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THE WEEK IN REVIEW

Unemployment Still Unchanged

Although construction and lumber seem to be ok, the unemployment rate is still at 7.3 percent for Oregon.

FBI Check Shooting

Robert Thomas, of Vancouver Wash, was shot in the back by Police Officer John Parr. Thomas crashed into a utility pole after a police chase.

Helen Hayes Dies

The First Lady of American Theater dies in her sleep at age 92, of congestive heart failure.

Amtrak Train Crashes Gas Tanker

A gasoline tanker stuck in traffic at a railroad crossing in Oakland Park, Fla hit by Amtrak train. 6 drivers die, 15 drivers injured and approximately 100 train passengers injured.

Branch Davidian Saga Continues

Federal agents claimed the cult was warned about the raid by some Waco newspaper employees.

Senate Votes On Registration

The Senate voted to remove most of the hurdles that separate votes from the ballot box. It will be as easy as getting your driver's license. New Alzheimer's Drug

Federal panel ok'd new alzheimers drug. Tacrine has shown to be effective to reduce the effects of the terminal brain disease.

The City Of Portland Takes House

The City of Portland enforced the receivership law and took a home from the owner Rachel Ristick on NE Everett and gave it to the Housing Authority to repair and rent it.

The Drug Beta Interferon Gets Approval

Beta interferon which stops the process that causes multiple sclerosis was approved by the advisory committee of the Food and Drug Administration.

Yeltsin Impeachment

Boirs Yeltsin is threatened to be impeached. He needs to go to the summit, but maybe shouldn't leave his country.

Clinton Potpourri

Proposing a scientific approach to meet inspection; seeking \$45 million to finish S&L cleanup; approval for Oregon Medicaid waiver; national health plan will ask for more taxes and limits on choice of doctor; House gave him budget victory; Oregon health bill approved;

Tri-Met Unveils Minority and Women Participation Plan for Westside Light Rail



The committee made several program recommendations focused on expanding outreach and technical assistance to minorities and women interested in participating on what will turn out to be the largest public works project in the history of the state

Story by James L. Posey

About 60 people, including the media, gather on Friday, March 20, at the Northeast Work Force Center on Killingsworth to hear the latest Tri-Met and Oregon Department of Transportation proposal for including minorities and women on the Westside Light Rail. Tri-Met General Manager Tom Walsh presented the report from the Oregon Opportunity Advisory Committee, which was chaired by Sam Brooks, executive director of the Oregon Association of Minority Entrepreneurs (OAME).

The committee made several program recommendations focused on expanding out-

reach and technical assistance to minorities and women interested in participating on what will turn out to be the largest public works project in the history of the state. Committee members Jennie Portis and Larry Sanchez presented concepts for improving apprenticeship programs and broader employment opportunities for minorities during and after completion of the project. Similarly, Wayne Thomas, another committee member who represents Hoffman Construction, discussed plans for improved access for minority and women contractors.

While the general tone of the news conference was positive, a representative from

the National Association of Minority Contractors (NAMCO) questioned the prospect for the successful participation of African-American contractors given the poor history of inclusion on the part of both agencies. NAMCO officials later expressed concern that while the work of the committee was positive, it hardly represents any cause for hoopla. It was noted that not one contract has been awarded, and so far the consultants are the only ones assured a piece of the action. Other committee members stressed that the proposed recommendations were just the beginning and that the processes would be a continuous effort.

Tri-Met Encourages Minority Participation In Westside Max

Tri-Met will employ a comprehensive and far-reaching package of initiatives to direct federal dollars for Westside MAX construction to paychecks of Oregonian workers,

"The training incentive is a bold step for Tri-Met to take," commented Sam Brooks, president of the Oregon Association of Minority Entrepreneurs and chair of Tri-Met's Oregon Opportunity Advisory Committee. "This is the direction of the future for public agencies, and I am pleased Tri-Met has followed our advice," he said.

Jennie Portis, director of the Northeast Workforce Center and chair of the committee's workforce sub-committee, also praised Tri-Met but cautioned the provisions are only a first step. "They are moving in the right direction, but we hope they will go further," Portis said.

Congressman Wyden, unable to join committee members in Portland because of duties in Washington, expressed his pleasure that Tri-Met had initiated an aggressive program.

Wyden held a hearing on Westside contracting and employment opportunities last August. "Tri-Met agreed to make an extra effort then, and it is clear their effort will spark the creation of new jobs and business opportunities in Oregon's small business sector," Wyden said.

Tri-Met's partner in the Westside project, the Oregon Department of Transportation, is cosponsor of the Oregon Opportunity Committee. "We are committed to a program of action similar to Tri-Met's when our turn comes," asserted ODOT regional director Bruce Warner. ODOT's first major Westside project contract will not be ready for bid until fall 1993.

General Manager Tom Walsh said he "couldn't be more pleased" with the process leading to the announcements. "This committee did an absolutely outstanding job with an intensely difficult subject. We couldn't have a better set of advisors," Walsh said.

The plan emphasizes information and technical assistance. Two "information clearinghouse" functions will be established for prospective workers and contractors. Women and disadvantaged business enterprises will be offered technical assistance in preparing bids for Westside work. Workforce outreach includes referrals for contractors seeking qualified applicants and assistance to applicants in locating child care, transportation and other support services.

Tri-Met's new Westside Project Bid Center at 629 NE Oregon St. will be the central source of information and referral services on contracting opportunities. Tri-Met is engaging four organizations to provide information and technical assistance to help implement its Oregon outreach program.

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For the tunnel contract, first of the Westside Max contracts to go out to bid, the critical trades are carpenters, operating engineers, electricians, cement masons and skilled general laborers. An amount of \$150,000 in the tunnel contract will be available for training incentive pay.

Jim Hill To Improve Treasury Operations

Oregon State Treasurer, Jim Hill announced that, at his request, the Secretary of State has agreed to conduct a series of independent audits and reviews of the Oregon State Treasury in a effort to improve internal controls and accountability in Treasury operations.

"Some questionable investments in the Commercial Real Estate Program uncovered in 1991 have undermined much of the positive work done by the Treasury. These events have led us to a broader review of the entire Treasury. The audits and reviews will serve as a blueprint for improving Treasury accountability. Only through openness and accountability can we reestablish the public's confidence in the Treasury as steward of the State's \$22 billion investment fund," Treasurer Hill said.

In early January, Treasurer Hill asked Secretary of State Keisling to undertake a series of audits and reviews of the Oregon Treasury. As a result of that request, the following actions will be taken:

An independent operations review will be performed to evaluate the Treasury's investment accounting procedures, internal controls, and documentation. This review expected to begin in early May, 1993.

Administrative audits of the Treasury will be done on an annual basis. Currently the Secretary of State's office is required to conduct these audits at least every three years. The first audit for the period ended December 31, 1992, has already begun as a result to Treas-

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Faye Burch To Serve As Advocate



Faye Burch

Governor Roberts has appointed Faye Burch to permanently fill the position of Advocate for the Office of Minority, Women and Emerging Small Business (OMWESB). Burch, who had been acting Advocate, will also continue to serve on the governor's senior policy staff.

Burch, 43, will manage the OMWESB certification and compliance program, as directed under ORS 279.059, provide a clearinghouse for contractors seeking bid opportunities, and produce a quarterly directory of certified firms for public agencies, prime contractors and private corporations.

As Advocate, Burch will represent the governor on the Westside Lightrail advisory committee, the Metropolitan Exposition Recreation Committee advisory committee, the Oregon Association of Minority entrepreneurs

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Civil Rights Journal "Civil Rights Enforcement: Reno's Mandate" Racism and sexism are twin evils that should be consistently challenged Page A3	News "Early Black Churches Played Many Roles In Members Lives" Mt. Olivet Baptist... lumber was donated by a branch of the Klu Klux Klan. Page A6	Religion The Portland Observer Invites You Save Up To 70% In Our Annual Easter Edition Page B8	Health "The Color Of Health: Part III" We are about developing minds, not destroying them with "Ritlan or Prozac." Page B9
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