

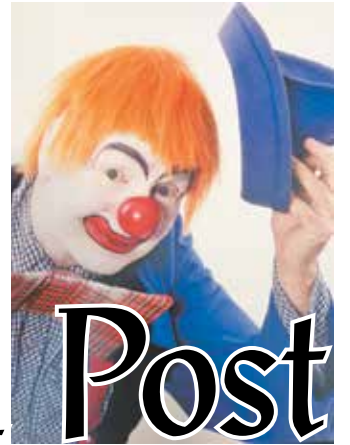
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The Southwest Portland Post

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Complimentary

September 2015

Former Somali refugee finds new home in Southwest Portland

By Erik Vidstrand
The Southwest Portland Post

Saalim Saalim cannot forget the refugee camp where he lived almost 22 years. He remembers the loud, curdling screams in the middle of the night. Someone was most likely being bit by a poisonous snake or scorpion in the wilds of the Sahara desert in Kenya.

"The [U.N.] ambulance drivers were quick to the location of the cries," Saalim said while sitting down to speak to *The Post*.

He also remembers the good the United Nations did with donations of food boxes and care in the refugee camps.

Born in Somalia, on the Horn of Africa, Saalim's father was born in India. His mother is from Yemen. His family fled the civil war in 1990 when he was a teenager. They arrived in Mombasa, Kenya located on the coast of the Indian Ocean.

He would leave the camp for whatever work he could find: construction, truck

driver, or laborer. He also went to school.

The urban setting was a target for non-refugees pillaging the United Nations supplies: water, food rations, and blankets.

Soon after, the camp was resettled inland in the Sahara desert. Saalim and his family went as they had no other options.

The process to get resettled elsewhere outside Africa began right away, and in Saalim's case, it took decades. A supporter is needed in the host country.

Some of his family members were sent to London. Others were waiting for a U.S. sponsor. When an opportunity arose for Saalim, now with three boys and a wife, Southwest Portland was the place. Some distant relatives were already here. Church World Service paid for their flight.

"We also received a loan to get resettled in the U.S. but I'm still paying them back," he said proudly. "They didn't charge us interest."

Arriving in September of 2012, his family moved into the Markham

neighborhood in Section 8 housing for low-income individuals.

"The kids enrolled in Neighborhood House Head Start programs," he continued. "We attended English classes at IRCO (Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization) and IRCO provided us with job leads."

Saalim found temporary part-time work at Columbia Sportswear, then a job at Leatherman, and then he went back to Columbia.

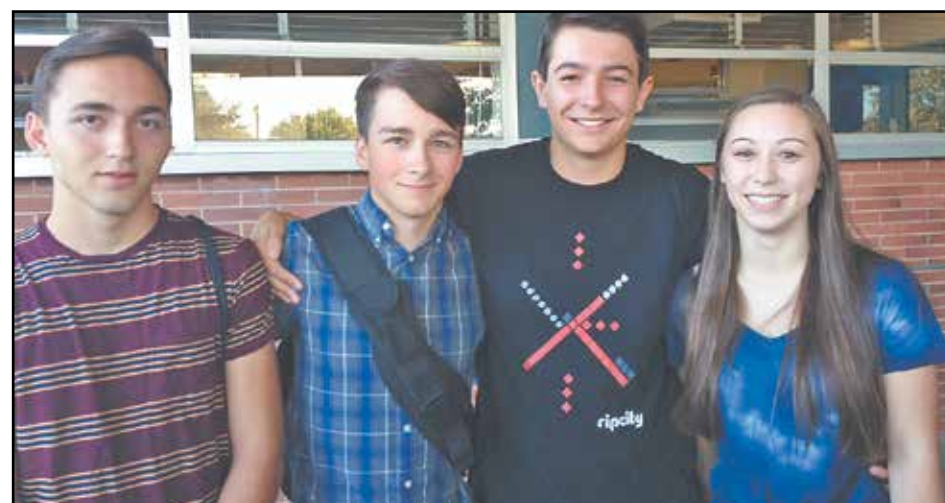
After a home visit by a Neighborhood House social worker, Saalim felt ashamed of the stress he had providing for his family with sporadic paychecks. He told the case worker what he really needed: a permanent full-
(Continued on Page 6)



Saalim Saalim and his children celebrate Eid al-Fitr (Feast of Breaking the Fast) at the Oregon Convention Center on July 17. (Photo courtesy of Saalim Saalim)



Wilson students run drills in late August in hopes of making the soccer team. (Post photo by KC Cowan)



Wilson students Coby Hart, Jonah Hart, Corey Bissonette and Maddy Conkle are all juniors this year. (Post photo by KC Cowan)

Wilson students and teachers gear up for school year

By KC Cowan
The Southwest Portland Post

The pressure to get everything ready for the 2015/16 school year at Wilson High School was just a little bit more intense this year, because the first day of school came before Labor Day.

So teachers were back in the building on Aug. 24, and the first day of classes was Aug. 27.

Things were buzzing at Wilson the week of Aug. 17, however, as hundreds of students lined up for registration.

They picked up their schedules, textbooks, paid any fees, got their locker assignments, and posed for student identification cards.

A team of parent volunteers helped move things along, but none of the kids seemed to mind waiting in line, because they were so busy catching up with friends.

Twin brothers Coby and Jonah Hart are both juniors this year and say they're glad to be back in school, so they have "something to do" after a long summer.

Coby Hart looks forward to seeing his friends, and Jonah Hart is excited about his classes, which include pre-calculus, advanced placement chemistry, physics, and marketing.

Juniors Corey Bissonette and Maddy Conkle are also taking a strong load of advanced placement classes and both are in leadership class as well, which means serving as a student officer.

"We get to represent the school and help the student body and share their voice," said Conkle.

The four juniors said they will find

time for clubs and sports, with Bissonette playing baseball and Jonah Hart on the swim team.

Corey Bissonette's brother Coby is playing cello in the orchestra and is going out for track and cross-country. Conkle is a varsity cheerleader. All of them say Wilson is a great school, with a friendly atmosphere. "Everybody here is so nice," said Bissonette.

Enrollment this year at Wilson is expected to be 1,327, a big jump from last year's 1,283 students. Erica Meyers, business manager, said they have 120 staff members, but they're hoping to hire
(Continued on Page 6)



Wilson business manager Erica Meyers assists parent volunteer Laura Joyce with her computer during fall registration. (Post photo by KC Cowan)

Don't forget to renew your subscription. Form on Page 3.

The Southwest Portland Post
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Letters to the Editor



Hillsdale blogger chimes in on neighborhood news coverage

Thanks for the thorough coverage of the four-story development proposal. I'm taken with the unattributed quote, "The only thing that doesn't change is....change." The variable is *how* we change.

A comment to both *The Connection* and *The Post*: Is Multnomah Days always going to dominate the front page of the papers in the August issues? Yes, this is a big event, but is

it worthy of this kind of play? And will it get the same play next month? Just askin'...

By the way, I have the same feeling about front-page play each July after the graduation at Wilson. *The Connection* seems to think we don't know that in June high schools graduate their seniors. Just sayin'...

Note that I'm not saying that these events shouldn't be covered, but do they merit the kind of prominence that they get? Are there more important news stories that should top the front page? I would hope so.

Now that I'm folding "The Hillsdale News" after the Sept. 1 issue, I may be more outspoken as a constructive (I hope) press critic. I'll share my views on "The Red Electric" (theredelectric.blogspot.com) or write the occasional letter to the editor.

Keep up the good work!

Rick Seifert
Hillsdale



Rick Seifert (right) presents Don Snedecor with a special birthday card at The Post's 5th Anniversary party at Marco's Cafe, Nov. 2, 1997. (Post file photo)

How can we reasonably accommodate the influx of young singles and families?

Regarding, "The best place for increased density is along commercial arterials," letter from Sermin Yesilada, editorial comment from Don Snedecor, *The Post*, August 2015.

Thank you, *Southwest Portland Post*, for sharing the letter from Sermin Yesilada regarding her support for the 4-story apartment development proposed on Capitol Highway.

I, too, am a supporter of efforts to provide affordable housing in Multnomah Village and agree with Sermin that thoughtful site and building design can mitigate some of the anxiety that residents have expressed about increasing density and vehicle traffic along a transit corridor in what is primarily a single-family residence neighborhood.

Much importance has been attached to this development, and with good reason. Multnomah Village is a great place to live and the proposed apartment building may represent the first step (of many over the next 25 years) in helping the Village absorb the population growth anticipated by the Portland 2040 Plan.

But when 1800-square-foot older homes in the Village currently sell for \$550,000, how can we reasonably accommodate the influx of young singles and families?

And just as important, how can we provide housing for the many wonderful retail and service workers who are employed by businesses in our community? This development can provide some answers by being attractive and affordable to a younger,

(Continued on Page 6)

The cat is out of the bag!

Concerning your August, 2015 story (and letter exchange) in the *Southwest Portland Post* on the proposed four-story rental housing project in "The Village," I hate to tell you but Multnomah has changed a lot and will continue to change regardless of some hue and cry.

I grew up there, Multnomah School Class of 1960, and while things may look the same, it ain't necessarily so. No hardware store, no pharmacy, no camera/hobby shop, etc., etc. That cat is already out of the bag!

Bottom line: density is good! It protects valuable farm and forest land, and city policy concentrates new higher density (and more affordable) housing on commercial streets with good transit...where businesses could use more customers!

Maybe with enough new residents, "The Village" can get a pharmacy back! Affordable, rental, housing has always been in short supply in my old home turf, and probably enough can't be built.

Last, remember projects like this, in addition to providing affordable housing to younger folks starting out, make it possible for older neighbors in your community to stay put when they need to downsize from that single family house and yard that is wearing them out!

P.S. I do like coming out twice a year to Multnomah...even if it's to see my dentist.

Lenny Anderson
Northeast Portland





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Bored light rail tunnel proposed as option to Portland Community College

SOUTHWEST CORRIDOR PLAN

By Erik Vidstrand
Southwest Portland Post

Over 50 residents of the West Portland Park and Far South West Neighborhood Associations met on August 13 to hear updates on the Southwest Corridor Plan.

Metro presented their latest findings based on a recent technical memo. The new president of Portland Community College's Mt. Sylvania Campus, Dr. Lisa Avery, discussed the college's role in the project.

According to Metro's analysis, constructing a bored light rail tunnel connecting PCC Sylvania to the rest of the system would provide a more efficient approach than the cut and cover tunnel previously considered by the steering committee in July 2015.

"A bored tunnel alignment may provide the most direct route connecting Barbur Boulevard and PCC," said Noelle Dobson, project spokesperson.

Though light rail transit is twice as expensive as bus rapid transit, light rail attracts more riders, according to officials.

"There will still be property and traffic impacts," Dobson warned, "but those impacts would be substantially less than from a cut and cover tunnel approach."

Metro identified potentially feasible alignments for further exploration, including a long-bored tunnel, a short-bored tunnel, and enhanced bus service.

The short-bored tunnel would be approximately 3,000 feet long between 53rd Avenue and Barbur Boulevard and west of Lesser Road. Hauling activities from the portal would take place at the staging area located northwest of Barbur Boulevard, taking over four years.

The long-bored tunnel alignment is approximately a mile long that travels from 53rd Avenue and Barbur Boulevard to a station located roughly 150 feet below PCC Sylvania.

Overall construction duration is estimated to be four-and-a-half years. While travel time and ridership for each option has not yet been analyzed, it is

believed the long-bored tunnel would have the shortest travel time as it contains the fewest curves.

Other options include an enhanced local bus service like the TriMet Line 44 which links the Barbur Transit Center and PCC Sylvania. Under this option, Line 44 would become a frequent service route running every 15 minutes all day.

College administrators will present their vision for future campus development and community input at the Southwest Corridor Plan steering committee meeting in October.

"Even though not many students use public transportation at the moment," Avery said, "faculty and staff are requesting better ways to reach the campus through bike routes and other means."

An improved pedestrian and bicyclist connection from a station in the vicinity of Barbur Boulevard and 53rd Avenue is proposed.

This segment would include stations on the campus and in the vicinity of Capitol Highway and Comus Street near Holly Farm Park and the Capitol Hill Library.

This route was chosen because it provides the shortest connection between Barbur Boulevard and the central campus and would impact the fewest residences compared to other streets.

Marcia Leslie, chair of the Far Southwest Association, said she has heard from a few neighbors that they would be OK with a bored tunnel but will have a much better idea after their neighborhood potluck schedule for Aug. 29.

"Some still have concerns," said Leslie. "One says that her house will be shaken off its foundation, and another has said he will probably sell, even though he doesn't live directly along 53rd Avenue."

PCC has remained neutral at the moment about light rail or bus rapid transit, and for that fact, any of the other options.

"Our campus is expanding," Avery stated. "As the largest community college in Oregon, we serve over 33,000 students with over 1,200 faculty and staff."

"We also open up our campus for community and cultural events such as



MAX light rail station at Washington Park taken in September, 2014. (Photo by Travis Estell, creative commons via Flickr)

pow-wows, film festivals, and dance troupes."

West Portland Park president Mike McNamara announced that a steering committee has been formed from both neighborhood associations.

"We will continue to monitor and study the Southwest Corridor Plan," he said.

"We have been very happy with Metro. They have been extremely nice and appreciate them coming to our meeting."

Moving sidewalks have also been talked about which would connect the station to campus via escalators. Officials said this option is not considered feasible due to the half-mile distance to be traveled.

It also might not fit the neighborhood character and would create potential conflicts with driveways and cross street traffic.

In addition, there are concerns with maintenance and operational reliability given the Pacific Northwest climate.

Bus shuttles could connect PCC Sylvania to the 53rd Avenue station and the Barbur Transit Center. This option has relatively low capital costs, but requires additional operations and maintenance.

In another option, autonomous vehicles/shuttles would connect PCC Sylvania to the 53rd Avenue station and the Barbur Transit Center. The system would operate on the local street network.

The technology is very new and is currently being tested, and changes in state and local laws may be necessary to allow for autonomous operation.

A comprehensive environmental review of the preferred package would likely begin in 2017 which will encompass substantial advancement of all designs including details on roadway widening, lane conversions, property impacts and any tunnel construction.

Construction could begin as early as 2021.



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Top right: Kids wait for candy during the parade. Bottom right: Tim Mayfield pours batter during the Kiwanis pancake breakfast. Center left: A woman with a parasol visits the vendor booths. Top left: Police officer Robert Voepel gives Mila Coltman a ride on his motorcycle. Bottom left: Marianne Snow and William Hermens line up for the parade with their whippets.

(KC Cowan and Erik Vidstrand, photos)



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COMMUNITY LIFE

By KC Cowan and Don Snedecor
The Southwest Portland Post

5 Restore the ravine! Help remove invasive English ivy and restore the biodiversity of Tryon Creek Ravine. Friends of Tryon Creek are holding a series of work parties, and you get a free lunch, too! Saturday, Sept. 5 and Saturday, Sept. 19. Meet at 9 a.m. at the Nature Center of Tryon Creek State Natural Area, 11321 SW Terwilliger Blvd. Wear sturdy shoes and bring a water bottle, but tools are provided. You must register. Call 503-636-4398 for more information.

6 A big truck day at the J! What child doesn't love big trucks? Bring your youngsters, ages 3 – 6 to the Mittleman Jewish Community Center parking lot, 6651 SW Capitol Hwy. on Sunday, Sept. 6 at 11 a.m. and hear drivers explain their big rigs up close and personal. Live music and art sidewalk sale, too. Free.

8 Historic exhibition at Nordia House: In the autumn of 1943, Danish citizens successfully rescued 7,000 Danish Jews from imminent arrest and deportation to concentration camps. "Denmark October 1943" commemorates this event in a series of posters and photos with narrative, Sept. 8 through Oct. 31. Opening reception is the evening of Tuesday, Sept. 8 at Nordia House, 8800 SW

Oleson Road. For details visit www.scanheritage.org or call 503-977-0275.

12 Trail, tram, trolley and train: Don Baack will lead the 4T walk on Saturday, Sept. 12. Meet behind the bleachers at Wilson High School (Southwest Sunset Boulevard and Capitol Highway) and be ready to go by 8:45 am. Explore all the TriMet transit options on one walk! From the bus catch MAX at Pioneer Square to the Zoo. Then walk up the Marquam Trail to Council Crest, down the trail to OHSU, and then ride free down the Portland Aerial Tram to South Waterfront, then north on the trolley back to Pioneer Square and bus back to Wilson High School. The loop will have 700 feet elevation gain and 1,100 feet loss and take three to four hours. Bring a snack, water, good boots, sunglasses, and dress for the weather. On this particular walk dogs are not allowed. For more information or to volunteer to lead a future walk in your neighborhood, contact Sharon Fekety, fekety@hevanet.com.

13 Trot like a Trojan! Join the Wilson High School community for a family-friendly, non-competitive Trojan Trot 5K Walk/Run sponsored by the WHS Boosters. Sunday, Sept. 13. Check in at 8 a.m. and the race starts at 9 a.m. All ages and fitness levels welcome to participate. The course begins and ends at the Wilson High School track. Adults (18+) \$35, youth (6-17) \$15, children (0-5) free. Contact Angela Duarte at Alduarte0@gmail.com. Proceeds benefit WHS students.

19 Coptic stitch notebook: Make your own journal from scratch on Saturday, Sept. 19, 2 – 5:30 p.m. at the Hillsdale Library, 1525 SW Sunset Blvd. You'll learn how to bind your book using the four needle Coptic stitch, an ancient binding technique. Perfect for making your own notebooks, albums, and journals. Free, but registration is required. Go online, visit the library or call 503-988-5234.

22 Strategies for a sustainable income in retirement: For many Baby Boomers, retirement is not far away. But are you ready? Come to a workshop Tuesday, Sept. 22, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. at the Capitol Hill Library, 10723 SW Capitol Hwy. Establish retirement goals and strategies for a sustainable income in retirement. Registration required, so please register online, in the library or by calling 503-988-5385.

26 Vellamo: Folk Duo from Finland: Vocalist Pia Leinonen and guitarist Joni Tiala combine the rich tradition of Finnish folksong with a "retro" sensibility, creating a magical acoustic experience. The 45-minute concert is at the Central Library, in the Collins Gallery, on Saturday, Sept. 26, at 2 p.m. Free.

29 Get Crafty! Learn how to use paper to create traditional



New acrylic and watercolor paintings by Scott Erwert will be shown Sept. 4-29, at the Multnomah Arts Center Gallery. Opening reception Friday, Sept. 4, 7-9 p.m. Visit www.multnomahartscenter.org for details. (Courtesy MAC)

paper crafts representative of Poland and Denmark. Learn how to make Polish "Wycinanki" (folding and cutting stars and people) and Danish hearts through cutting and weaving. Join this free class on Tuesday, Sept. 29, 4 – 5:30 p.m. at the Hillsdale Library, 1525 SW Sunset Blvd. Seating is first come, first served. Call 503-988-5388 for more information.

Help redesign Spring Garden Park. Community gathering on Tuesday, Sept. 29, 5:30 – 8 p.m., at the Multnomah Center Auditorium, 7688 SW Capitol Hwy. Review and comment on preliminary conceptual designs for Spring Garden Park. Feedback is needed on a \$1.5 million plan to develop the park. Part of the funds will hire a landscape architect. For additional information, contact Elise or Hun at 503-823-5596.

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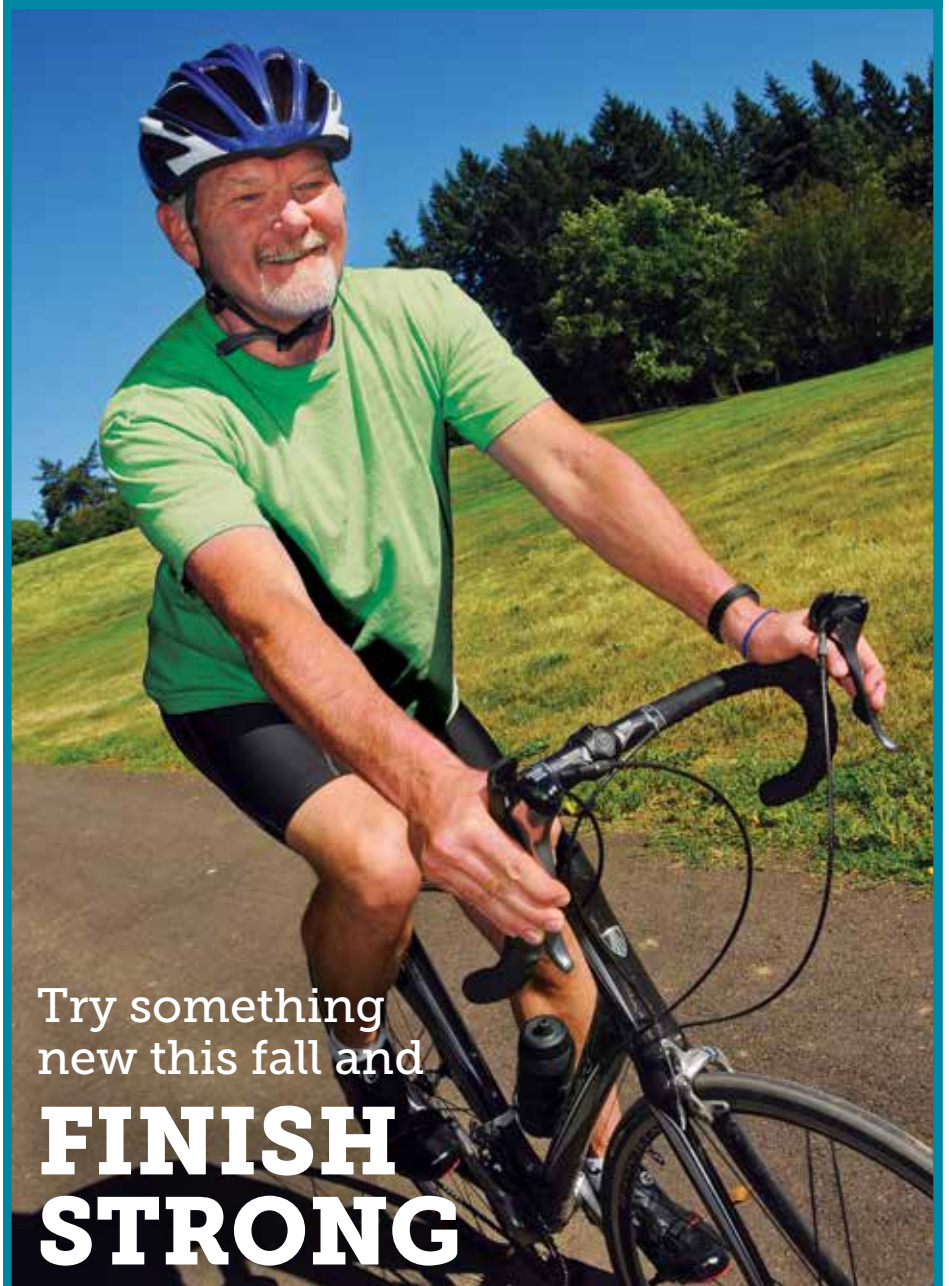
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Somali Refugee

(Continued from Page 1)

time job.

"She said that if you're mostly stress free, you'll raise healthier families," Saalim remembers. "I did not want to depend on others for free services."

Neighborhood House had an opening. It was a part-time temporary position in the food pantry but after his six-month evaluation, he received a higher salary, benefits, and it became a permanent full-time position.

"I was so happy!"

Neighborhood House has been helping community members in need since 1905. They serve families facing hunger and homelessness, help vulnerable seniors, and help children with school work.

Rick Nitti, executive director, explained that Somalians have been

in the Markham neighborhood since the 1970s. During the 1990s foreign students arrived and began attending Portland Community College and Portland State University.

Kurds soon followed after the Iraqi war. As the community grew, a mosque was built.

Somalis represent the largest Muslim group in the city. Somali has become the third most spoken native language in Portland schools. Most, if not all Somali refugees fled Somalia during the war. However, some came through neighboring countries such as Ethiopia and Kenya.

"From what I'm seen and experienced," said Nitti in his upstairs Multnomah Village office, "these proud people come from strong families with strong work ethics."

Neighborhood House offers a variety of youth leadership programs

to steer kids away from trouble or drug use. Connecting adults to permanent, satisfying careers is a main goal for the 110-year-old charity.

"The Portland Police Department recently hired its first Somali police officer, Khalid Ibrahim," Nitti said. Downstairs in the food box program, Saalim, who is now the assistant pantry coordinator, paused the interview to help a drifter looking for handouts. The pantry was closed and he was told to come back tomorrow.

"I can work in almost any situation," he said. "I've had to deal with

alcoholics, abusive individuals, and mentally ill."

He used to be a mediator in Africa helping families who were fighting or had other domestic issues. Saalim is studying for his citizenship which he plans to get after the five-year waiting period.

Saalim was asked what he missed about Africa.

"Some friends and relatives," he responded, "but that's about it."

And what does he like about the U.S.?

"Health care, security, education."



Saalim Saalim runs the Neighborhood House food pantry. (Post photo by Erik Vidstrand)

Wilson High School

(Continued from Page 1)

one more English teacher, to help keep class size around 24 students.

"In 2007-2008, we had a skeleton crew," Meyers explained. "But we kept building and now we have more staff, more secretaries, and more electives, like video production, yoga mindfulness, and sound engineering."

There are 12 instructors who are new to Wilson this year. Some are replacing teachers retiring, but some have joined the staff because the school district had more money. That allowed Wilson to offer unique classes like sports marketing.

Fall sports include football, cross-country, soccer, and volleyball. On registration day, students were going through drills on the field trying out for soccer teams.

One new addition to every sports program this year is the presence of a certified athletic trainer, courtesy of Providence Health Services.

Eight of the nine Portland Interscholastic League high schools now have a licensed trainer on site,

whose job it is to prevent injuries, help with rehabilitation, and making sure students don't play with injuries.

The arts are well represented, too. Wilson will have choir, band, drama, drawing, ceramics, metalworking, woodworking, and photography.

On registration day, members of the drama club had a table set up to advertise their classes and encourage students to audition for the coming season, which will include "Antigone" and the musical, "Young Frankenstein."

In addition, Wilson offers students a chance to hone their writing skills on the Trojan yearbook or the Trojan Horse, the student magazine.

The video production department produced its first program before school even started – a special anti-bullying video that will be presented at an upcoming school assembly.

If the secret to a good high school experience is getting involved and "finding a group of peers," then students at Wilson should have no problem being successful. Erica Meyers summed it up best: "We're all super excited. Wilson is on fire!"

Letters to the Editor

(Continued from Page 2)

more diverse demographic.

I, too, love the charm of Multnomah Village but our neighborhood association has a history of opposing infill and development in general. By taking unilateral stands, alternate opinions are disregarded.

For instance, I live close to the Freeman Tank and am one of several neighbors who do not oppose development of the former Water Bureau property by Renaissance Homes, but none of us attended neighborhood association meetings.

So I applaud you, Sermin, for your intent to attend Multnomah

Neighborhood Association meetings. Those meetings represent the best opportunity for diverse viewpoints to be aired and discussed.

Ideally, all members of the community – residents, business owners, developers and investors – would be encouraged to express their thoughts and participate in lively, meaningful discussions with mutual appreciation and respect.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts in writing. I look forward to continuing the dialogue on important issues facing our community.

Kathleen Kuba
Multnomah

Interview with Abdi Muse about the Somali community



Abdi Muse, center, takes a group of friends and family to a local park. Muse, who has a master's degree, works in the Multnomah County Health Department.

(Photo courtesy of Abdi Muse)

By Erik Vidstrand
The Southwest Portland Post

Abdi Muse was born in Somalia and came to the United States in 1996. He serves on the Neighborhood House board of directors and has been working for the Multnomah County Health Department since 2002. Abdi has a master's degree in engineering management from Portland State University.

The Post: When I mention the Somali community, what comes to mind?

Abdi Muse: I think about their desire to live independently without outside assistance. Oregon is a popular state to resettle because of the abundance of humanitarian programs for immigrants. This support comes in the form of English classes, job support, food aid, and housing.

Q: Where does the Somali community reside?

A: There's no one single area where all the Somalis live. Most of them are from Somalia but some came from Kenya and Ethiopia. Many live near the Rizwan Mosque (9925 SW 35th Drive). Anywhere from 500 to 1,000 Somalis live in southwest Portland. This is about 300 families. There are approximately 8,000 to 9,000 Somalis living throughout Oregon.

Q: What are the biggest concerns of this community?

A: The No. 1 issue is unemployment. Some are educated and could be an engineer or a doctor but the training and requirements don't transfer. Many resort to driving cabs, housekeeping, food processing jobs, janitorial, and hotel industry jobs.

The No. 2 issue is housing. Section 8 housing (rent subsidies for low-

income households) used to be easy to find but gentrification has been affecting affordable housing. Rent is at least \$1,000 a month plus utilities and other living expenses.

The waiting list is unbelievable. Many have had to move to Gresham where it's more affordable and [this] disrupts the support networks.

Q: What is your role in the community?

A: When I met Rick [Nitti, executive director of Neighborhood House] he asked me if I could help this community by being a gatekeeper and community connector as a bridge from Somalia to Portland.

Q: What would you like our readers to know about Somalis?

A: Newcomers have trouble integrating into a new culture. There is shock and identity crisis. There are some disparities between the children and parents. The elders like the old way and traditions. Some of the youth can be influenced by gangs or other troubles. I began troubleshooting with the police, translating, identifying the laws of the U.S.

Q: What is the latest news from Somalia?

A: Federalism (based upon democratic rules) has been introduced. The south is still in turmoil but the Chinese keep coming and investing in the country. An election was held for the first time in 25 years.

Q: Do you miss Somalia?

A: First of all, it's three days of travel to get there so not really. Oregon is home now. I want my Starbucks. In the U.S. there is still a dream and you can make anything happen with hard work. It can only happen in America.

West sidewalk and cycle track reopen in South Waterfront

TRANSPORTATION NOTEBOOK

By Erik Vidstrand
The Southwest Portland Post

With the opening of the new Tilikum Crossing, (Bridge of the People), new safety improvements along Southwest Moody Avenue have been completed between Sheridan Street and the Ross Island Bridge.

This includes the west sidewalk and cycle track which will improve the flow of pedestrians and bicyclists along Moody Avenue. The work was completed by Portland Bureau of Transportation and TriMet.

"When we begin operating along a new alignment, we see how people behave around our vehicles and tracks, and then make adjustments to improve safety," said TriMet Safety and Security Executive Director Harry Saporta.

"These improvements will help people be more aware and alert of trains and buses along the new MAX Orange Line."

The Orange Line, TriMet's fifth MAX line, will travel 7.3 miles between, inner Southeast Portland, Milwaukie, and Oak Grove in north Clackamas County.

With 1 million new residents expected in the region by 2030, this new line will provide an efficient high-capacity transit option to underserved communities in the congested M McLoughlin Boulevard / Highway.

"At PBOT, we want to encourage Portlanders to ride their bikes and walk their neighborhoods," said Transportation Director Leah Treat. "Working with TriMet, our investment will make it safer and easier for everyone to enjoy the South Waterfront, take advantage of the new Orange Line, and use Portland's newest bridge, the



Pedestrian and bicyclist safety improvements along Moody Avenue in South Waterfront. (Photo courtesy of South Portland Business Association)

beautiful Tilikum Crossing."

These upgrades also allow bicyclists and pedestrians to better share the space. It also enhances access to the Collaborative Life Sciences Building and the new bridge which opens on Sept. 12.

Waivers of remonstrance is the hot topic in Multnomah

A main topic at the August meeting of the Multnomah Neighborhood Association was "waivers of remonstrance."

Editor's Note: This simply means that in order for a developer or land owner to avoid having to pay for sidewalks and half-street improvements during new residential construction, they only have to agree to waive their right to object to future improvements. The city of Portland currently has something like 12,000 waivers on the books—none of which they plan to enforce.

Chris Lyons has been leading the fight for pedestrian and bicyclist improvements along Capitol Highway. He recently learned that a waiver was granted by the Portland Bureau of Transportation for street frontage improvements to a house under construction at 40th and Capitol

Highway.

"This waiver is not in accordance with development on substandard streets," Lyons wrote to Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc. transportation members.

"PBOT does not consider this a local service street," Lyons continued. "However, TriMet recently recognized the importance of bus line no. 44 and has identified it for frequent transit service."

Lyons was told that the waiver was approved because it was too challenging for the developer to meet stormwater requirements.

"Hence, the citizens that live nearby get no sidewalks, no bike path, no stormwater management, no access to transit, no nothing," Lyons fumed.

This reporter left several messages for the developer, Main Street Development, for comments on the waiver. The calls were not returned.

Marianne Fitzgerald, former SWNI president, requested a meeting with Commissioner

Nick Fish, who heads the Bureau of Environmental Services, and Commissioner Steve Novick, who heads PBOT. A meeting with Fish only is scheduled for mid-September.

Bill Ryan, chief engineer for the environmental bureau, responded to Fitzgerald that both PBOT and BES are committed to collaborating on addressing both stormwater and transportation needs across the city.

"The city has many priorities," Ryan wrote, "and must be mindful of limited budgets and the impact of fees on our citizens."

Ryan said that more than 30 percent of the sewer systems are upwards of 80 years old and places priority on maintaining aging infrastructure.

Jessica Wade, Capitol Highway resident, reminded everyone to keep an eye on the Tyron-Stephens Creek Headwaters Project which has proposed stormwater and arterial transportation improvements.

According to Denver Igarta, who heads up this project, the city is revising the draft plan in the fall based on internal and external comments.



Owner of this house at Southwest Capitol Highway and 40th Avenue received a waiver of remonstrance from the city. (Post photo by Erik Vidstrand)

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Jim Allen's 'Rusty Nails' remembered as a gentle clown

By KC Cowan
The Southwest Portland Post

The prelude at Jim Allen's memorial service was a selection of Allen's favorite songs. It should have surprised no one present that one of the songs was "Send in the Clowns."

A Southwest Portland resident, Allen had an alter ego that was beloved and well known to any local Baby Boomer.

Allen was Rusty Nails, the clown who entertained kids on his own television show from 1957 to 1974. Allen died July 28, 2015, at the age of 87.

According to his daughter, Allen had wanted to be a clown after seeing rodeo clowns at the Portland Exposition Center.

"At age nine he was offered a chance to be in a talent show and from that he began getting into clowning and magic and that led to doing appearances at the local movie theatre," Jody Allen said.

By age 16, Allen had fully developed his character, Rusty Nails, a gentle, friendly clown with a pumpkin-orange thatch of a wig, giant (real leather) shoes, and an oversized bow-tie that

always matched his plaid pants.

Allen had a radio show, "The Jimmy Allen Scrapbook," before taking the story-telling program to television. It ultimately developed into the Rusty Nails show.

Allen was a true pioneer in the television industry, and always wanted his show to be something for the whole family.

"He was very attracted to cartoons, and he loved the idea of clowning around in a family atmosphere so that it was safe to watch," said Jody Allen. "And that the parents could enjoy the show and the kids would love the antics."

Alpenrose Dairy was the original sponsor of the Rusty Nails show. Carl Cadonau Jr., co-owner of the three-generation dairy, has vivid memories of his father dressing him up in "whites" like the milk deliverymen, and taking him down to the television studio.

"My job was to hand out chocolate milk to the kids in the audience," Cadonau recalled.

By the mid 1960's, Alpenrose was doing a lot of promotional events at local grocery stores, and Rusty Nails was front and center, putting on magic and puppet shows. Allen's daughter, Jody, often appeared in the shows, too, as Penny Nails.

Over the years, the link between Rusty Nails and Alpenrose Dairy became more solid, with Rusty performing in the Fourth of July pageants, doing funny skits between historical segments, and at the dairy's "Fun-days Sundays."

Cadonau said Rusty was willing to try anything, even when the acts could be dangerous, such as the exploding barn skit.

"We put the small barn up in the center of the arena with an escape hatch below.

He would get into it and light a fuse and it would explode," Cadonau said.

"My cousin and I were in charge of the explosives in that thing and a time or two we put in too much and when Rusty walked out, he was staggering a bit. He was concussed."

"He was part of our family, that's for sure," he added. "When I look back on the things (the dairy has) done, he was a big part of our growth, no question about it."

Cadonau says Rusty had a cult following, and when he'd meet people and tell them he was with Alpenrose Dairy, they'd usually ask about Rusty. The secret to the clown's success was how approachable and friendly he was. There was nothing scary about Rusty.

Jim Allen performed as Rusty Nails until his late 70s, and his last performance was a 2006 Christmas show at the Alpenrose Opera House. When the

economy crashed in 2007/2008, the dairy didn't have the money to do the show, so Rusty retired.

"I don't know that he ever said goodbye to Rusty, though," said Jody Allen. "He thought he was just taking a break."

He traveled with his wife, but in his 80s Allen's health began to fail and he lost his eyesight. He never lost his spirit, sense of humor or devout faith, according to his family. When he wasn't clowning, Allen was an ordained minister and traveling pastor.

Allen and his wife, Georgia, raised four children in Southwest Portland who attended Wilson High School.

At the memorial, his children and grandchildren praised him as a loving family man with a great sense of humor.

One friend, a clown who was mentored by Rusty, perhaps summed it up best: "He brought out the child in all of us, and put a smile on all our faces."

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