

Mandela Honored

Howard University bestows an honorary degree on South Africa President Nelson Mandela.



See National, page A3.

NW Writers To Perform

Charlotte Watson Sherman of Seattle will present readings from her best works at North Portland's Firehouse Cultural Center.



See Entertainment, page B4.

Vikings Head For Playoffs

Portland State beats Southern Utah and now prepare for the playoffs.



See Sports, page B2.

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THE WEEK IN REVIEW

Hospitals Object To Assisted-Suicide

Some Oregon hospitals are saying they won't participate in doctor-assisted suicide. Oregon has become the first jurisdiction to legalize doctor-assisted suicide. Voters approved the measure last Tuesday to permit patients diagnosed with six months or less to live the option of taking life-ending medications.

Republicans Make Huge Gains

Republicans are in a position to claim a dominant role in American government that it has not had for decades. The voters gave Republicans their first majority of governors since 1970, their first U.S. House majority since 1954 and a majority in the U.S. Senate.

Labor Commissioner Unseated

Absentee ballots changed the outcome of Oregon's Labor Commissioner race. Democrat Mary Wendy Roberts was leading her Republican opponent Jack Roberts after last Tuesday's vote. But by Friday, absentee ballots gave the win to the challenger, a Lane County commissioner from Eugene. Mary Wendy Roberts, labor commissioner since 1978 and a former Portland legislator, has been widely recognized as a champion for civil rights enforcement.

Oregon Health Plan In Doubt

Oregon Republicans are taking aim at the Oregon Health Plan after winning majorities in the House and Senate. Sen. Gordon Smith, R-Pendleton, the incoming Senate president, says mandates requiring employers to provide health coverage for their workers are too costly for small business.

OCA Pledges New Assault

In the wake of a second statewide defeat at the polls, leaders of the Oregon Citizen's Alliance said they will try again to pass legislation to limit gay rights. Oregon voters narrowly defeated the OCA initiative last Tuesday, primarily because of a strong no vote in the Portland area. A similar measure was also narrowly defeated in Idaho.

City Gears-Up To Upgrade Parks

Portland residents like their parks and want to see them improved. That was the message with passage of a \$58.8 million bond levy. The initiative was supported by Police Chief Charles Moose and other leaders in North and Northeast Portland.

North-South Rail Moves Forward

Tri-Met has the green light to pursue a light rail line through North and Northeast Portland from Clackamas to Vancouver, Wash. Voters approved a \$475 million bond levy last week. But the proposal will still need approval by Clark County residents, state legislatures in Oregon and Washington and Congress.

Clerks Return

Portland area grocery workers are back to work after nearly three months of a strike and lock-out.

Though many workers left the bargaining table unsatisfied, they gained some concessions in their demands. The employers also came out of the dispute with financial pains and hoping for progress. Workers had gone on strike demanding consideration of seniority in job scheduling, wage increases and health and welfare benefits.

Under the agreement, senior pay for clerks, formerly \$12.20 an hour, will climb to \$13.10 in the third year of a three year contract. The pay for some cashiers at Fred Meyer will rise from \$10.00 to \$10.90.

Fred Meyer stores were the picket target for the union, but Safeway, Albertsons, Kienows and some Sentry and Thriftway stores locked-out their union employees during the strike.

The contract, however failed to provide workers with guaranteed full-time hours, a central issue in the bargaining.



Lylliana 'Sam' Luther, a union employee off the job for three months because of a labor dispute, received warm greetings from customers Monday on her first day back to work at the Safeway on Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Luther said she couldn't believe how many customers welcomed her back. "There's so much love, it's just incredible."

Economy Good For Training Schools

A robust economy in the construction trades is creating the highest demand in decades for electricians.

That's one reason why the Metro Electrical Training Trust on Northeast 42nd and Killingsworth is such an active place.

The center is a home for up to 320 apprentices learning the electrician trade and 2,000 journeymen electricians attending continuing education classes.

Ken Fry is responsible for the overall management of the school.

"A lot of construction activity is going on," Fry explained. "Commercial, industrial, residential, just a lot of activity."

Fry said the school opened apprentice applications twice this year just to keep up with the demand. And a number of employees are coming from outside the area to fill the need.

The minimum age to enroll as an apprentice is 18. There's no maximum age limit. A lot of the apprentices are in their 30s and 40s.

"He have people coming in making career changes who are in mid-life," Fry explained.

Journeymen electricians earn \$23.05 per hour, including a generous fringe benefit package. An apprentice starts at 40 percent of scale which is \$9.22 per hour.

Fry said the word is finally getting out, becoming an electrician is not only a good job, but a career that provides a family income.

It's also a "earn while you learn" program. Pay raises are also earned each year of the apprenticeship.



Ken Fry directs the Metro Electrical Training Trust in Northeast Portland.

The five-year apprenticeship is the most popular of the programs at the school, Fry said. The school can get up to 900 applicants in a year.

Metro is committed to an affirmative action hiring program to increase the ranks of minority and female electricians.

The school is trying to build the awareness of the program particularly in northeast Portland.

"We are in northeast Portland and we want to be good neighbors," Fry said.

There are some basic requirements for entry into the program. The demands include at least a high school diploma with a 2.0 grade point average, or a

G.E.D. with a score of 230, and one year of high school algebra with a passing grade of C.

"That's so critical," Fry said. "Math is so important."

The school will recommend that applicants take two quarters of math at Portland Community College if they are lacking the algebra requirement.

Fry's message for young people is not to lower their sights and to keep working on math, science and communications skills.

"You always should keep learning," he said. "The more schooling, the more employable you are."

Adopt A Family Seeks Adopters

Volunteers of America's Adopt-A-Family program is seeking people or organizations interested in helping families in need during the holiday season. The program matches low-income families with individuals, families, groups or businesses who provide food, clothing, gifts, and toys for the holiday season. Adoptions help low-income families with children under 18 or low-income seniors over 60.

The year's program has been refined to improve the screening process for the program's beneficiaries. Families in need are referred exclusively through schools and social service agencies that work with children from low-income families. "This enables us to reach families who otherwise wouldn't be reached," said Jonica Lynn, Adopt-A-Family coordinator. "It's a great way to help truly needy people and a meaningful way to celebrate the holidays."

Those interested in adopting a family should call 23-ADOPT (232-3678). Those who cannot adopt a family but would like to help can support the program through a monetary donation sent to Volunteers of America, 537 SE Alder St., Portland, OR 97214.

Volunteers of America is a nationwide social service organization with branches in more than 200 communities. Volunteers of America Oregon, Inc. serves the community through child care, child abuse prevention, a shelter for homeless women with children, a senior center, senior health clinic, adult daycare program, residential alcohol and drug treatment facilities, a shelter for homeless adolescent girls, parent training services, and a Christmas assistance program.

Barry Bounces Back: A Lesson For Recovering Addicts

BY PROMISE KING

Marion Barry once again proved to the pessimists that the down fall of a man is not always the end of his life. His recent political victories, his bid for nomination and his subsequent win over his opponent in last week's election is a clear testimony that there is hope after dope.

Barry reclaimed the District of Colum-

bia's mayoral seat four years after facing conviction for drug possession. His political return began six months after his release from prison, when he won a council seat in the district.

When he announced his fourth bid for mayor last May, Barry's past drug and alcohol abuse stood like a clog on his wheel to success, but he was undaunted, contending

that overcoming his addiction best qualified him to lead the city that is ravaged by all imaginable social vices.

"Who can better help our city recover than someone who himself has gone through recovery?" he had asked the voters during his campaign.

Barry received his votes among the poor, the young and the disposed electorate, who

had embraced him after he completed his prison term.

Democrat Barry's political opponent Republican Carol Schwartz had chided him as responsible for the city's ills. She had contended that Barry's personal failures had left the city in fiscal problems, crime and poverty. But voters disagreed.

Come what may, Barry is back as mayor.

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