



Don't forget to vote!
Tuesday, Nov. 4 is Election Day!



SW Trails president wins Spirit of Portland Award
- Page 8

Three cheers for Wilson Cheerleaders
- Page 4



Meals on Wheels needs volunteers for the holidays



The Southwest Portland Post

Volume No. 23 Issue No. 1 www.swportlandpost.com Portland, Oregon Complimentary November 2014

Prominent speakers at Lewis and Clark Law School debate marijuana legalization

MEASURE 91

By Erik C Vidstrand
The Southwest Portland

Editor's Note: At press time, Ballot Measure 91, which would legalize recreational marijuana in Oregon, awaited the fate of voters on Election Day, Nov. 4. According to a poll conducted for The Oregonian and KGW, Oregon voters were closely divided. The Oct. 26-27 survey of 403 likely voters found that 44 percent backed the legalization measure while 46 percent were opposed. Nine percent were undecided or would not say.

Four prominent speakers offered their own perspectives on legalization of marijuana in Oregon at a Sept. 25 forum at Lewis and Clark Law School.

Present were Inge Fryklund, a law professor from the University of Chicago; Anthony Johnson, a lawyer

and chief petitioner of Measure 91; Robert Whelan, an economist with Chase Bank and director of Eco NW and professor Tung Yin, from the L&C Law School and three times a clerk for U.S. Supreme Court justices.

Fryklund spoke first. The law professor said she organized Law Enforcement Against Prohibition, or LEAP, with over 120 chapters nationwide.

"The organization was formed due to the over-excessive," Fryklund said, "and inequity, of incarceration, and valuable law enforcement resources, of low-level marijuana infractions, especially with low-income people of color."

According to Fryklund, in the days of Al Capone and Prohibition, the level of corruption was very high. Hundreds died from homemade alcohol and violence on the street.

"[Marijuana] needs to be legalized so it can be regulated," Fryklund continued. A round of applause erupted.

"Violent crime related to (marijuana) drug deals will subside; purity of the product will be made clear with labeling. Standards are not going to be any worse under legalization. People will know what they're getting," Fryklund explained.

Economist Robert Whelan (nee Helan), the only non-lawyer on the panel, was next. "I like to throw cold water on grand ideas," he said.

Measure 91 organizers approached him some time ago to analyze statewide marijuana legalization from an economic perspective. Whelan's background includes similar analysis for projects in Portland on tourism, casinos, and the future James Beard



Market.

"I'd agree to work on it," Whelan said, "but I said I wouldn't vote for it."

He figured out what the market would be like if marijuana were taxed.

According to his estimates, taxes would bring in about \$40 million the first year alone. The state estimated
(Continued on Page 6)

Age-friendly businesses meet needs of the elderly

By Erik Vidstrand
The Southwest Portland Post

If you've been in Paloma Clothing in Hillsdale recently, you may have noticed that the lights are a bit brighter, the sales clerks speak a little clearer and louder, and the promotional flyers have a larger font.

Welcome to a business that is certified "age-friendly."

Businesses in Portland are becoming committed to creating an environment that caters to people of all ages, especially the elderly.

According to the nonprofit Elders in Action, every day 10,000 people turn 65 in the United States. This is currently 16 percent of the population and soon will be 22 percent.

According to Joan Corella, program manager at Elders in Action, seniors buy gifts, goods, and services.

"They're grandparents," said Corella at the Hillsdale Business and Professional Association meeting in

September, "and even caregivers to their own parents in many cases. They hold the majority of the discretionary income most of all."

Staying healthy, active, and engaged is a goal most people want to do in life. If these traits are not present, health issues, need for care, and dependence increases posing a burden on family members and the community.

"It is for this reason," Corella continued, "that businesses be age-friendly."

Face it or not, as we age, hearing loss affects one third of people over 65; older eyes need more light; the brain processes information in new ways.

"When I come into some businesses, I feel invisible," said one of the older members. "Marketing is mainly targeted at 18-35 age olds."

The audience shook their heads. Paloma Clothing originally wanted to change all its lighting to become energy efficient but soon realized

customers could read the tags much better after the switch.

Other age-friendly certified businesses in the area include Fred Meyer, Les Schwab, Marco's Cafe, Umpqua Bank, and Portland Community College.

Corella stresses improving eye contact with the customer, speaking in clear, concise sentences, and checking in with your listener.

"Putting things in legible writing," Corella said, "is information the person can read and remember later."

Age-friendly goes beyond improving communication modes; it includes the physical environment, as in seating, access, entryways, and stairs.

However many businesses, specifically those in older buildings, are not accessible. Having unisex restrooms provide a place for the elderly who are caregivers to grandchildren who may need a diaper change or the elderly may need some assistance.

Steve Arel, owner of O'Connor's Restaurant in Multnomah Village, said that his building is grandfathered in as well as other buildings in the

village.

"If I were to remodel, then I'd be held for the regulations," Arel said. "(ADA restrooms) would take up half of my restaurant space."

"New construction is one thing," said small business owner Barry Wittenberg, "but spending tens of thousands of dollars to provide complete access is unreasonable and a burden on small business owners."

Wittenberg went on to explain
(Continued on Page 6)

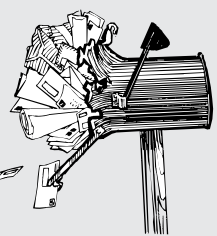


Becky Hamar, 71, works at Paloma Clothing. The store has made changes to be more elder-friendly.
(Photo courtesy of Shelby Rice, Paloma Clothing)

Don't forget to renew your subscription. Form on Page 2.

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Letters to the Editor



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Many people are rocketing up and down Shattuck Road

Will you please attend the next Hayhurst Neighborhood Association meeting at Hayhurst Elementary School on Monday, Nov. 17 at 7:00 p.m.?

Some people are going to do what they decide is right in their own mind when roads close.

The eight month construction and closure of the Fanno Creek Bridge on Oleson Road near "Crash Corner" in Raleigh Hills has had many effects on the surrounding neighborhoods.

Editor's Note: The writer is referring to the intersection of Oleson Road, Beaverton-Hillsdale Highway and Scholls Ferry Road.

[Approximately] 11,000 cars and freight trucks and pedestrians and bicyclists were using that bridge. A temporary pedestrian and bike bridge is in place.

Many people are rocketing up and down Shattuck Road. Over 27 people were at a suddenly-scheduled meeting to talk with the bridge project engineer Pat Oakes and Portland's Winston Sandino

about solutions to the traffic and safety problems.

Alpenrose Dairy, located on Shattuck Road, employs many workers and industries and has many party events.

Alpenrose is the starting place of the future Red Electric Trail, but Portland Bureau of Transportation and various bureaus need to overhaul the far edges of Southwest to resemble the cost-effective (\$89 per linear foot) overhaul of Maplewood Road. What other business in Portland is like Alpenrose?

I often walk and take a bicycle on various roads in southwest Portland, but Shattuck Road is now very scary to even walk on the shoulders and ditches during many hours of the day. (The outer parts of Vermont Street aren't pleasant, either.)

There has been a registered 150 percent increase in traffic on Shattuck Road after the closure of car traffic on Oleson Road, but that study was from early August and it was before school started.

Plus, nearby Jesuit High School and Oregon Episcopal School have many employees, parents, and students [commuting] from around the metro area; some even drive one-half mile to get to school.

The issue is that Washington County has upgraded several parts of roads in Raleigh Hills and Garden Home that range from complete overhauls like Oleson Road and the Scholls Ferry Road / Fanno Creek Bridge to wider shoulders

for pedestrians on 92nd Avenue and the part of Scholls Ferry Road from Hamilton Street to near the old Safeway by Crash Corner.

Washington County is also moving forward to overhaul Crash Corner, but what is Portland doing?

A lower 30 mph speed limit, as told by Portland Bureau of Transportation's Kyle Chisek, is on the way for Vermont Street from 30th Avenue to the county line by Oleson Road instead of the current 35 mph limit.

*Rick Kappler
Hayhurst*

Thanks for covering the Water Bureau's presentation on surplus property

Regarding, "Commissioner Fish and Water Bureau staff discuss surplus property policy," by Erik Vidstrand, The Post, October 2014.

Thank you for your coverage of the Water Bureau's presentation to the Multnomah Neighborhood Association at its meeting last month.

We visited MNA to talk about our new Surplus Property Policy, designed to strengthen public involvement and public notice requirements when the City sells surplus property.

We heard thoughtful suggestions for improvements at the meeting, and we have incorporated many of them into the new policy.

Our new, more transparent approach includes "for sale" signs on the property, notices in community newspapers, and timely notification to the local neighborhood and business associations.

MNA community members were instrumental in creating the new policy. We know we do our best work in partnership with the community, and we are grateful for MNA's ongoing feedback and involvement.

Thanks again to Moses Ross and the Multnomah Neighborhood Association for hosting us, and to *The Southwest Portland Post* for covering this important issue.

*Nick Fish
Portland City Commissioner*

*David Shaff
Water Bureau Administrator*



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THE COUNTRY STORE

By Erik Vidstrand
The Southwest Portland Post

Marco's 30th anniversary celebration benefits Doernbecher's

Last month, Marco's Café celebrated 30 years of being open for business in the old general store in the heart of Multnomah Village.

The "Taste of Marco's" was a benefit for Doernbecher Children's Hospital.

"For us, giving back to the community was the perfect way to celebrate our anniversary," said owner Dean Rothenfluch.

One hundred percent of all the proceeds raised were spent on toys and learning tools for the children in the hospital, which were purchased at Thinker Toys, another Multnomah Village business.

"The 'Taste of Marco's' featured several of our beers and wines, as well as some classic dishes and new flavors," said Rothenfluch. The event raised almost \$700.

"We could not be more grateful to our loyal patrons for coming out and supporting such an amazing cause."

"Marco's has been a staple of Multnomah Village for many years. We felt it was important to share and celebrate our anniversary with the very customers who have made Marco's what it is today."

Gigi's Café to open soon in Hillsdale

At press time, if all has gone smoothly, Gigi's Cafe, a new waffle spot featuring a soda fountain, will offer breakfast and lunch in Hillsdale, in the space formerly occupied by Korkage Wine Bar and Three Square Grill.

Owners Mike Susak and Charlene Wesler were introduced and welcomed by the Hillsdale Business and Professional Association at their monthly meeting in October. Susak and Wesler own and operate the downtown Gaufre Gourmet food cart.

"We're going to be open from 7-4 or 5," said Susak. "A grand opening is in the plans."

Golden Tickets promotion begins fifth year

The holidays are coming soon, believe it or not. Golden tickets can be used with participating merchants in Multnomah Village and Hillsdale from Nov. 15 through Dec. 31.

The concept is easy. Purchase an item at one participating shop and receive a Golden Ticket. Go across the street and pick out something and receive the promotion.

"It's become more merchant and customer friendly these past years," Multnomah Village's Randy Bonella stated. "It's the best six-week promotion ever."

Other business districts like Hillsboro and Belmont have adopted the same program with positive results Bonella said. He created the Golden Ticket program in 2009.



"A Taste of Marco's" was the theme for the cafe's 30th anniversary party. (Photo courtesy of Tami Rothenfluch Wright)

"Hurry, though!" Bonella exclaimed. "Only 35,000 have been printed this year."

Jimmy's Bar and Grill still open after all these years

Jimmy's Bar and Grill in Multnomah Village is still open. Despite years and years of sewer and road work, the disappearance of the marquee, and rumors of its demise, the place is alive and kickin'.

The Post received an email from one of our readers regarding Jimmy's so we sent a reporter to go investigate.

We talked to Jimmy's owner, Jim Prenty to get the lowdown. Turns out that the old marquee was taken down when the property was taken over and developed by the city for new sidewalks and bioswales. Will there be a new marquee?

Stay tuned to find out.



Jimmy's old marquee.

Galaxy 43 draws neighborhood attention

You might want to go down to Southwest Multnomah Boulevard and 45th Avenue to check on the progress of the new bar, Galaxy 43. Word has it that the immediate neighbors are not too keen on the new business popping up in their backyard.

Concerned citizens have made their voices known to both the Oregon Liquor Control Commission and Multnomah Neighborhood Association. According to emails obtained by *The Post*, the obvious concerns are noise, intoxicated patrons, parking, gambling, and other undesirable behaviors.

"I live in a duplex right near the bar," Todd Kunz wrote. "I have lived here for the past 15 years and greatly enjoy the quiet, safe, and friendly living environment.

"That will all change if the Galaxy 43 is allowed to open."

According to Theresa Marchetti, program specialist with the OLCC, the Multnomah Neighborhood Association chair, Moses Ross, and Stefanie Adams, Southwest crime prevention coordinator, met with the owner, Leo J. Murphy.

"We toured the business," Moses wrote, "and conveyed the concerns of

the neighborhood to the owner."

Galaxy 43 is expected to open in mid-November or early December and will be open until 2:30 a.m. on Friday and Saturday.

Currently there isn't a plan to create outdoor seating. The owner committed to posts signs both inside and out, to remind patrons to respect the neighborhood and to keep noise to a minimum.

The business owner is planning to stop music around midnight each night and to limit live performances to once a week.

Video lottery is planned three months after opening and will be placed in a location that can be monitored by the bartender and will out of view of children as is required by law.

"Parking is expected to be sufficient," Ross said. "We suggested evaluating the lighting of the east parking lot at night. This area is rather isolated."

Ross offered to be a liaison for the neighbors. The owner was very amiable to this suggestion.

According to the city website, documentation on issues with any business can include logs, pictures, video, 911 calls, police reports, and noise citations.

"I think the concerns are a little blown out of proportion," said a resident who wanted to remain anonymous. "Let them open and hold them to be a good neighbor."

POLICE BLOTTER

Pipe bomb explodes in vehicle along Southwest Capitol Hwy

Posted on FlashAlert: October 27th, 2014 10:00 AM

The Portland Police Bureau and Portland Fire & Rescue, in cooperation with Crime Stoppers of Oregon, are asking for the public's help to identify the suspect who placed a pipe bomb in a Southwest Portland neighborhood.

On Oct. 15, Central Precinct officers and the Metropolitan Explosives Disposal Unit (MEDU) responded to the report of an explosion in the parking lot of an apartment complex located in the 10600 block of Southwest Capitol Highway.

The explosion damaged one vehicle but did not result in any injuries. Bomb technicians and arson investigators collected evidence at the scene and determined that the damage was the result of an exploding pipe bomb.

Investigators are continuing to follow leads in this case but have not identified a suspect or a motive for the explosion.

At this time, there is no information to suggest that this incident is a hate crime or terror-related. Witnesses may contact the investigators directly or, to remain anonymous, they may provide information through Crime Stoppers of Oregon.

Crime Stoppers is offering a cash reward of up to \$1,000 for information, reported to Crime Stoppers, that leads to an arrest in this case, or any unsolved felony, and tipsters can remain anonymous.

Information learned from social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter or YouTube should be shared with investigators as these tips may lead to the identification of a suspect or suspects. Links can be shared directly with investigators or anonymously through Crime Stoppers.

Leave a Crime Stoppers tip online at http://crimestoppersoforegon.com/submit_online_tip.php text CRIMES (274637) and in the subject line put 823HELP, followed by the tip, or call (503) 823-HELP (4357) and leave the tip information.

Detective Joe Luiz
Portland Police Bureau
(503) 823-3408
joseph.luiz@portlandoregon.gov

Investigator Rick McGraw
Portland Fire & Rescue
(503) 823-3797
rick.mcgraw@portlandoregon.gov

Firefighters extricate patient after traffic accident

On Oct. 29 at 11:07 a.m. Portland Fire & Rescue responded to a traffic accident at the intersection of Southwest Scholls Ferry Road and Humphrey Boulevard. When firefighters arrived they found a two vehicle accident, with one driver trapped in her car. The trapped driver's car was pinned between the other vehicle and a guard rail.

Firefighters extricated the driver and she was transported to Oregon Health & Sciences University Hospital. The adult female patient was entered into the trauma system. Trauma system entry indicates either serious traumatic injury or the possibility of the same.

Wilson cheerleaders compete and win places on All-State team

The Oregon Cheerleading Coaches Association's annual All-State Competition was held Oct. 25 at Springfield High School.

Congratulations are in order to senior Ilia Duckler, junior Rachel Koch and junior Erin Koch of Wilson High School

They competed in the 2014-15 Oregon Cheerleading Coaches Associations All-State Cheerleading Individual Competition and won a place on the All-State Team.

Some 118 participants from all over Oregon jumped, tumbled and cheered for a spots on this elite, All-State Team. This year's team consists of 24 members.

These individuals will be introduced and may be invited to perform their routines at the Oregon School Activities Association State Cheerleading Competition, February 14, at Veterans Memorial Coliseum.

– Don Snedecor



Wilson High School cheerleaders Erin Koch, Ilia Duckler, and Rachel Koch competed and won places on the All-State Cheerleading Team. (Photo courtesy of Lucy Koch)

COMMUNITY LIFE

By KC Cowan and Don Snedecor
The Southwest Portland Post

4 How will the Portland Comprehensive Plan affect you?

Find out at the public hearing on the plan, Tuesday, Nov. 4 from 4:00 – 8:00 p.m. at 1900 SW 4th Avenue, Room 2500A. You can also comment ahead of time: www.portlandoregon.gov/bps/57352.

Nerd Night! Test your little “grey cells” and find out how much trivia you know! The Garden Home Community Library will host its monthly trivia night Tuesday, Nov. 4 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. The questions are not guaranteed to be easy, but the fun is! Play as an individual or a team. Free.

5 Hillsdale residents are invited to attend the monthly meeting of the Hillsdale Neighborhood Association,

Wednesday, Nov. 5 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Meet your neighbors and find out about issues that concern you. The meeting is at St. Barnabus Church, 2201 SW Vermont St. Contact Mikal Apenes, mikal@windermere.com, 503-705-9777.

8 Thanksgiving dinner at St. Barnabas Church.

Mark your calendars! On Saturday, Nov. 8 from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m., St. Barnabas Church will be hosting its annual Thanksgiving

Dinner. Don't miss the homemade pumpkin pie. Please come and meet your neighbors. Wheat free and vegan options are available. The community dinner is the second Saturday of every month.

11 Engineer Al Iverson will give a PowerPoint presentation of his ideas for Capitol Highway improvements at the next meeting of the Multnomah Neighborhood Association on Tuesday, Nov. 11 at 7:00 p.m. at the Multnomah Arts Center, 7688 SW Capitol Hwy. For more information, contact new chair Carol McCarthy, mnachair@gmail.com or visit www.swni.org/multnomah.

12 The Maplewood Neighborhood Association meets Wednesday, Nov. 12 to further discuss the Portland Comprehensive Plan. The meeting is at Maplewood School, 7452 SW 52nd Ave. Arrive at 6:45 p.m. to enjoy some social time with your neighbors. For more information, call 503-823-4592, email maplewood@swni.org or visit www.swni.org/maplewood.

14 She thrilled them on A Prairie Home Companion, and now's your chance to listen to singer-songwriter Ellis when she performs Friday, Nov. 14 at 7:00 pm at O'Connor's Vault, 7850 SW Capitol Hwy. Her singing has been called thoughtful and captivating. Seating is limited; advance tickets are recommended. Visit www.ellisidx.com. \$15 advance, \$20 at the door.

18 Keep the holidays stress free! Are you tired of the pressure to “buy more stuff” during the holidays? Come find out how to simplify your holidays; find more meaning; and create more calm and connection with your family and friends. Certified Simplicity Parenting Coach Stephana Johnson brings strategies to simplify the holiday season. Tuesday, Nov. 18, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. at the Hillsdale Library, 1525 SW Sunset Blvd. 503-988-5388. Registration is required.

19 It's not too early for Christmas music.

Join the cast of Northwest Senior Theatre for Holiday Harmonies to hear all your favorites and perhaps some new holiday tunes. The show runs Nov. 19 – 22 at the Alpenrose Dairy Opera House, 6149 SW Shattuck Road. Admission is only \$5. For more information, call 503-227-2003, email bettymer@comcast.net, or visit www.nwseniorthatre.org.

22 Science is fun! Children can learn all about science in a fun-filled class Saturday, Nov. 22 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Capitol Hill Library, 10723 SW Capitol Hwy. There will be hands-on experiences for the kids as they see chemicals change colors, levitate objects, and meet a live reptile. Free tickets available 30 minutes before the program.



Northwest Senior Theatre prepares for Holiday Harmonies, playing Nov. 19 - 22 at Alpenrose Dairy's Opera House. (Photo courtesy Northwest Senior Theatre)

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Graphic artists Jon and Karen Wippich of Hillsdale switch to fine art

PORTLAND OPEN STUDIOS

By KC Cowan
The Southwest Portland Post

For two weekends each October, local artists open up their homes and studios to perfect strangers in the hopes of sharing their talent and perhaps making a sale or two.

Portland Open Studios especially provides a way for emerging artists, who are not gallery-represented, to get some visibility. However, even artists who do show in galleries participate.

Although the majority of artists tend to be on the east side of the Willamette River, in Southwest Portland there were many studios

for art lovers to visit, and see artists in their natural environment.

Artists Jon and Karen Wippich, just outside of Hillsdale, were first time participants.

"I guess because some friends have done it," explained Jon Wippich. "We've done some shows around town and just thought it might be another avenue to get our work seen."

Jon and Karen Wippich have always been artists—they run Dotzero Design, a graphic arts business.

Some of their clients include Coca-Cola, Mississippi Studios, and Pendleton Woolen Mills. Doing *fine art* is something they've just tackled seriously in the past five years.

"Our kids are grown and I am now able to have some time to get really focused on it," said Karen Wippich.

"So I'm pretty new to this part of it."

For Portland Open Studios, the Wippichs set up their still-not-quite-completed studio they're adding on to the back of their mid-century home.

It gives them a dedicated space to devote to their art. It's a large space, which allowed both of them to hang dozens of paintings for guests to see. They paint primarily figurative, with a loose, somewhat impressionistic style.

Jon Wippich's style is colorful, yet he wants the faces to be a bit shadowy. He uses an unusual technique — reductive. He applies paint and

then removes it to develop his image.

"For me, I like drawing more than painting; painting seemed a little more uncomfortable to me," explained Jon Wippich.

"So I usually wash on a color and wipe it off with rags, or a paper towel or Q-Tips [cotton swabs], and then I'll put on another color and wipe away. And so it's more like I'm drawing with my fingers or a paper towel."

Jon Wippich often gets his inspiration from vintage photographs, including old yearbooks. Karen Wippich also enjoys using very old photographs, such as from the Civil War, as her starting point.

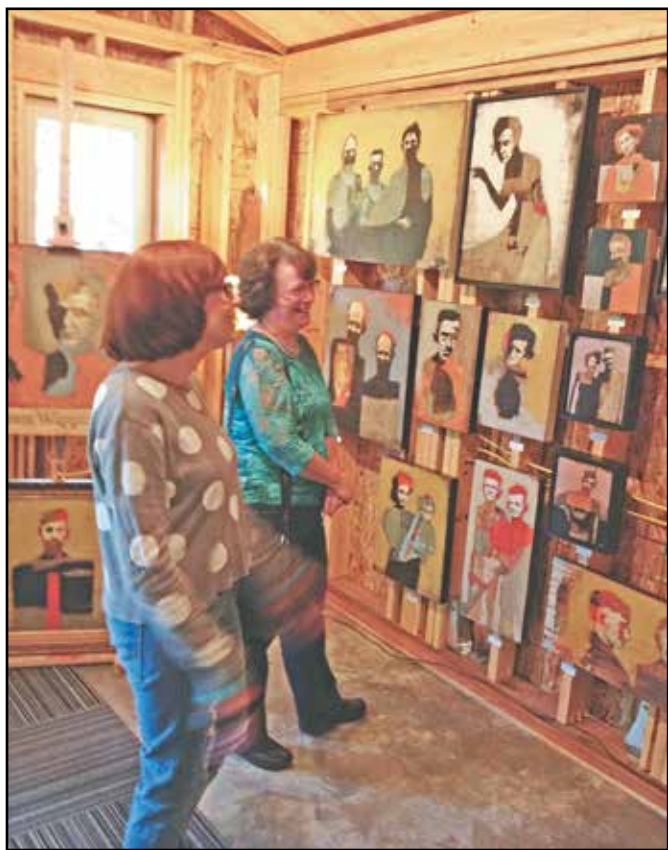
Karen Wippich often layers images on top of each other and lets her painting "tell her" where to go. This, she added, is very unlike her usual introverted, structured attitude in life.

"I like things to be perfect and in order," said Karen Wippich. "But then my paintings are the opposite. I like things to happen when I paint. I learned to let go of everything. And I've learned to paint without thinking about it."

On the first Saturday of Portland Open Studios, they had a steady stream of visitors. One small piece of Jon Wippich's sold, and two other people said they'd bring their



Karen and Jon Wippich show off examples of their art on display for Portland Open Studios. (Post photo by KC Cowan)



Marilyn Palma chats with artist Karen Wippich at this year's Portland Open Studios. (Post photo by KC Cowan)

spouses back to approve a possible sale.

But it isn't just about sales. Jon says it's been good exposure and fun to interact with people. It was also a lot of work entertaining for seven straight hours.

"Last night, we were just, let's grab something [to eat] somewhere and come back and go to bed," said Jon Wippich. "It's pretty exhausting. But it was fun."

Since moving forward with their fine art, the Wippichs have been featured in a couple of local galleries.

The Wippichs can't afford to give up their day jobs yet, but Portland Open Studios is perhaps just one more step for them on the road to being full-time creators of fine art.

Jon and Karen Wippich will participate in People's Art of Portland's Big 500 show — opening December 13. Every painting sells for \$40.

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Marijuana Legalization

(Continued from Page 1)

approximately \$18 million. Whelan went on to say it is a very complicated and layered system. "There's also the marketing of it, the tourism market, the black market," Whelan explained, "but it is very hard to get a factual basis." For Anthony Johnson, the issue became personal at while at the University of Missouri, several decades ago. His African-American friends received harder treatment when getting in trouble, even small amounts of marijuana, while his white friends, with lots of paraphernalia, only got a slap on the wrist. "I saw my black friends handcuffed in front of everyone at a party," Johnson said. "Most of [those arrested] would eventually lose their financial aid. What inequity!" Johnson helped start a student-run organization at the University of Missouri to address the issue. "The U.S. imprisons the most people in the world according to the International Centre for Prison Studies," Johnson quoted. "That's over two million individuals, many for minor infractions." Johnson co-authored Measure 91 but wanted to let the audience know he was pro-regulation, not

a pro-marijuana. "It will be taxed, and restrictions of advertising will be in place." According to Johnson, 40 percent would go to education; 25 percent to law enforcement, and the rest to mental health. Johnson explained that arrests for marijuana possessions follow people throughout their lives and interfere with job applications, rental agreements, and relationships. "Our last three presidents used marijuana. So did [Olympian] Michael Phelps, and the late astronomer, Carl Sagan." Yin mentioned he had an ongoing interest in this issue. As an activist in his early days in Berkeley, he sat at a hemp table on Telegraph Avenue. He saw how much money was spent on the drug war instead of providing money for low-income housing, education, and much needed jobs. Questions were abundant from the diverse group of faculty, students, and others in attendance. One student asked, "What happens after you smoke [marijuana] and drive under the influence?" "It's a DUII which is already a law. Nothing changes," Yin answered. Some in the audience were not excited that the Oregon Liquor

Control Commission would regulate marijuana if passed. "The respect of OLCC is low," said one young lawyer who admitted using marijuana. Johnson responded that the OLCC has experience regulating the alcohol industry, licensing, and fees, despite its reputation. "Certainly we don't want to create a new bureaucracy," Johnson said. The [state] taxes will be a one-time only \$35 per ounce. Some cities are passing local taxes as well. "What about federal preemption?" "Nothing under federal law would block the state law," Yin said. "However, that could all change if a Republican administration or Senate becomes a reality next year." U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder has said he won't enforce the federal ban. "Drug prevention education will happen but parents still need to step up like alcohol, guns, and smoking," said Johnson. "What happens after Election Day if Measure 91 passes?" asked this reporter. Johnson replied, "On New Year's Day, the state agencies will begin to develop rules and regulations. On July 1, possession and cultivation begins and arrests will subside. "The OLCC will have to issue permits after Jan. 1, 2016."

Age friendly businesses

(Continued from Page 1)

about how he reached out to senior clientele. At an annual event one year, Wittenberg didn't know why his product wasn't selling. His grandmother said it was because he didn't provide a senior discount. "The next year, I provided a senior discount and made record sales! Nana was right. Plus they just loved being carded!" "Elders in Action provide other services as well," Corella explained. "Help dealing with an eviction notices, utility bill questions, or tax issues can be overwhelming and complex even for the youngest among us. We can help." Several business owners thought it'd be a great idea to have both Hillsdale and Multnomah Village businesses go through age-friendly business training by Elders in Action. Respect, listening, and catering to any age, man or woman, and even dogs in some cases, remains more important than ever, said Corella. For more information about Elders in Action, visit www.eldersinaction.org or call 503-235-5474.

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EARTH TALK™

Questions & Answers About Our Environment

Dear EarthTalk: What's the latest on efforts to ban plastic bags? How many U.S. locales have instituted some kind of ban, and have these initiatives made a dent in the amount of plastic litter?

— Melinda Clarke, New York, NY

California made big news recently when it announced the first statewide ban on plastic shopping bags set to kick in during the middle of 2015.

Beginning in July, large grocery stores, pharmacies and other food retailers in the Golden State will no longer be able to send shoppers home with plastic bags, while convenience markets, liquor stores and other small food retailers will join the ranks a year later.

Back in 2007, San Francisco became the first U.S. municipality to ban plastic shopping bags. In intervening years upwards of 132 other cities and counties in 18 states and the District of Columbia instituted similar measures.

Of course, Americans are late to the party when it comes to banning plastic bags: The European Union, China, India and dozens of other nations already have plastic bag bans or taxes in place.

But the trend here toward banning



(Photo by Lucien Mahin, aka LucyIn, courtesy Wikimedia Commons)

plastic shopping bags comes in the wake of new findings regarding the extent and harm of plastic in our environment.

Since plastic isn't biodegradable, it ends up either in landfills or as litter on the landscape and in waterways and the ocean. Plastic can take hundreds of years to decompose and releases toxins into the soil and water in the process.

Littered plastic is also a huge problem for the health of wildlife, as many animals ingest it thinking it is food and can have problems thereafter breathing and digesting.

The non-profit Worldwatch Institute reports that at least 267 species of marine wildlife are known to have suffered from entanglement or ingestion of marine debris, most of which is composed of plastic; tens of thousands of whales, birds, seals and turtles die every year from contact with ocean-borne plastic bags.

A recent European Commission

study on the impact of litter on North Sea wildlife found that some 90 percent of the birds examined had plastic in their stomachs.

Another reason for banning plastic bags is their fossil fuel burden. Plastic is not only made from petroleum—producing it typically requires a lot of fossil-fuel-derived energy.

The fact that Americans throw away some 100 billion plastic grocery bags each year means we are drilling for and importing millions of barrels worth of oil and natural gas for a convenient way to carry home a few groceries.

It's hard to measure the impact of pre-existing plastic bag bans, but some initial findings look promising. A plastic bag tax levied in Ireland in 2002 has reportedly led to a 95 percent reduction in plastic bag litter there.

And a study by San Jose, California found that a 2011 ban instituted there has led to plastic litter reduction of

“approximately 89 percent in the storm drain system, 60 percent in the creeks and rivers, and 59 percent in city streets and neighborhoods.”

Environmental groups continue to push for more plastic bag bans. “As U.S. natural gas production has surged and prices have fallen, the plastics industry is looking to ramp up domestic production,” reports the Earth Policy Institute.

“Yet using this fossil fuel endowment to make something so short-lived, which can blow away at the slightest breeze and pollutes indefinitely, is illogical—particularly when there is a ready alternative: the reusable bag.”

CONTACTS: Worldwatch Institute, www.worldwatch.org; Earth Policy Institute, www.earth-policy.org.

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Closed during construction, Iowa Street trail scheduled to reopen Nov. 1

SOUTHWEST TRAILS

By Janet Goetze
The Southwest Portland Post

After a four-year wait, hikers may return to the Iowa Street section of Southwest Trails, east of George Himes Park, according to an Oregon Department of Transportation spokeswoman.

The 500 feet of trail was scheduled to be open by Nov. 1 along with new Iowa Street viaducts that replace deteriorating 55-year-old spans at milepost 298, north of the Terwilliger curves on Interstate 5.



SW Trails PDX president Don Baack (center) will receive the Sandy Diedrich Environmental Stewardship Award at the Spirit of Portland Awards ceremony on Nov. 6. in the atrium at Legacy Emanuel Medical Center, 501 N. Graham St. Baack has spent the better part of two decades building a trails network for Southwest Portland. The awards, started 30 years ago, recognize individuals and organizations who have made positive changes in the community. Visit www.portlandoregon.gov/oni/29024 for more information. (Post photo by Janet Goetze)

In addition, the state has repaired the Newbury Street and Vermont Street bridges on Southwest Barbur Boulevard, said Susan Hanson, an ODOT community affairs coordinator. Work on those spans was slower than expected and delayed the reopening of the Iowa Street trail, originally expected in early October, she said.

The section of trail under the freeway was closed for safety reasons while construction continued overhead, Hanson said. The trail was rebuilt on ODOT right-of-way to trail standards of the City of Portland, which will maintain it, she said.

Twenty-eight people, led by Don Baack, president of SW Trails PDX, took a 4-mile hike on Oct. 11 that included the new steps and surface of the Iowa Street trail. The hikers went ahead with the previously scheduled inaugural trek on a Saturday, when safety problems didn't arise, Hanson said.

"We value the partnership we have had with SW Trails on the design," Hanson said at a ceremony near Wilson High School before the hike began.

After the hike, Baack, who has been working on trails for two decades, praised the new section. "I think it's really nicely done," he said.

The rebuilt trail includes a spur leading to a view area where hikers may pause to gaze at Mount Hood and portions of the city on clear days. Baack said SW Trails hopes to pay for and maintain a bench for those who want to rest at the viewpoint.

Those who want to take a short walk on the new section can reach it from Southwest Iowa Street off View Point Terrace, following signs toward George Himes Natural Area.

The October hike was a return trip for some members of SW

Trails, a community membership group promoting wellness and supporting walking and biking in Southwest Portland and surrounding areas.

In 1996, volunteers resurfaced the trail with a bucket brigade, according to a post on the organization's website, www.swtrails.org. The group obtained three dozen buckets and distributed them at several gravel piles near signs that encouraged hikers to voluntarily carry loads to cover the trail.

Above the trail segment, the work on the freeway viaducts meets current roadway and seismic standards, Hanson said. It also provides wider shoulders, wider center medians, three travel lanes in each direction and a new retaining wall, with a design developed after 400 Southwest residents responded to a survey.

On Barbur Boulevard, the Newbury Street and Vermont Street bridges, built across two ravines in 1934, were deteriorating from water seeping into joints, rusting steel rebar inside the decks and causing other damage, Hanson said.

ODOT repaired the concrete deck of both spans at the bridge joints, improved drainage, improved ramps leading to the walkways, installed a taller safety railing, replaced signs and paved both bridges, she said.



Robin Vesey, Friends of Terwilliger president, points out the new Iowa Street trail, rebuilt by the state, passing under Interstate 5 and Barbur Boulevard viaducts. Grass is growing beside the trail and plants are being added. (Post photo by Janet Goetze)

The construction areas, including slopes beside the trail, have been seeded with grass, and trees and shrubs are being planted. ODOT also removed invasive ivy and blackberry brambles.

"We are pleased to see that native plants have been coming back in areas where we removed noxious weeds," Hanson said.

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