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January 31, 2007

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~ LIBRARY EVENT ~

SPRINGFIELD'S 14TH ANNUAL PUPPET FESTIVAL

Wildish Theatre to host event

Puppeteers from the Pacific Northwest will perform at the fourteenth annual Springfield Puppet Festival. Performances will be held in the new Wildish Theatre for the Performing Arts, at 630 Main Street, Springfield.

Saturday, February 3 at 1:00 and again at 3:00, Tears of Joy Theatre presents, *The Reluctant Dragon*. Find out what happens when a magnificent dragon moves into the neighborhood in this delightful tale about a dragon that doesn't want to fight, based on the story by Kenneth Grahame.

Tears of Joy Theatre combines several styles of puppetry in *The Reluctant Dragon*, including hand and rod puppets as well as Japanese bunraku puppetry. Tears of Joy Theatre is recognized nationally and internationally for its commitment to excellence and innovation.

Saturday, February 10 at 1:00 and at 3:00, Oregon Shadow Puppets presents "Jack and the Varmints". The King and Princess Polly have varmint trouble. Might be a pesky Unicorn. Could be a cantankerous Giant Hog. Maybe a Fire-Breathing Dragon. Who can deal with these troublesome varmints? Why, Little Man Jack, of course, the world champion varmint whacker! Colorful shadow puppets and live music bring this Appalachian fairy tale to life.

The Oregon Shadow Theatre is a Portland based company specializing in the art of shadow puppetry. Their award-winning shadow plays have toured the United States and Canada.

Both puppet shows are appropriate for all ages. All performances are free and will be held in the Wildish Theater for the Performing Arts, 630 Main Street, Springfield.

The Springfield Puppet Festival is produced by the Springfield Public Library and the Springfield Arts Commission. It is sponsored by Pacific Continental Bank, Springfield Utility Board, and the Springfield Library Foundation.

For more information call the Springfield Public Library at 726-3766.