

Walnut Park Comes To Life!

Local dignitaries invite area residents to celebrate the grand opening of the Walnut Park Retail Center.



See Metro, inside.

Join In Celebrating Our

25th

ANNIVERSARY

Photography As Art

Talented north Portland photographer Steven Beals puts his personal collection of works on exhibit.



See Arts and Entertainment, page B2.

The Portland Observer

Mrs. Frances Schoen-Newspaper P
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THE WEEK IN REVIEW

Ethics Panel Charges Packwood

The Senate Ethics Committee has formally charged Bob Packwood with sexual misconduct, evidence tampering and use of his office for financial gain. The panel surprised their colleagues by leveling tough-worded and often explicit charges describing the misconduct.

Public Employees Negotiate Deal

The Oregon Public Employees Union will get a 5 percent raise July 1 and 2 percent raise in May 1997, in a deal worked out Saturday with the state. The state had offered only a 2 percent raise which led to a one week strike.

Memorial Day Honors Set

Soldiers from the Civil War period, native Americans of the Indian Wars and the Buffalo soldiers they fought in battle, will be honored at a special commemoration, May 29 at 2:30 p.m. at the Washington Park Amphitheater. The event was announced by Hyalite, the Buffalo Soldier retrospective program.

Trade Sanction Plan Draws Fire

University of Oregon economist Ray Mikesell, who worked on the original General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, is critical of the Clinton administration's proposed trade sanctions on Japanese autos. Mikesell says the tariffs, as much as 100 percent on Japanese luxury car imports, will likely cause U.S. auto makers to raise the price of their cars.

Pennsylvania Avenue Closed

President Clinton on Saturday announced the immediate closing of Pennsylvania Avenue in front of the White House to all but pedestrian traffic to deter a potential car or truck bomb attack.

Dallas Elects New Mayor

Winning 62 percent of the vote, lawyer Ron Kirk has been elected the first African American mayor of Dallas, Texas. Kirk ran on a platform of pro-business, anti-crime and opposition to rising property taxes. He is a former aide to former Sen. Lloyd Bentsen and was Secretary of State under former Gov. Ann Richards.

Crib Death Theory Advanced

A consulting forensic and research scientist at the University of Oregon may have solved the mystery of crib deaths. Barry Richardson, says crib mattresses through ordinary use become infected with common fungi, converting fire retardants into extremely toxic compounds. The controversial theory was recently published in the Journal of the Forensic Science Society.

Angola Peace At Hand

One of the longest running and bloodiest wars in Africa appears to be over. Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos met for two hours recently with rebel leader Jonas Savimbi in neighboring Zambia and emerged embracing and pledging to implement a U.N.-brokered peace accord. Since the fighting began in 1975, an estimated 500,000 people have been killed.



Water pours from the Salmon Street Springs Fountain in downtown Portland, providing cool comfort to warm spring days. But despite the abundance of fresh clean water in Portland, the Water Bureau is submitting a plan to address a water shortage should demand exceed supply this summer.

Justice Bills Await Signature



State Rep. Avel Gordly

By MICHAEL LEIGHTON

The first of a series of laws addressing racial discrimination and ethnic bias in the Oregon judicial system have passed in the Legislature.

Gov. John Kitzhaber is expected to sign the bills into law.

"What we are doing today is historic," said State Rep. Avel Gordly, D-Portland. "We are making a statement that our court proceedings shall be fair and free from prejudice and bias based on race, ethnicity and sex."

One of the bills allows a juror to be challenged for cause when the court is satisfied that actual prejudice on the part of the juror prevents the person from trying the case impartially and without prejudice.

Another of the new laws says that a juror

cannot be removed from a jury panel simply on the basis of race, ethnicity or sex.

The legislation follows recommendations in a report by the Oregon Supreme Court Task Force on Racial/Ethnic Issues in the Judicial System.

Gordly worked with Oregon Chief Justice Wallace Carson and former Chief Justice Edwin Peterson on the task force and in the effort to move the bills through the House and Senate.

The task force concluded that two systems of justice exist in the state, one for whites and one for minorities.

It found that at every entry point in Oregon's criminal justice system, minorities are treated more harshly and are more likely to be arrested, charged, convicted and incarcerated.

Noelle To Shake Up Sheriff's Office

Multnomah County Sheriff-elect Dan Noelle is moving forward on his campaign pledges to eliminate administrative pork from the sheriff's office and put emphasis on corrections programs.

Incumbent John Bunnell plans to retire in the wake of a surprising election defeat.

Noelle, 50, the assistant police chief in Portland, received 77,750 votes to 62,415 cast for Bunnell in the May 16 vote-by-mail election.

He will officially assume the office June 6.

Bunnell, 50, was appointed sheriff last fall after Sheriff Bob Skipper retired. Skipper wanted out because of cuts to his pension brought on the passage of Ballot Measure 8, the November initiative taking away 6 percent of the retirement benefits of public employees.

Bunnell, a 26-year veteran of the sheriff's office and former host for the ABC television series "American Detective" was seen as the favorite in the race.

Vera Pool, a sheriff's lieutenant who lost to Skipper last year, lost in a March election which narrowed the field of candidates.



Dan Noelle

Voters Pass Open Spaces Measure

A property tax measure to protect and preserve open spaces, parks and streams won an impressive victory in last week's mail-in election.

Nearly 62 percent of the voters said "yes" to the \$135 million bond measure put before voters by the regional government Metro.

The majority of residents casting ballots in Multnomah, Clackamas and Washington counties, all endorsed the bond by large margins. The monies will be used to purchase 14 natural areas of regional significance, five regional trails and to fund about 90 local parks projects for cities and counties.

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-Metro Councilor Patricia McCraig

only for the many people who worked on the campaign, but for everyone in the region," said Metro Councilor Patricia McCraig. "These election results show

that people in this region care deeply about quality-of-life issues and want to make those issues a priority for future generations."

COALITION RESCUES INMATES

By PROMISE KING

Inside the stone walls of the Columbia River Correctional Institution is a new program to rescue women inmates from economic hardship and social degradation after their prison term.

The Lifeskills program sponsored by Women In Community Service focuses on assisting female offenders being released to Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington counties.

The program curriculum includes classes on goal setting, budget management, career readiness and effective parenting.

"These women need direction, life planning skills and increased self-esteem," the program's volunteer coordinator, Mary McMenamin told the Portland Observer.

Under this program, the inmates are tested for aptitude, skills, interest, learning style, temperament and cognitive developmental levels. The assessments are scheduled the first week of training.

"Clients will learn to set realistic goals and develop a life plan - a vital survival tool during their year of parole," McMenamin explained.

But the program needs an army of volunteer mentors who would serve as role models, advisors, and advocates.

These mentors will begin their relationship with the inmates at the institution and help assist them readjust into the community for a year after their release.

A surge in the female inmate population in Oregon, which statistics show have jumped to 200 percent over the last decade, is hinged on recidivism.

McMenamin said with enough mentors this growing inmates number would be reduced considerably.

"Since Lifeskills' inception about 200 inmates have been released and only 4 percent of them have come back," she said. "This reduced rate of recidivism has far surpassed the initial projections for this program."

It was not clear how many mentors are needed to balance this program, but the requirement to be a volunteer appears tough - trustworthy females, assertive, non-judgmental with good listening skills.

Potential mentors are also required to be goal oriented, non-exploitive and generous in spirit. They also must be willing to work with an ex-con fresh from prison.

A mentor training is scheduled June 10 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Department of Corrections' Women Transition Services at the Southeast Multicultural Center, 4610 S.E. Belmont.

"Volunteers are an integral part of the Lifeskills program. Their challenge is to motivate and inspire clients in their quest for self-sufficiency and economic independence," the coordinator reiterated.

The program was originally funded nationally by the Kellogg Foundation, but it's strings of successes pulled Oregon's Department of Corrections to its vault.

The department has agreed to fund the program for the remainder of the year.

Women In Community Service is a non-profit corporation, sponsored by the Coalition of American G.I. Forum Women, Church Women United, National Councils of Jewish Women, Negro Women, and Catholic Women.

Editors note: To volunteer contact Claudia Delgado or Mary McMenamin at [503] 280-6646.

EDITORIAL	HOUSING	HEALTH	RELIGION	METRO	ENTERTAINMENT	CLASSIFIEDS
A2	A4	A4	A6	B1	B2	B5