. Locals say you can hear Thelma Ann Taylor screaming out for help on summer nights. She was only 15 when she was bludgeoned with a steel bar and then stabbed twice in the chest by Morris Leland, a 22-year-old local resident, but the legend surrounding her death has lived on for decades.

The Northern Woods Paranormal Research and Investigations, founded by Jonathan Lockwood, has been investigating the many differing tales of Taylor's demise. Some testimonials claim Taylor left her house early the morning of Aug. 5, 1949, to go bean picking; others say she was abducted at night; some swear she was raped repeatedly for up to a week; and yet another myth persists that Leland had intended to take advantage of her, but killed her instead.

Through meticulous background research, Lockwood and case manager Tim Kelly uncovered facts that refute some common Taylor myths. For starters, Taylor was not murdered under the bridge, but in a patch of brush roughly 1000 feet from North Edison Street, near John Avenue. Her death certificate in fact cites the location as "eight blocks north (of the) St. Johns Bridge." Leland killed Taylor just over 24 hours after kidnapping her, and the coroner's report confirms the day of death as Aug. 6. Finally, the Oregonian from Aug. 12, 1949, reports that "the girl was not criminally assaulted."

"There's no documentation at all, anywhere, that [Taylor] was raped," says Kelly. The transcripts from Leland's trial are missing, however, so there is a gap in available information.

Leland, 22, already had a reputation with the police, including being previously held for attempted rape and assault with a deadly weapon. He admitted to attempting to attack Taylor several times while she was his captive, but her incessant screams staved him off. Afraid that if he let her go she would report him to the police, Leland took



■ Does the ghost of Thelma Taylor haunt Cathedral Park? (Below) I ain't afraid of no ghost! Jonathan Lockwood and Tim Kelly of tnwparanormal.com are Oregon's own Ghostbusters. PHOTOS BY JASON E. KAPLAN

a length of steel bar and struck her about the head and arm before ultimately stabbing her twice near her heart.

Lockwood and Kelly took their investigation into the field. Using Extremely Low Frequency (ELF) and Electro-Magnetic Field (EMF) readers, they traversed through Cathedral Park to the site of her death. ELF and EMF equipment gauges frequencies to determine the possibility of an other-worldly presence. They also used more traditional tools like audio recorders and cameras to capture evidence of a ghost. They found no evidence of a haunting, but conceded that there is too much background noise in and around Cathedral Park to make an accurate judgment.

"My first impression was that there are tons of outside elements [in Cathedral Park]," says Lockwood. The bridge itself creaks and groans as cars and trucks pass overhead. Not far from the bridge is the Iron Works Factory, which could just as easily evoke eerie, scream-like sounds.

The Northern Woods would like to see the name of this unfortunate girl put to rest. Unlike other "ghost-hunters," they strive to measure the difference between sensationalized stories and tangible fact. Although part of their mission is to prove



the existence of the paranormal, most of their time is spent in the library or tracking down legal documents. The discoveries they made in Taylor's case are especially tragic, as the folklore of her death has gained depravity over time.

Using historical records the group located Taylor's lost headstone and cleared away the decades of dirt, grass and weeds that covered it as the marker sunk into the earth. They also cleared some other headstones in the cemetery where she is buried. (Taylor's body lies in Columbian Cemetery. For more about Taylor's final resting place, see page 2.) "We really believe that her name has been dragged through the mud of legends and needs to be put to rest," Lockwood says. As far as the myths are concerned, "People believe what they want to anyway."

If you've got a spook in your house, The Northern Woods does offer free private investigations. Currently, they are studying the supposed haunting of the Lafayette School House in Lafayette, Oregon.

For more ghost hunting information go to www.tnwparanormal.com

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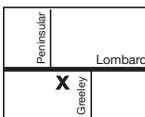
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RESPONDERS

■ From page 1

another civilian was attempting to pry open the passenger side door, Russell ran over and saw that a passenger was trapped in the vehicle, which was quickly filling with smoke.

"There was someone [another bystander] screaming, "They're still in there!" " said Russell, a 45-year-old Windermere realtor. St. Helens resident Larry Dankin, 42, was already on the scene when Russell arrived. Dankin, who served in the U.S. Navy in both Iraq wars, had ap-

to the driver's side of the car and found that the back seat passenger had flown head-first through the windshield and died. The driver was crushed by the collapsed frame of the vehicle. Efforts shifted to extracting the front-seat passenger from the car.

Officer Derry quickly cut the seat belt from the passenger. As the passenger was pulled from the car, the vehicle burst into flames.

Two men, Carlos Zuniga-Isais, 31, the driver, and Jorge Erazo-Banegas, 21, the rear passenger, died. The third man, Abilsai Morales-Roblero, 20, was listed

"I had my hesitation that the car might explode. Then all of a sudden this guy in Bermuda shorts [Russell] came running past me and jumps up on top of the car and starts prying the door open." - Larry Dankin

proached the smoking vehicle.

"I had my hesitation that the car might explode," said Dankin. "Then all of a sudden this guy in Bermuda shorts [Russell] came running past me and jumps up on top of the car and starts prying the door open."

Dankin and Russell managed to get the door of the SUV open. The car was filled with smoke. As they tried to remove the front passenger, the seats of the vehicle caught fire.

"There was smoke pouring out of there," said Russell. "We couldn't see anything."

When the officers reached the scene, Hansen-Tuma went

in critical condition on Sept. 5 at Legacy Emanuel Hospital. At the time of this report he had been upgraded to serious condition.

Officers Hansen-Tuma and Derry and "Citizen Russell" were awarded a medal and a certificate from the Portland Police Bureau in front of North Precinct officers, their family members and Police Chief Rosie Sizer.

"This was certainly very meaningful for the person you saved," Sizer said to the officers.

"And to the citizens, thank you for stopping [and] thank you for acting."

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■ Joseline Medina and her father, Juan Medina, celebrate Joseline's quinceañera. PHOTO BY JASON E. KAPLAN

“Linntinos” lend a hand

Cash-strapped center gets lift from local Latinos

By Amanda Aguilar Shank

When the Linnton Community Center needed support making ends meet this summer, the Latino community stepped in to help. A fund-raising party on Aug. 2, organized and attended by local Latino families, charged \$5 a ticket, helping to secure the money needed to keep the lights on.

Pat Wagner, director of the center, explains that funding reached a crisis level in April of 2007, when children between the ages of 3 and 6 attending the center's daycare were affected by a contamination incident that was likely the result of herbicide sprayed on the railroad tracks just a few feet from the center. (See Sentinel, May 2007.) Eight children were taken to the hospital to be treated, and many of the daycare's paying clients pulled their children out of the program. The resulting decreased revenue, combined with the increased cost of keeping up with staff salaries during the weeks of closure and decontamination efforts, left the center in a financial lurch.

Fortunately, the relationships that would keep the center afloat had already been established a year earlier.

In May 2006, Silvia Morales, a 20-year Portland resident who teaches at the center, decided to rent the space for her wedding. Soon after the wedding, the center was booked again for a friend's daughter's “quinceañera,” a traditional Mexican celebration of a girl's fifteenth

birthday akin to the U.S. “sweet sixteen” party. After that, word traveled quickly. Today the center is booked two months in advance with quinceañeras,

out that rentals do not generally support the center financially, and after expenses they make \$10, if anything, for each event. However, “It's important to make it affordable,” Morales adds, “so that families can celebrate those special events in their lives.”

This summer, when the center needed some help, members of two Portland bands, Ternura Musical and Tributo Norteño, booked a show, hung fliers, invited members of the Latino community from Scappoose to St. Johns — and filled the house.

Rogelio Bravo of Ternura Musical, a ten-year resident of St. Johns and native of Jalisco, Mexico, was the primary organizer for the event. He and his band use the building for practice several times a month, and had previously played there for family gatherings. He says, “The center is an important place for all Hispanics in the area. Our group wanted to volunteer, to make a donation to help the Linnton community.”

“To me, it's a big sacrifice that Latinos make to contribute to the center,” says Wagner. “It was a big help.” She also notes that over a dozen Latinos who work at nearby Harmer Steel make monthly contributions to the center through United Way.

Linnton Community Center, 10614 NW St. Helens Rd. (Hwy. 30), Portland. For more information about rental facilities or to book an event, please contact Silvia Morales at (503) 286-4990.

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baptisms, and weddings — and the majority are events held by Latino families.

“We had the center available for rentals for years but nobody took advantage of it,” Morales explains. She notes that now “people say it's getting so popular that we should rent it for more [money].” Morales points

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And the nominee is ... Paul Bunyan!

By Sean Farrell

We've all seen him. We all know his name and we all know the color of his ox. What you might not know is that Kenton's Paul Bunyan statue may become Portland's next historic landmark. The 35-foot statue stands on the corner of North Interstate and Denver avenues and has been a Portland attraction since it was first erected in 1959. The Paul Bunyan statue, along with two other landmarks in Oregon, has been nominated by the State Advisory Committee to be registered with the National Register of Historic Places. If the statute receives the nomination it will become a National Historic Site following an interim period for public input. The SAC will meet

on Oct. 10 in Astoria to decide whether or not old Paul is worthy of the prestigious new title.

In September, the Kenton Neighborhood Association voted in favor of supporting the nomination. Brenda Ray Scott, KNA's co-chair, hopes to attend the meeting in Astoria to present the SAC with their letter of support in person. Scott feels that if the statue does become a historic site, "It could help continue to spur re-development in Kenton," which has seen an upswing in development in recent years. People like Ray Scott and other KNA members would like to reap the benefits of the recognition that a National Historic Site would bring to the area.

www.portlandsentinel/northend

HOPE MEADOWS

■ From page 1

"This isn't a 'not in my backyard' issue — I want to be clear about that," said Greg Wilhelm, who chairs the PNA and lives a block from the John Ball site. Wilhelm claims the neighborhood was not properly consulted before a decision on the property was made. He also fears that if Hope Meadows collapses financially, Portsmouth could be saddled with an empty property that won't be easy to salvage.

In October 2006, after the school was demolished, City Council voted to donate the two-acre property to Hope Meadows. According to county records, the lot's market value was assessed at \$1.9 million last year.

The lot is less than a mile from New Columbia, the Housing Authority of Portland's 82-acre public housing complex that opened in 2005.

"They're just starting to get a handle on [New Columbia] and turn the neighborhood around, and now we're going to take a new social experiment and stick it right beside it?" Wilhelm said. "I think it's just a really bad idea." He said the consensus at PNA meetings is that people in attendance would rather see new market-rate housing.

Schubert, however, said she's heard from just as many neighbors who are excited about the project. She is confident about the business model, she added, because revenue streams should be in place before any

construction begins. She also believes Hope Meadows' social structure will keep it stable.

"In order to be a part of the community, one must commit to either adopting the children or mentoring the children," Schubert said. "People will be watching out for one another."

In early October, City Council will vote to finalize a lease if Hope Meadows can prove it has the necessary funding secured through grants and private donations. Schubert would not disclose whether their goal of \$5.9 million had been reached, but said, "We're striving forward every day. We have a solid plan."

City Commissioner Dan Saltzman led the initial effort to donate the land. Saltzman staffer Shannon Callahan said her office considers the October vote a technicality, and they expect the lease to go through. She said that Saltzman thinks the project is an important one to support.

"It's one of the only things that works with integrating hard-to-place foster kids," Callahan said. "They become not foster kids anymore, but just kids."

Mayor-elect Sam Adams voted against the donation, objecting that "at no time was the neighborhood asked for its input on what they want and need at the John Ball site."

Hope Meadows would break ground in late 2009. Wilhelm said the PNA will welcome its residents as neighbors if it is built, but in the meantime, "I can object to this with every possible thing at my disposal."

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“Come Get Delirious” with IFCC

By Rebecca Robinson

The creative minds behind the artistic programming at the Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center know how put on a good show. Now, to celebrate their silver anniversary, they're about to prove that they can throw a party, with the help of their friends Commissioner Sam Adams and his favorite band, PDX '80s legends, the Crazy 8s.

In honor of the Center's '80s roots and the former IFCC artists who will perform at the anniversary festivities, the Center is hosting “Come Get Delirious: An IFCC Homecoming” on Oct. 25. (Yes, like Prince's “Delirious.”) There will be music, dancing, costume contests (big hair and acid-washed jeans are strongly encouraged), and even

a Homecoming Court.

There's more to this shindig than fanfare and *Flashdance* flashbacks, however. “Come Get Delirious” is, above all, a celebration of the IFCC as an incubator for developing artists.

“A big part of this celebration is recognizing that we've got artists who really started their artistic lives at IFCC,” says Deborah Elliott, a media relations specialist with local nonprofit consulting company The Canoe Group, who has been working with the center's staff on promoting their 25th anniversary events. “Now, some of them are coming back to perform just for the IFCC Homecoming.”

One such artist is Daniel Trujillo, an award-winning playwright who will be presenting a piece he wrote for “Come Get

Delirious.” For his performers, Trujillo selected three women he met at IFCC years ago. Two of them, Andrea White and Eleanor O'Brien, have performed frequently in Portland and on the silver screen; the third is none other than IFCC Creative Director Adrienne Flagg.

For many, however, the night's highlight will be the Crazy 8s, who will be inducted into the Oregon Music Hall of Fame just a week before the IFCC soiree.

The fact that the band is a favorite of Mayor-elect emcee Sam Adams just sweetens the deal. For Flagg, the 8s' appearance serves as a perfect thank-you gift for all of Adams' work on the center's behalf.

“Sam has been integral to the rebirth of IFCC since 2005,” says Flagg.



Kickin' it old school, IFCC style: Early '80s thespians celebrate another successful performance by the Student Production Company.

Adams has fought to continue city funding for the center and was instrumental in rescuing the institution from closure in 2006.

The lineup, according to Elliott and Flagg, reflects IFCC's

commitment to cultural diversity in the arts. That's always something to celebrate.

For full lineup and ticket information, see the Don't-Miss List on page 16.



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The North End Players

Local theater company performs

By Liz Scott

It's the 1960s in Wisconsin and 10 lives are about to be changed. Richard Collins' aunt is staying with him. Meanwhile, his newspaper is failing, his fiancée is getting impatient, and to top it all off, his aunt has invited three other ex-convicts to meet in his house without his knowledge.

At least, that's the experience The North End Players acted out in Fred Carmichael's comedy, *The Robin Hood Caper*, which was performed for two weeks during May. What separates The North End Players from most community theater companies is that its performers are mostly 60 years-plus. The NEP has been active for over 35 years, and performances are currently held at the Albert Mann Theater at 7600 N Hereford Ave.

Their director, Tim Luke, who just turned 59, also performed



in the play, filling the role of Frederick "Rugged" Ruggles, a retired corrections officer. This production was about four elderly ex-convicts who donate their "skills" to charity. A pick-pocket, a forger, a husband-collector and a master of disguise help Richard Collins keep the ownership of his small-town

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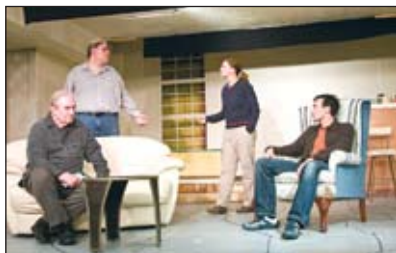
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■ North End Players in action. Left, Anthony Finocchiaro. Above, Fred Chomowicz, Ronald Jorgensen, Erin Malus, and Christian Lagadec. PHOTOS BY JASON E. KAPLAN

“There’s a communication with the community, people are no longer isolated,” adds Fred Chomowicz, who in his 70s. There are connections made onstage and offstage, bonds so firm that even though not everyone will be in the next production together, they will remain friends and see each other outside of The North End Players.

This month, The North End Players are producing a murder-mystery comedy by Walter and Peter Marks titled *The Butler Did It*. A fun and lively evening awaits, along with a stellar group of community actors.

The North End Players’ production of *The Butler Did It*, 8 p.m. Fridays & Saturdays, Oct. 10, 11, 17, 18, 2 p.m. Sundays, Oct. 12, 19, St. Andrews’ Episcopal Church, 7600 N. Hereford Ave. Reservations: (503) 705-2088, www.stjohnsnorthendplayers.com/

newspaper by blackmailing the graft-corrupt mayor.

The actors in this community theater all came to the North End Players for different reasons. But they generally get the same thing out of the experience. The actors prepare for two months, and rehearse for six weeks, four days a week, from 7-9 p.m.

All that practice lends to the polished result. “You get into the skin of the character,” says Lexy Dillon, who, though close to retiring, has been active in the community theater world for over 50 years.

Almost everyone in The North End Players says that the company receives a lot of support from friends and the community.

Portland art exposed Portland Open Studios expands

By Cassandra Koslen

Portland’s annual self-directed tour of artists’ studios is double the fun this year, as most of the 98 featured artists participating in Portland Open Studios will exhibit their art and art-making on both the second and third weekends in October, on both sides of the river.

Portland Open Studios, in its tenth year of operation, is a citywide event that invites the public to view the creations and work spaces of local artists. Nineteen of this year’s artists are in North and Northeast Portland.

Suzy Kitman, an oil painter who works out of St. Johns, says, “[POS] is a great way for people who are not involved in the art world to really, in a nuts-and-bolts way, understand how artists work, from the tools to the process.”

Whether Kitman’s canvas portrays gigantic, oddly shaped fruit or a playful puppy bounding through a field, her ability to identify with her subjects is revealed through her work.

“I was taught to try to connect with art,” she explains. “I try to find subjects that are fascinating and compelling, and strive really hard to bring the life ... to the forefront of the canvas.”

Some of Kitman work is currently on exhibit at the Albina Street Bank.

In the Concordia neighborhood, Nicole Rawlins, a printmaker for 15 years, operates a full-sized custom press for mythic intaglio (etching) lithographs. The press, built by Ray Trayle, who was 83 at the time, is a work of art in itself, made even more so by Rawlins’ personal love for it and her work.



■ Suzy Kitman working on a new portrait. PHOTO BY JASON E. KAPLAN

“The human form is the most interesting subject, either by itself or for the narrative it implies,” says Rawlins.

Many of her subjects are family members, though her work also exhibits an allegedly unrelated love of religious art. Her art runs the gamut from haunting to deeply sensitive and sensuous.

Although she concentrates primarily on printmaking, Rawlins also paints, including painting her prints.

Passes to the event are \$15 for two, sold at various locations throughout the city, and come in the form of a 2009 calendar. Each month features the work of several artists, grouped by location, with current contact info. An Eco-Shuttle will be available to those with a pass for easy transport from studio to studio on both sides of the river.

In North Portland, passes are available at New Seasons on Interstate and Weir’s Cyclery in St. Johns. For more information, go to www.portlandopenstudios.com, or call (503) 285-3131.

The Art Beat

BOX



PODCAST

DJ Kriz: The Superman of hip-hop?

By Vanessa Anthony

It seems hip-hop is hard to come by in P-town, at least if you look at the mainstream coverage around these parts. Sure, you can find plenty of info on local indie rock bands and ads for upcoming big-name rap headliners scheduled to play a gig at the Rose Garden or down in Eugene. But what about our local hip-hop scene?

This was one of the many topics on the agenda in a recent discussion I had with local musician Chris McMurry, a.k.a. DJ Kriz, who has been making music for the last 18 years and is now trying to make a place for himself in that scene.

McMurry, like Clark Kent, has a seemingly mild-mannered day job (banker by day) while his alter ego, DJ Kriz, is trying hard to leap the tall buildings of the local hip-hop scene by night. He moonlights spinning, rapping, singing and playing keyboards and guitar, all the while writing and producing his own and others’ tracks.

A DIY musician and visual artist who lives in St. Johns, DJ Kriz started his career in music at age 19 with a keyboard from Fred Meyer, a drum machine, and a four-track (all of which he taught himself to play). Recently, when he couldn’t find guitar samples that were to his liking, he decided to pick up the guitar and add it to his repertoire.

“When I first started playing music, I just wanted to join a band and make it big,” says McMurry.

He got his wish (or so he thought) when his alternative rock group, Xing (pronounced Zing), was signed to a small label and released their first album, “Worldwide,” in 1998. “The record company experience wasn’t a great one, but being in the band was. It was also a good learning experience for me and I walked away knowing that I could have more personal fulfillment, control and money by doing it myself,” he says.

After collaborating for a few years and producing albums for both KingG and BooSen (www.boosen.net), McMurry landed with the socio-politically charged Hungry Mob (www.hungrymob.com) in 2004. But as DJ Kriz tells it, he just wants to have fun. “I don’t take myself too seriously.”

His latest incarnation, a trio called Triflection featuring BooSen, saw its third member move away as he decided to take his career in another direction, leaving Kriz and BooSen to start over on an album already in production. The songs, as well as DJ Kriz’s overall sound, are heavily influenced by old-school ’80s hip-hop and artists like Prince and Missy Elliott, but also bleed with McMurry’s other musical tastes. “I listen to rock, alternative and electronic too and some of it just finds its way in. I love the French band Phoenix and bands like Daft Punk, New Order and The Pet Shop Boys.”

As Kriz and I discussed the state of the music industry, the lack of coverage in the local scene and how R&B and hip-hop are described as “black music” in America, he had this to say: “Everyone wants to put you in a box — even within hip-hop. You’re either doing music like the Dead Prez that’s socially or politically motivated, or you’re doing gangsta rap. But I just want to have fun with it, you know. Even gangsters and political rappers meet girls and fall in love,” he explains. “That’s the kind of music I want to make — stuff that’s about having a good time.”

DJ Kriz and BooSen are slated to complete their collaboration next summer. You can listen to some of the tracks for their upcoming album at our Podcast on www.portlandsentinel.com/podcasts.

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H.P. Lovecraft Film Festival
October 3-5, The H.P. Lovecraft Film Festival promotes the works of H.P. Lovecraft, literary horror, and weird tales through the cinematic adaptations by professional and amateur filmmakers. The festival was founded in 1995 by Andrew Migliore in the hope that H.P. Lovecraft would be rightly recognized as a master of gothic horror and his work more faithfully adapted to film and television.
Hollywood Theatre
 4122 NE Sandy Blvd.
 503-281-4215
 www.hollywoodtheatre.org

Legends of Mexico/Leyendas de Mexico
October 4, 11am-noon- Mexico is well known for its legends, myths and tales. The group Nuestro Canto has gathered legends from all over Mexico and has composed music especially for the legends they narrate during their performances. Presented in English and Spanish.
North Portland Library
 512 N Killingsworth St.

Magic Mama Concert
October 9, 7pm-Traveling across the country with her children in a car that runs on waste vegetable oil, Magic Mama is promoting her new CD, Rodeo deGaia and performing eco-feminist acoustic music from her upcoming Kjersten album. Throughout the performance, Magic Mama will invite the audience to play along using instruments she provides, such as empty cheese puff bags and used

water filters.
In Other Words Women's Books and Resources
 8 NE Killingsworth St.
 www.magicmamamusic.com

Friends of the Library Annual Fall Sale
October 10-13, 6-9pm Fri, 9am-6pm Sat, 11am-5pm Sun, 9am-3pm Mon- This year's Friends annual fall sale to support library programs expects to offer an estimated 100,000 donated books, CDs, DVDs, audio and video tapes, records, pamphlets and sheet music. Most books will be \$1.50, and children's items will start at 50 cents. It's "Members Only Night" on Friday and, as always, people may buy memberships at the door on Friday or at any time during the sale. On "Discount Monday" everything will be 50% off. Yearly memberships are \$30 for individuals, \$45 for families, and \$20 for seniors 65 years of age and over.

Friends of the Library Sale at the former Sterling Auto Center
 8150 N Lombard St.

Fiesta con Animales/Party with the Animals
October 11, 1-3pm- In celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, Oregon Zoo animals will be visiting libraries. Hands-on discovery stations will let visitors experience the feathers, fur and scales of a few of Latin America's animals.
St. Johns Library
 7510 N Charleston Ave.

Garden Clean-Up Work Party at McCoy Community Garden
October 11, 9am - 11:30am- Get out and get dirty with Portland Community Gardens. Join us for a fall work party. We will be cleaning up common areas and working on paths. Tools provided. Dress for the weather. All events are

rain or shine.
McCoy Community Garden
 N Newman Avenue & Fessenden Street

10 North Portland Artists Featured in Portland Open Studios
October 11-12, 18-19
 See "Portland art exposed" page 10

ParkFest: Come Play and Have Your Say
October 25, 9am-3pm- How do we plan parks? What is Portland's next great park? This fall Portland Parks & Recreation is hosting a new event to ask the public these questions and more. In addition to workshops and information tables, the event will feature an array of fun recreational opportunities from climbing walls and tree kwon do to indoor skateboarding and craft classes. Door prizes, entertainment and complimentary food and refreshments will be provided. Free of charge, but registration required.

University Park Community Center
 9009 N Foss Ave.
 503-823-PLAY
 www.portlandparks.org

Come Get Delirious: IFCC Homecoming a 25th Anniversary Celebration
October 25, 6pm
 See "Come Get Delirious ..." , page 9

Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center
 5340 N Interstate Ave.
 Tickets are \$15 advance, \$18 at the door. <http://www.ifccarts.org>
 503-205-0715
 4122 NE Sandy Blvd.

Northwest Dollhouse & Miniature Show
October 25-26, 10am-5pm Sat, 10am-4pm Sun- Dollhouses, room boxes, vignettes and their miniature contents — absolutely everything that exists in

full-scale real life is available in smaller scales. Whether it is a handcrafted or commercially produced accessory for a dollhouse, you'll find it at this show.
Kliever Memorial Armory
 10000 NE 33rd Dr.

SCRAP's Halloween Create-A-Costume Workshop
October 18 & 25, noon-4pm- Bring your ideas and imagination and let SCRAP supply materials and creative help.
 3901-A N Williams Ave.
 (two blocks north of Fremont)
 503-294-0769
 www.scrapaction.org

Sacred Journey Untamed Path Presents: The 2008 Masque of the Witching Hour Costume Ball & Ritual

October 31, 8pm-2am- Get wicked with the witches of the Pacific Northwest! Join the witches of SJUP, as in days of old when fires burned on every hilltop and witches gathered to feast, rejoice, and cast spells for the new year! Dress in your witchy finest to honor the spirits of the departed who come to call at the time of Samhain/Halloween! The theme is Embrace the Cliché so arrive in fashion as Glinda the Good Witch, Elphaba (the Wicked Witch of the West), Samantha Stevens, or make up your own. (Mask or mask-like makeup required for admittance.) Dance to an '80s and '90s mix. Enjoy fabulous hors d'oeuvres, a "no host bar" and discover your destiny with free psychic readings (tarot and fairy oracle.) Special guests include Faerieworlds' Chris Murdoch and Portland actor David Loftus.

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To get your event in print, post it on our community calendar at portlandsentinel.com. You might see it in next month's street edition of The Sentinel.

**The Twilight Room Concerts
High Ceiling**

October 3- A fantastic live-show experience, founded in the spirit of improvisation, High Ceiling has brought high energy funkadelic groove-laced music to the Pacific Northwest since February 2004. Every performance is unique with improvised jams infused within the structure of each original song.

Fifth of Funk

October 10, Friends of both the Twilight Room and the University of Portland, they're looking to bring some funkiness to the scene. If you're not dancin', then you will be! Come down and get your groove on.

SubAtomic

October 24- Portland's own SubAtomic is an Electronic Fusion Quintet, Their sonic style evolved through improvising and experimentation with creative ideas. SubAtomic is taking a nontraditional approach to danceable music, fusing styles and crossing genre boundaries while maintaining a groove that will keep your head bobbing and your feet moving.

Halloween Concert

Outpost & Raise the Bridges

October 31- It's Halloween!!! With special guests Outpost and Raise the Bridges! Finally Halloween on a Friday night and we're throwin' down big time! Outpost is a five-piece Portland band that blends funk-hop and reggae to generate high energy organic dance music.

The Twilight Room
5242 N Lombard St.
503-289-5091 (bar)
www.myspace.com/thetwilightroom
All shows at 9:30pm
Never a cover, always 21 & over.

Celebrate Recovery

October 3, 7:30-9pm- Find freedom from your hurts, habits and hang-ups.

Grace Christian Fellowship
7325 N Bank St. (on Columbia Blvd. near George Middle School)
503-957-7944

Monday Movie Night

October 13, 8:30pm- Free movies every Monday at Pix! Tonight's feature:

Total Recall (1990 Paul Verhoeven film starring Arnold Schwarzenegger)

Pix Patisserie
3901 N Williams Ave.
503-282-6539

Penny's Puppets

October 13 & 27, 10am Mon, repeats at 11am- The Little Red Hen (on the 13th) and The Lonely Little Pumpkin (on the 27th). Admission is \$5 each or 4 guests for \$17 (under 1 free).
Overlook House
3839 N Melrose Dr.
October 18, 11am & 1pm Sat
Two performances of *The Lonely Little Pumpkin*. Free.
Sauvie Island Farms Pumpkin Patch
19818 NW Sauvie Island Rd.
www.sauvieislandfarms.com

The Altered Book Project

Through October 16, 8pm- Twenty artists give recycled books new life. The only rule: the artwork must start with a book that can be cut, sliced, sewn, stamped, painted, glued or changed in any way. Sponsored by Art on the Peninsula and St. Johns Booksellers
Buckley Center Gallery
University of Portland
5000 N Willamette Blvd.
503-943-8800
Gallery hours: 8:30am-8pm
Mon-Fri, 8am-4pm Sat

Book Reading Party for Kathleen Bryson's Girl On A Stick

October 16, 8pm- *Girl on a Stick* is all about breaking: breakups, nervous breakdowns, breakthroughs. Yet the novel is also about the aftermath of a break: what happens after the cracking and splitting; how you can grow new skin or maybe even extra legs.
The Waypost
320 N Williams Ave.
503-367-3182

REACH Wintering-In Workdays

October 16-18, 9am-1pm- REACH is a local nonprofit that is now recruiting cash and material sponsors and trade volunteers for our Wintering-In Workdays volunteer event. Join REACH to help our senior and disabled neighbors in North and Northeast Portland prepare their homes for the winter months by providing free home repairs. To volunteer contact Barrett Ebright at 503-231-0682 ext. 142 or email bebright@reachcdc.org.

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October 17-19, 7:30-9:30pm Fri, 1:30-3:30pm Sat-Sun- A three-day mask-making workshop from Goblin Art. Participants will create an original mask from customized plastic mask forms, modeling compounds, papier mâché and other materials. Instructor Monica Roxburgh has nine years of professional mask-making experience, with such notable clients as the Cirque du Soleil store, the British metal band Iron Maiden, and the recent Hollywood remake of *The Wicker Man*. Workshop cost: \$175, including \$25 deposit. Basic materials provided.
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8316 N Lombard St.
www.GoblinArt.com



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Bike boulevard proposed for North Going

By Lucinda Gilman

Northeast Portland doesn't have very many bicycle boulevards. That's something the Bicycle Transportation Alliance wants to change, starting with its proposal to turn North Going Street into a bicycle pathway of the gods.

"We want to convert Going because it runs continuously for three and a half miles with minimal auto traffic. It will also create a safe bike route to nine parks, eleven schools, nine neighborhoods, and four business districts," said Emily Gardner, policy advocate for the BTA. Currently, the only east-west bicycle boulevard in Northeast Portland is on Northeast Tillamook Street, near I-84.

A bicycle boulevard isn't a bike lane on a busy street; it's a less busy, but still relatively direct, street that has been engineered to be bicycle-friendly. It is safer and less polluted for cyclists than riding on main streets. The BTA has found that many Portlanders are interested in bicycling but don't because of safety concerns. Bicycle boulevards address this concern by providing an attractive and safe route for all riders.

Increasing safety for bicycles means reducing traffic volume and speed, making intersections safe, and installing signage. Techniques in the bicycle boulevard planner's toolkit include speed bumps, rotaries, automotive traffic diversions, and stop signs.

BTA is currently gathering support from neighborhood and community associations for the North Going Street bike boulevard. "Residents often like it, because the street is calmer and quieter," said Gardner.

The BTA has identified 14 streets in North and Northeast Portland that they would like to ultimately convert to bicycle boulevards. Implementation will be managed by the Portland Office of Transportation, which is currently applying for earmarked grant money.

Interested? Express your opinion at your neighborhood association meeting, write Sam Adams an email at commissioner-sam@ci.portland.or.us, or contact the BTA at bta4bikes.org.

Ritual retail

Generacion brings "ancestral wisdom" to present day PDX

By Sean Farrell

How can ancient Mexican traditions help you grieve for lost love ones? Can thousand-year-old Gaelic traditions help you prepare for winter? Are Native American burial practices applicable to our modern society? Generación, a new business opening Oct. 26 on North Prescott Street, aims to answer these questions and more for its customers.

Generación is owned and operated by Krista Arias, a longtime student of philosophy, religion and ancient cultures. Arias is also an ordained minister, a nationally acclaimed chef and a certified reflexologist. In her mind, the goal of Generación is "to recover, share and embrace ancestral wisdom in a way that complements, nourishes and inspires our modern lives."

Arias teaches traditional food preparation, ancient songs and time-honored ceremonies from cultures all over the world. She also places a strong emphasis on life's key rites of passage. As a studying midwife, Arias teaches traditions based around birth and child rearing. However, Generación's upcoming Day of the Dead celebrations will teach rituals based around dealing with and celebrating death. Prices vary for classes and workshops and some events will be free.

The celebrations will begin on Oct. 26 with "Soup & Cinema,"



■ Krista Arias sits by her Day of the Dead altar set up to honor the dearly departed. PHOTO BY JASON E. KAPLAN

a potluck dinner showcasing a movie about natural burial. On Halloween, there will be events for children such as mask- and lantern-making. A lantern-blessing walk in remembrance of the dead will follow these events. On Nov. 1, a Kiss the Earth Natural Burial Retreat will examine how ancient funeral and burial practices can be implemented in a modern way. Issues such as power of attorney, ethical wills, and how to be an acting funeral director will also be discussed. On Nov. 2, an all-day workshop entitled "Samhain," Gaelic for winter, will focus on preparation for winter. Activities will include candlemaking, food preparation and ideas for winter gardens.

Arias feels that the Day of the Dead celebrations should be just that. "This time is for

celebrating, remembering and honoring the dead," Arias adds. Fittingly enough, all festivities will take place in Generación's newly renovated storefront, which is a century old.

For Arias, the work she does is inspired by her passion for it, not the amount in the cash register at day's end. "Our work," she says, "is not about making money." She feels the goal of Generación is to educate the community and help people integrate ancestral wisdom in ways that suit their lives.

"People bring their own thing to it," says Arias. "I want people to make this their own experience."

Generación is located at 857 N Prescott St. To learn more about upcoming events, class dates and fees, visit www.generacion.nu or call (503) 750-1415.



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Sabin gets a friendly knock on the door

NECN spreads the word, face to face, door to door

By Cassandra Koslen

The Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods is knocking on doors in the Sabin neighborhood this month hoping to connect face to face with residents as part of Operation OUTREACH (Organizers United – Talking, Reaching, Energizing, Activating, Collaborating and Helping). Sylvia Evans, NECN’s Cross-Cultural Neighborhood Organizer, devised the strategy as a way to put a face to the coalition and provide Northeast Portlanders a chance to voice their opinions and concerns.

Operation OUTREACH is a canvassing program where members and volunteers of NECN go door to door each month, distributing news about local events, neighborhood resources, and information about NECN programs and sponsors.

The NECN provides several services to Northeast residents. These include the Youth Gangs Program, which aims to prevent street violence through



■ Outreach Coordinator Lauren McCarthey (l) and Cross-Cultural Neighborhood Organizer Sylvia Evans canvass Northeast neighborhoods handing out information. PHOTO BY JASON E. KAPLAN

mediation and prevention, and the Rider Advocates, a program that promotes safety on public transit.

Evans, who has been a community organizer in Portland for 20 years, took her current position with NECN about 18 months ago. At the time, she was the only organizer for all 12 neighborhoods in the coalition’s jurisdiction. She created Operation OUTREACH as a means to maintain consistent

communication with neighbors, recruit volunteers, and facilitate fund-raisers for the group.

The NECN has trained its volunteers so well that an internship program grew out of Operation OUTREACH. Called the ABC (Achieving Better Communication) Internship Program, interns gain experience in community networking, as well as acquire marketable customer-service skills by implementing Evans’ motto, “customer service

with a K-I-S-S, keeping it short and simple.”

So far seven of the 12 coalition neighborhoods have been covered. With a chuckle, Evans remarks that people are very receptive when they realize they’re not being pressured to buy anything and there’s nothing to sign.

Operation OUTREACH has been so successful it now contracts out to canvass on behalf of other organizations.

Most canvassers are volunteers. Evans entices them by saying, “I can’t pay you, but I’ll feed you,” as well as offering them a small array of gifts such as reusable water bottles and tote bags.

“The camaraderie between OUTREACH workers is also fun,” says Evans. “And all that walking, I know it did my health a world of good.”

Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods, 4815 NE 7th Ave., (503) 823-4575, portland.necoalition.org. For more information on Operation OUTREACH, contact Sylvia Evans at sylvia@necoalition.org or call (503) 823-4113.

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Of bikes and bridges

By Carolyn Neuhausen

Two upcoming transportation projects for the Piedmont neighborhood focus on improvements for the proposed bike lanes on Rosa Parks Way near I-5, and the Bryant Street Bridge.

Piedmont currently has funding for bike lanes on Rosa Parks Way, and designs have been created. But the Portland Department of Transportation is working out the details, said Brian Borrello, the land-use chair of the Piedmont Neighborhood Association.

PDOT and the Oregon Department of Transportation are currently coordinating efforts to explore design alternatives that take into

account safety and mobility for all modes of transportation. The agency will meet in early October to finalize plans.

The Piedmont neighborhood has also been planning for improvements to the Bryant Street Bridge crossing. A few designs

have been chosen as concept ideas and are posted on the Piedmont website: piedmontneighborhood.com.

\$90,000 in grant funds has been awarded to the neighborhood to improve the safety of the pedestrian bridge crossing. Some of the safety recommendations

include improving lighting and possibly opening up the walls.

Besides safety, Borrello said, “We want to create a project that is aesthetically pleasing and uplifting in the neighborhood.”

What makes this project unique is that local resources are being used. Instead of their usual open-bid process,

ODOT will hire local contractors, craftsmen, and designers. Further developments on the Bryant Street Bridge project are expected in the coming months.

For more information go to www.portland-sentinel/northalbina

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FEATURED AD

ESL

■ From page 1

to have made significant efforts at North Portland's Roosevelt High to prioritize ESL students, according to Deborah Peterson, acting principal of RHS's POWER Academy.

All three of the high schools named in the federal investigation have converted to the “small schools” model, in which the student body is divided into specialized, semi-autonomous schools or academies. Of the three high schools named in the investigation, only Roosevelt has a small school specifically dedicated to ESL students.

In 2003, the RHS campus was divided into three separate entities, including the Spanish English International School (SEIS). After years of research, RHS staff concluded that the most effective means by which students



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Coffeehouse Five comes alive!



RESTAURANT REVIEW

By Vanessa Anthony

Though Portland is known for its coffee and the 5th Quadrant has its fair share of the good stuff, it has been surprising to note the dearth of coffee houses near my digs on North Albina. Let's just say I've been known to hop in my car and travel to Anna Bannanas in the John or Coffeehouse Northwest on East Burnside to get a fix for the caffeine fiend.

Thankfully though, a new kid has opened up on my block with the makings of a home away from home. Enter Coffeehouse Five — the spanking new java joint on the corner of North Killingsworth and Albina streets, right across from PCC Cascade.

The brainchild of Baxter Nelson (former eight-year veteran of Anna Bannana's) and his brother, Wesley, Coffeehouse Five offers perfectly pulled shots of small-batch roasted Caffè Vita beans by Baxter and his handpicked barista crew. They also feature baked goods from the Pearl District's Nuvrei bakery (these goodies are sinfully

delicious and the scones and turnovers are both subtly flavored and decadent) and vegan treats from the notoriously scrummy Black Sheep Bakery.

You'd be remiss not to stop by at lunch for a bowl of the soup du jour provided by Albina neighbor and local culinary maverick, Rudy Speerschneider of Junior Ambassador's fame (see Sentinel's August edition). These soups are tasty, and vegan too, but carnivores fear not — you'll lick the bowl clean! An array of sandwiches (freshly made by the Nelson brothers' friend "The Hugh," known for his sandwich-making skills at Anna B's) awaits as well.

What makes Coffeehouse Five really come alive is the atmosphere and attitude of the brothers Nelson and their staff. The space is airy, bright and warm with custom-built counters and furnishings, and every time, though you'll get as fine a cup of coffee as any of the Stumptown faves, you get it sans the "better than you" attitude that so many serve up—and that is priceless.



■ A piping hot cup of awesome, brought to you by Coffeehouse Five. PHOTO BY JASON E. KAPLAN

I think the feeling of comfort comes from the top. The Nelson brothers have a down-to-earth likability that seems to attract folks from all walks of life — just ask their former Caffè Vita rep, Eric Pauli, who ended up making all of the handblown glass light fixtures for them. Stop by any time of day and you will be treated to an eclectic mix of characters hanging out in the Five—now that's a scene I want to be in.

Only open since late July, the brothers promise there is more to come with stylistic changes, "highlights" and both poetry and music open mics — I know I can't wait to see what else they have in store.

Coffeehouse Five, 740 N Killingsworth St., 6 a.m. – 8 p.m. Mon-Fri, 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. Sat-Sun.

ESL

■ From page 16

acquire a language is through an "immersion model" that places speakers of different languages together in the same schools and even in the same classes. As a result, SEIS has native Spanish speakers striving to learn English, and vice versa.

SEIS is the "immersion" model incarnate, says its principal, Leo Colegio. He stated that SEIS is beginning to achieve the gains predicted for the ESL-focused school. Of its 252 students, 38 percent have moved from being non-English speakers to what the district classifies as English Language Learners (ELLs).

In 2004, only 17 percent of SEIS students surpassed acceptable math scores, and reading was only slightly better, at 23 percent.

Over the last four years, however, scores have improved 30 percent in math and 26 percent in reading, with the graduation rate jumping 24 percent to nearly

two-thirds of all students.

These numbers are still low by Oregon standards, but they do indicate a steady improvement from year to year.

That's progress, district officials say. RHS thinks that SEIS students have made such significant gains in standard course expectations that the school is beginning to offer college preparatory courses.

"We're trying to get our students to start thinking about higher education," Colegio said, "whereas before it probably wouldn't have been a possibility."

Colegio says the school is making strides toward a college with preparatory curriculum available at PCC for juniors and seniors, as well as providing six AP courses that may be transferred for college credit.

Guembes, whose son attended SEIS in its first years, is not satisfied with the progress being made, and has not been for over a decade.

In 1994, Guembes and Luccetti filed their first complaint with the Oregon Civil Rights Bureau

against the Portland Public School District.

"It's still not acceptable," Guembes says of SEIS's relatively poor performance in comparison to other Oregon schools. "Low is still low."

"Don't think for a minute that we're satisfied with our numbers," said Matt Shelby, of Portland Public Schools. "We're not. But we are on a good trajectory."



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■ The first Full Circle discussion at the Tin Shed on Northeast Alberta Street. PHOTO BY CORNELIUS SWART

FULL CIRCLE: STORIES, CONVERSATION AND COMMUNITY

Full Circle is an experiment in community journalism that strives to engage the public through the use of group discussions. For this article two meetings, moderated by Judith Mowry and reported by myself, were held over the course of a three-month period. During group discussions and interviews, I shared my experiences and personal views as a discussion participant. The first meeting consisted of an “on-the-record” discussion of the issues among residents. The second consisted of a public reading of the draft article and further discussion. The third meeting will be held later this month.

To learn more about the Full Circle project, visit www.portlandsentinel.com/fullcircle.

DOGS AND GENTRIFICATION

Most Portlanders know how white Rose City residents feel about dogs. In 2006, Portland was America’s dog-friendliest town, according to *Dog Fancy Magazine*. A report by the American Veterinary Medical Association claimed 40 percent of Portland households had dogs (that’s 136,322 pooches). That was in 2002. Since then, there’s been a boom in dog ownership and an accompanying explosion in high-end pet shops and services. In August, Portland didn’t make it onto *Dog Fancy’s* “top dog” list and even that made front-page news.

But doggie mania dovetails with gentrification in North/Northeast Portland, where many working-class African Americans hold very different cultural and historical views on dogs.

The following stories and profiles are not intended to be an authoritative document on the state of canines, class, and race in North/Northeast Portland. Instead, this is a collage of views from the community about an issue that is seldom discussed. Some feel very strongly about this; others are unaware the issue exists. Perhaps by talking, openly and publicly, we can understand one another a little better. Or so we hope.

Full Circle Discussion Group on Wednesday, Oct. 13 at 7:30 p.m. at Luther Hall, Concordia University, 2811 NE Holman. Call the Sentinel for information: 503-724-9992.



■ Nancy Fedelem attended a Full Circle discussion and was surprised to hear what a loaded symbol whites with dogs can be. But she feels most people are responsible and careful with their dogs.

Doggie Tales

Portland may be a dog-friendly town, but many in North/Northeast Portland view dogs very differently. *By Cornelius Swart*



“I love dogs. Mine never saw the inside of a house. ... We [blacks] like dogs, but a dog is an animal.”

- *Wendell Travis*

FULL CIRCLE DISCUSSION Dogs: “The tip of the iceberg”

“Some days I think dogs have taken over my neighborhood,” says Joanne Bowman, the executive director of Oregon Action.

It’s a hot July evening at the Tin Shed Café on Northeast Alberta Street. A Full Circle group of 18 residents, most of them white, are crammed together at a long table inside the bustling restaurant. The Tin Shed is famously dog-friendly; even the menu has canine items. Tonight, only one participant has brought his dog.

“They [whites] move into an area that they believe is gang-affected and then get a big dog,” Bowman continues, “If you move into a community and get a dog and treat everyone as a suspect, then you are using the dog as a barrier.”

Bowman and Ricci Franks, the other African American woman present, often see dogs as a wedge issue in a community divided by gentrification.

The list of complaints is long. But they are different than the oft-expressed “off-leash” or “curb your dog” gripes. These complaints are about the dismissal by whites of blacks’ fears and concerns about dogs, the perception by blacks that dogs are used by whites to intimidate, and the existence of double standards, such as one discussion comment: “It’s almost glamorous for whites to own pit bulls, but blacks can’t have one without being considered ‘hoodlums.’”

The perceptions about white dog owners are hard to swallow for some at the Tin Shed. Middle-class white residents are all too aware of gentrification, but few we

hands if they got their dogs for the purpose of protection. No one raises a hand except me.

Most agree that their dogs are more like family members; some in the group say that their dogs help them get to know their neighbors.

“That’s the way I interact with kids,” says one woman. She says her dog has helped her meet her neighbors, black and white. “The way I meet young black kids in the neighborhood is with my dog.”

Bowman listens silently.

When asked if they knew the history of how dogs were used by whites during segregation and slavery, all the whites raised their hands. When asked if they did anything differently with their dogs as a result of that knowledge, one hand went up.

Mowry says that she has heard many African Americans compare gentrification and the recent increase in the presence of dogs to the Jim Crow South.

At an August Full Circle talk at the Sentinel’s Kenton office, it seemed as if history was resonating with some participants.

“I felt there was a real breakthrough there [at that first meeting],” said Judith Wild. “I know the legacy of fear, the history ... but it’s not the same as being in the same room with someone talking about it.”

Wild, who is Jewish, felt like something clicked for many at the Tin Shed when black racial history was connected with dogs.

HISTORY LIVES ON

“Historically, dogs have had a pretty antagonistic relationship in the African American experience,” says Darrell Milner, a professor of Black Studies at Portland State University. From the use of canines during slavery to track runaways to their use during the civil rights movement, Milner says history isn’t just in the past. “They’re a symbol of oppression that is very much alive today.”

“I always talk with my students about dogs,” said Daniel Sullivan, an assistant professor of Sociology at Portland State University. Sullivan has been studying gentrification in Northeast for five years. “People usually aren’t aware that their dogs may be upsetting people.”

Milner stresses that racial history isn’t what’s in the back of everyone’s mind. However, “It’s a reference point that has to be taken into consideration.”

“I didn’t think that [image] might be intimidating. I see a dog and I think ‘cool, a dog! We’re all doing the best we can. But it’s a learning process.”

- *Nancy Fedelem*

spoke with thought dogs had anything to do with it.

Whites’ use of dogs as protection or intimidation is an assumption that arises frequently among black residents. Mowry asks the whites at the table to raise their

DOGS

■ From page 18

Back at the Sentinel's second Full Circle talk, Dianne Riley has a hard time believing dogs aren't used as protection.

An African American woman who recently moved to Portland from Wisconsin, Riley missed the first talk at the Tin Shed.

"It's hard for me to believe [white people] don't get a dog for protection," she says after listening to a reading of this story's first draft. "Safety and security are such a part of the gentrification dynamic. The dog is the perfect symbol for that."

But at the Tin Shed meeting a month before, Bowman began to see that cultural

misinterpretations may play a part in some of the conflict.

"So how do you create that space where people can understand that this [dog] is a family member?" she asks the group.

"Gentrification is a national problem," says Riley at the second meeting, seemingly in response to Bowman's query. "There are these little psychological things that are just the tip of the iceberg underneath. The only way you can tease them out is to sit down and talk about it."

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For more profiles and stories from this Full Circle Project go to portlandsentinel.com/fullcircle.

CLASS, CULTURE CONFUSION

"Dogs play an important role in the street life," says Elijah Anderson, author of *Streetwise*, a book about race, class, and urban life in post-gentrified cities. "In the working-class black subculture, 'dogs' does not mean dogs in the house, but usually ... tied up outside, guarding the backyard."

"What Anderson suggests is there is a class and racial dimension to it," says Sullivan, "that professional-class people see [dogs] as companions and working-class people see them more as protection and a potential for violence." (See profile on Bobby Jones.)

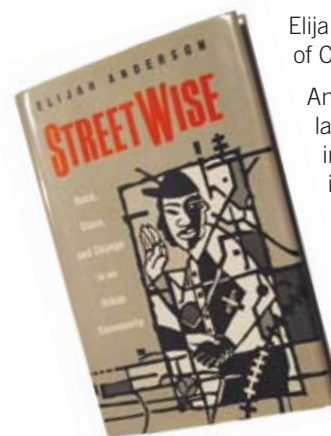
Many whites, Sullivan says, will observe that some blacks fear dogs, but miss the more complex issues beneath the surface.

"Oh, don't worry, my dog is nice ...," says Sullivan, mimicking the oft-used disclaimer. "[As though] somehow that will make it better."

STREETWISE: RACE, CLASS, AND CHANGE IN AN URBAN COMMUNITY

Elijah Anderson, University of Chicago Press, 1990

Anderson spent 10 years in a large city neighborhood watching it gentrify. From documenting street etiquette that outlines social norms and rules of behavior based on racial fear, class prejudice and social distancing, to the use of dogs as an exercise of power and respect, *Streetwise* is a handbook for living in a modern mixed urban community.



People Tales



Nicollette Pullen with Moose (left); Susan Lynch (center) with Daisy and Laura Edmark (right) with Ella

"Everyone I know is from this park ..."

Chimney Park in St. Johns is a city-sanctioned off-leash area. Like much of the Peninsula, people here seem to have a stronger sense of community than in other parts of town.

"I had one friend when I moved to this part of town," says Lynch. "Now almost everyone I know is from this park. We had a Saturday social last night. When there's trouble we really pulled together..." (See "The killer dog of St. Johns" at portlandsentinel.com.)

Edmark agrees that she has bonded more with people in St. Johns than in her old neighborhood off North Albina. However, she found people in her old neighborhood were more anxious around dogs.

"There were a lot of black people who were afraid of dogs," she says. "But there were a lot who had dogs. They tended to be big dogs." Adds Lynch, "I've heard that black people don't like dogs, but I don't know if I believe it."

None of the women say their own dogs are for protection or have ever felt threatened in Portland streets with or without their dogs.



Jamie Partridge:

"Dogs bite"

AGE: 59

OCCUPATION: Mail carrier

Jamie spent 24 years as a letter carrier mostly working in inner Northeast. He says he's seen a change in the last 15 years as the largely white population has moved in.

He says now he's constantly told by new residents that their dogs don't bite. "But damn it, I've been bit by dogs that don't bite. I've been chased by dogs that don't chase."

"Something about the newcomer ... they think 'my dog doesn't bite.'"

Partridge, who is married to an African American woman, believes there's a cultural difference in the way whites and blacks view dogs. "My experience is that black people have a better handle on what dogs can and will do to people. [With white people] there's a sense of entitlement: 'I have the right to let my dog run loose.'"

Bobby Jones

"I think dogs, I think aggression"

AGE: 23

OCCUPATION: Student

GREW UP IN: Woodlawn

Bobby Jones understands that most people view their dogs as pets and members of the family — his sister in-law, for one. But he also understands how some people, like his brother, have a hard time seeing dogs that way. For Jones, it's about growing up knowing dogs as only one thing: dangerous.

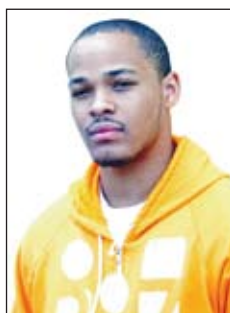
"I think a lot of black people use their dogs for protection. They get their pit bulls. I never had a dog. But I grew up with neighbors with pit pulls. They were not friendly dogs. They were chained up in the back yard and when they got out all the kids in the neighborhood would start running."

Jones says he grew up knowing people who used fighting dogs. "At the time I didn't think it was humane to have dogs fight. But I know a lot of people who just grew up thinking they were fighting machines."

A police dog bit Jones' mother when she was a girl. "To this day she's scared of German Shepherds."

"Our experience with dogs has historically been aggressive, violent," says Jones. "It just hasn't been about lovingness and being part of the family. But I think white people get their dogs to be a part of their family."

To Jones, the difference in values isn't a conflict. "It's more about there are people out there that I can't even relate to."



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