

High School Track Survives

Portland schools compete in track, hurdling budget cuts.



See Sports, Page A7.

Join In Celebrating Our

25th ANNIVERSARY

Jazz On The Willamette

Ron Steen and other musicians will cruise this summer in "A Taste Of Jazz."



See page B3.

The Portland

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THE WEEK IN REVIEW

Police, Firefighters Sought

A team recruiting police officers and firefighters/EMTs for the Eugene Department of Public Safety will meet with interested individuals on Thursday, April 6 at the Portland Urban League, 10 N. Russell. Two sessions are planned at 5:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Department officials said increasing the number of people of color and women in public safety services is a critical element in the city's long-range plans to provide quality services.

PCC Library Opens To Party

Area residents are invited to help celebrate the opening of the new library and resource center on the north Portland campus of Portland Community College. The event is set for Friday, April 7 from 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Mildred Oilee, the new PCC Cascade Executive Dean will welcome the community in her first speaking engagement at the school. Tours of the new building will be provided.

Astronomer Had "Right Stuff"

University of Oregon astronomer Greg Bothun had a project aboard the recently completed space shuttle Endeavor. Bothun used a highly sensitive ultra-violet imaging telescope on board the space shuttle to photograph hidden galaxies. He said the project was a big success.

No Fault Found With Farrakhan Firms

Housing and Urban Development Secretary Henry Cisneros has told Congress that he found no evidence to support allegations that security guards were recruiting for minister Louis Farrakhan while patrolling federal housing projects. Cisneros said his agency's investigation was limited, but warned that any further probe would amount to the "persecution" of the Nation of Islam.

Shakur Starts Sentence

Controversial rap music star Tupac Shakur has begun serving a four and a half year prison term after being found guilty of sexual assault of a woman in a New York hotel. The 23-year-old will be eligible for parole in 18 months.



Master of Ceremonies Jimmy Brown and Tamera Stevens of the Solid Rocks Speech Choir, perform Saturday at the Dishman Community Center. "It's Time To Make A Change, Salute to African-American History," was presented as a self-esteem building project for youth. Many organizations, including the gang resource intervention team and Emmanuel Temple's Redirections Youth Program participated. (Photos Donn Thomas)

Tiernan Denies Racism

BY PROMISE KING

State Rep. Bob Tiernan of Lake Oswego is as confrontational as he is controversial.

The conservative Republican lawmaker had taken on the state's employee unions in support of Ballot Measure 8 which slashed the pension benefits for public employees.

His recent fight against the Children Services Division and its administrator Kay Toran, made him Oregon's most contentious politician once again.

And now Tiernan continues his forays into battle by sponsoring a bill that would eliminate affirmative action, the system of awarding contracting and employment preferences to woman, minorities and the dis

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Kitzhaber: A Shining Democrat

BY PROMISE KING

The power of his warmth. His irrepresible energy and his deft political calculations, has made Oregon Gov. John Kitzhaber a star Democrat.

Many political pundits were stunned last November, as Kitzhaber resiliently trounced his Republican opponent, conservative die-hard Denny Smith.

But this is not a surprise as you explore the governor's past political exploits. Even in his first election in the Republican threshold of southern Oregon's Douglas County, he pummelled his way successfully to the state Senate.

He powered his way also through the thick political wall of his colleagues to become the Senate President, while still venturing out at intervals to practice his beloved profession of medicine.

And because of him and a few other Democrats who survived the Republican hurricane of the elections, the torchlight of the Democratic Party, at least in Oregon, continues to glow.

The Portland Observer caught up with the governor in an exclusive interview at the State Capitol. The skylight overlooking his office was calm, but the bustling and hustling of the bevy of politicians around him undermines the serenity.

We listen as the governor speaks about his career in politics, his family life, the party



Gov. John Kitzhaber in his office at the Capitol in Salem. (Photo by Don Thomas)

agenda and his disappointments and aspirations.

"I was completely un-political. I really

had no interest in politics until 1968," he said.

Kitzhaber said his mind was changed during the Vietnam War era in the height of

the civilrights period, when Dr. Martin Luther King and Bobbie Kennedy were assassinated.

"I think a lot of people of my age thought that this was an enormous tragedy," he said.

Kitzhaber said King and Kennedy demonstrated that individuals could make a difference in the system.

"That was literally the point which I decided to be involved in politics," the governor explained.

Kitzhaber's success at politics didn't come on a silver platter.

Fresh from his medical internship in 1978, Kitzhaber settled in Douglas County and forayed into politics. He started with his liberal political beliefs and inclinations, a clear contrast to his conservative constituents.

"I was making political moves which didn't reflect the philosophy of southern Oregon," he said, contending instead, that "I ran for election because leadership is about not necessarily getting people to agree with you, but getting people who don't agree with you, to bring them along."

That is exactly what this astute politician has done, as evidenced by his support, even among his political foes.

Neither his parents nor his medical colleagues could fathom his new found taste for this uncertain world of politics.

His family, however, stood behind him,

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Bill Would Add Flex To Enterprise Zones

North and northeast Portland could see a greater return in jobs and wages if a bill by Rep. Margaret Carter to give more local control over property tax enterprise zones survives the Legislature.

The House Commerce Subcommittee on Business has held hearings on the bill. Carl Talton of the North/Northeast Economic Development Alliance, Inc. and Jorge Guerra of the Oregon Association of Minority Entrepreneurs testified in favor of the bill, as did Don McLave of the Portland Chamber of Commerce, Multnomah County Commissioner Gary Hansen and the staff of the Portland Development Commission.

The original enterprise zone was created in 1988, and additional zones were added in

1993. Enterprise zones are designated geographic areas in which cities or counties can offer tax breaks to encourage business investment in economically deprived areas.

In exchange for property tax concessions, a business agrees to hire a percentage of its workforce from residents of the enterprise zone.

Under the best of circumstances, the community and the company mutually benefit. But after eight years of experience with the North/Northeast Enterprise Zone, not all local officials and community leaders believe the community has received full value, all of the time, for the tax concessions.

Issues at stake include the percentage of workers hired from within the enterprise zone, how long those employees must be retrained

and at what wages they are paid.

Carter's proposed law would give city and county officials the option to negotiate agreements with employers that would have greater long-term impact on the community.

"Negotiating enterprise zones is a balancing act," Carter told the House subcommittee. "If you ask too much, businesses will not locate within the enterprise zone, but if you ask too little, the community won't receive full value for its property tax concessions."

"But these are essentially local concerns and the decision on what to require should be made by local officials with the agreement of the employer. Local control over enterprise zones is the only way we can be sure that we are getting the greatest benefit for our tax dollars," Carter said.

Youth Vie For Portland Honor

The Boys and Girls Clubs of Portland will put the spotlight on outstanding youth, including two kids from northeast Portland, at its annual Youth of the Year banquet Friday, March 31, beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the Pantheon Banquet Hall, 5932 S.E. 92nd.

Five finalists, representing each of the Portland-area Boys and Girls clubs, will be honored during the event. A generous sponsorship from Chevron Corp. helps award the winner a \$2,000 scholarship for educational or vocational purposes, while the four runners-up will each earn a \$500 U.S.

Savings Bond.

The candidates are interviewed prior to the banquet by a panel of area judges. They are asked about club activities, school activities, community service, home and family, spiritual values, obstacles they may have overcome and public speaking.

The Portland Youth of the Year will have the opportunity to compete with other representatives for state honors and possible national honors.

Ken Boddie of KOIN-TV will emcee the celebration. Former Trail Blazer Michael Thompson will deliver the keynote address. For more information or to reserve a seat, call Dana Gritzmacher at the Boys and Girls Club at 232-0077.

EDITORIAL

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CLASSIFIEDS

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