

NEWSBRIEFS

Layoffs hit Street Root's copy editing staff of copy editors

As the newspaper industry continues to reel from a downturn in revenues, even nonprofit papers are feeling the crunch.

In an announcement this week, Street Roots says it will be laying off its entire staff of volunteer copy-editors. The move marks the first such voluntary layoffs in the organization's 10-year history.

The cuts were made in an effort to reduce expenses and trim overhead, and comes at a time when people are increasingly relying on the printed page for their news and information.

"The entire industry is feeling pressure to cut costs," says Managing Editor Joanne Zuhl. "We just felt that we could no longer justify the expense of people sucking up an entire stretch of table, free coffee and water, not to mention the cost of heating and cooling them in the office, and for what? We will continue to support them in their efforts to volunteer elsewhere."

Zuhl added that she expects readers will not notice any change in the paper's quality.

Columbia River crossing takes a new direction with tram proposal

Facing mounting criticism about a proposed multibillion-dollar, 12-lane bridge to replace the aging Interstate 5 span over the Columbia River, Portland Mayor Sam Adams is floating an alternate idea: a massive aerial tram.

"The financial and popular success of the OHSU tram makes this a possibility worth exploring," the mayor said. "Plus, it's got great 'green' potential. Think of it -- no asphalt, no exhaust, and a less-obstructive view as huge cables ferry passenger vehicles and long-haul trailers in a dazzling aerial ballet over the mighty Columbia." Adams said, a single tear rolling down his cheek.

"In fact," he said, "there's not much point in voting for it. It's a great idea. Let's just do it. It'll pay for itself. Trust me."

Noting that such a tram holds potential for drawing tourists even during Portland's notorious rainy season, the mayor unveiled a test slogan for use by the Visitors Bureau: "Tram it where the sun don't shine," he said, chuckling uneasily.

CCCCCC merger combines record number of C's

BY C. WADAMENE
UNEMPLOYED WRITER

In a startling and unprecedented move, Central City Concern (CCC), the city's largest social-service provider, announced Monday that it would merge completely with the Community Cycling Center (CCC) on Northeast Alberta. The merger will cut costs and reduce acronym-related confusion, representatives of the organizations said.

Central City Concern has provided housing services and addiction treatment in Old Town/Chinatown since 1979, when the area was characterized by poverty and crime. With development of the adjacent Pearl District in the 1990s, the area has gone more upscale.

Now, many new downtown residents mistake the building with the "CCC" logo for another branch of the Community Cycling Center, which sells refurbished bicycles and runs a full-service repair shop in the Alberta Arts District.

"It used to be just once or twice a year someone showed up expecting you to fix the chain on their rebuilt 1985 Italian racing bike," said Eleanor Patton, a Central City Concern caseworker. "But now it's pretty much constant."

Meanwhile, legions of low-income residents who were priced out of downtown moved to the Eastside -- and many have walked into the Community Cycling Center hoping for medical care and housing assistance, according to volunteer mechanic Dave Sanderson.

Explaining misconceptions and redirecting frustrated clients was eating into both organizations' resources and staff time, their directors said, so for efficiency's sake they decided to combine their operations. Starting in May, the Old Town and Alberta locations will each offer addiction treatment, supportive housing, benefits assistance, bicycle sales and maintenance, and workshops on cycle commuting.

"Research has shown time and again that services are most effective when they're packaged together," said City Commissioner Nick Fish, who is in charge of housing and community development. "I know that CCCCCC will help hundreds of people get back on their feet -- and right onto a sweet new set of wheels."

Mayor Sam Adams, who is in charge of bicycles, was not available for comment.

Spokespeople for Clackamas Community College (CCC), Columbia River Crossing (CRC), Creedence Clearwater Revival (CCR) and the former Soviet Union (CCCP) said they had no immediate plans to join the merger.

In other news:

- Street Access For Everyone (SAFE), the group that oversees enforcement of Portland's sit/lie ordinance, has faced criticism in the past for allowing people to be cited under the law despite the lack of public benches downtown. To respond to detractors and demonstrate their ongoing commitment to providing alternate places for people to sit and lie, the group has formed a subcommittee called Seating Opportunities For All (SOFA). It will meet the fifth Tuesday of every month at 8 a.m.

- As part of a city-sponsored effort to encourage dialogue between diverse communities, two Northwest organizations have formed a unique partnership: Portland's Youth Alliance for Development Alternatives is teaming up with a Washington group called the Yakima Aging with Dignity Association. The two groups' members will meet, share their experiences and concerns, then raise public awareness of age-related issues in a series of town hall-style open forums. The first YADA-YADA community conversation will take place April 31 at First Presbyterian Church downtown. For more information, see the Web site for Portland's citywide community-building initiative, Sharing Makes Us Great (SMUG).

- The 2007 effort to rename Interstate Avenue after Mexican labor leader César Chávez caused an uproar, but city planners are determined not to make the same mistakes again. As they explore the possibility of rechristening the same street in honor of literary hero Don Quixote, the city will consult extensively with the Interstate Corridor Urban Renewal Advisory Committee (ICURAC), the Interstate People with Endless Complaints Advisory Committee (IPECAC), and the Advisory Committee on Relations with Oregon's Neighbors, Youth and Minorities (ACRONYM).

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wasn't how I expected it would turn out," Peterson said.

The prank turned ugly around 4 a.m., when the hazers realized that goldfish don't necessarily die when eaten. The situation soon deteriorated into the grisly scene the preschoolers discovered yesterday morning.

Paramedics on the scene said they were shocked by the victim's conditions.

"I'd never seen anything like it before," said one guy, who declined to be named for this article but who felt he was trustworthy enough to be quoted anonymously. "It's amazing any of them survived."

Despite police efforts to block off the scene, images were instantly broadcast over the Web by concerned students who shot

hundreds of redundant pictures with their cell phones.

Police say they expect the northbound lanes of Broadway will remain closed through next week as HAZMAT crews continue the cleanup.

Under new Homeland Security laws, the names of the victims have already been erased from history.

The new Rose City Resource is in the house. Call Eddy at 503-228-5657 to reserve yours today.

VENDOR WORK ADS

Bruce Heino: Available for yard work, general assistance, four-hour minimum, wage negotiable. Please call the Street Roots office or contact New Seasons at 33rd and Killingsworth.

Bill Atkinson: Yard work, moving, misc. Four-hour minimum, \$10 an hour. Call Street Roots office at 503-228-5657.

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Handy man needs work: moving, painting, yard work, clean-up. If I can sweat and you can be doing something else, please call me at 503-803-2533. Mark Works. 4 hour minimum, \$12.50 per hour start plus lunch.

Rose City Resource

Call Eddy Barbosa at Street Roots at 503-228-5657 or write to pdxrosecityresource@hotmail.com

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