

Westside Rail Triumphs

Tri-Met's Westside Light-Rail project passes hurdle with a big check from the federal government.



See page A7.

Tyson-Bruno Fight Looms

Frank Bruno and Mike Tyson are "trash talking." Who will win Saturday's duel?



See Sports, page A6.

Best Friends

"Buddies," a new half-hour comedy on ABC features diversity on grand scale.



See Arts & Entertainment, page B2.

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Northeast Development Inches Ahead

BY LEE PERLMAN

Plans for a new grocery store and a brew pub on Northeast 33rd Avenue have made some progress.

Roger Staver, United Grocers' development director, recently told Concordia Neighborhood Association that a piece has fallen into place for the creation of a new Thriftway grocery on Northeast 33rd Avenue at Killingsworth Street.

The retail grocery cooperative has been seeking a new, expanded store on the site since the old Wilshire Park Thriftway closed in the summer of 1994. A major stumbling block has been a required zone change for part of the site.

In 1993, as part of the Albina Community Plan, the city rezoned a satellite parking lot to residential use.

City officials now say the action was a mistake but, to reverse the process, United Grocers would have to meet the city's No Net Loss Housing Policy. This would mean rezoning land elsewhere in Portland to replace the six housing units that could be built on the lot.

After a year of searching, United Grocers found a way.

HOST Community Development, a non-profit agency that specializes in building below market rate houses for first-time homeowners, is seeking some zone changes for a development in St. Johns near North Columbia Boulevard.

According to Ted Gilbert of HOST, they will rezone land designated for open space to residential use and increase the allowed density of another parcel. Last year HOST agreed



A worker surveys the site of the proposed new Thriftway store on Northeast 33rd Avenue. Photo by Mark Washington.

to link its project to the United Grocers application.

Now, Staver and Gilbert say, HOST is ready to submit its application, allowing the Thriftway project to move forward.

This is not the store's only hurdle. They also need to close Northeast Emerson Street between 33rd and 34th avenues, and the Portland Office of Transportation, which reviews such requests, is not enthusiastic about the idea.

Last August, at a pre-application confer-

ence, traffic engineer Ken Lindmark told Staver, "My preliminary recommendation would be for denial. This meets so few of our criteria."

Despite this, Staver said, "The city says it won't approve this, but if you give them a good reason why they should, they'll listen."

They do need to obtain signatures of approval from two-thirds of property owners within 400 feet of the street. The neighborhood as a whole seems to support the store,

based on reactions at previous meetings, but a number of homeowners on Northeast 34th Avenue are strongly opposed. Despite this, Staver says, United Grocers already has about 40 percent of the signatures it needs, and is confident of getting the rest.

"If we didn't think we could build this, we wouldn't have stuck with it so long," Staver said. "As much as I detest a two-year wait to

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THE WEEK IN REVIEW

Griffey To Replace Strickland

Seattle Mariner Ken Griffey Jr. has replaced Trail Blazer star Rod Strickland on a downtown Portland mural. Nike white-washed the Strickland image last week and then painted the Griffey depiction over the weekend on the south facing wall of the Governor Building at 408 S.W. Second Ave. Before Strickland, former Blazer forward Jerome Kersey adorned the wall for Nike.

Dole Sweeps In Primaries

Sen. Bob Dole erased any doubt that he's the leader of the Republican candidates for President by sweeping to wins in eight state primaries last week. "I think it's over. I think he's the nominee," said House Speaker Newt Gingrich, R-Ga. But on Saturday, Pat Buchanan won the presidential preference vote in Missouri to show his campaign still has life.

Flood Help Put At \$1 Billion

Sen. Mark O. Hatfield, R-Ore. last week proposed \$1 billion in federal disaster relief to help the Pacific Northwest and other regions that have suffered devastating floods and storms this winter. If approved, the amount would match the disaster relief after Mount St. Helens erupted in 1980.

"Cow" Arrested At Convention

Animal rights activists interrupted a convention in Portland last week of the Northwest Meat Processors at the Airport Holiday Inn. Dressed as a "cow", Peter Young, 20, Seattle, sprung from under a table during the conference and chanted "meat is murder." for 40 minutes. Young was finally arrested by Portland police.

Habitat Completes 19th Home

Portland Habitat for Humanity celebrated the completion of their 19th home Saturday. The home is located at 1503 N.E. Holman. Construction was sponsored by the Portland Rotary Club and Neil Kelly Designers. Habitat for Humanity plans to build six additional homes in northeast Portland this year for low-income families.

OSU Students Boycott Classes

A series of racial incidents has led to boycott of classes at Oregon State University. The Black Students of Oregon State University announced the one-day boycott last week in hopes of reducing racial tensions on the Corvallis campus and creating a better atmosphere for learning.

PDX Growth Sets Record

Portland International Airport set a record for the month of January when it posted an 11 percent gain in passengers this year. Special airline fares offered during the month accounted for the growth which more than offset canceled and delayed flights due to the poor weather, according to airport officials.

Journeyman electrician Ron Coffman and apprentice Renee Wence install conduit at the future community center for Self Enhancement, Inc.



SEI Lays Foundation

Construction of a new community center for Self Enhancement, Inc. is now in the foundation stages.

The facility at 3920 N. Kerby, is being built on the former site Unthank Park, land donated from the Portland Bureau of Parks and Recreation.

SEI is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping inner-city youth achieve success by choosing positive options to drugs, gangs and crime. SEI counselors, coaches and teachers work to help students improve grades and attendance, build self-esteem and create ca-

reer opportunities.

The general contractor for the new facility is Drake General Contractors. Electrical work is being done as a community service by Christenson Electrical, a local member of the National Electrical Contractors Association and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

"This center is going to be a real boon to our community," said Omar Shabazz, Christenson foreman. "We're proud to be part of helping make it real."

The center is scheduled to be completed in September.

AIDS Statistics Raise New Fears For Minorities

By PROMISE KING

It was hard for Claudia L. Webster of the Oregon Department of Human Resources not to be grim at last month's statistics on HIV/AIDS.

If anything, Webster who heads the state HIV education program, is more frightened about the degree of risks faced by people of color.

Figures reveal a very gloomy picture of rising AIDS cases among ethnic communities in Multnomah County.

While AIDS cases among whites shrinks from 85 percent of the cases in 1994 to 84 percent cases in 1995, the disease affecting people of color rises from 15 percent in 1994 compared to 16 percent last year.

In testing pregnant women for HIV, health officials found the virus was present in 7 out of 1,455 cases among people of color. For the white population, the cases of HIV among pregnant females was 3 out of 13,301.

Of the 2,214 who died from the virus in Multnomah County, 249 of them were people of color.

Webster says that is alarming considering the fact that the minority population consists

of only 14.7 percent of the county population.

African-Americans account for 12 percent of the total U.S. population and represent more than 32 percent of all AIDS cases, according to Dr. M. Keith Rawlings, a Portland physician.

National statistics estimate that one in 33 black men, aged 27 to 39 are HIV infected. The figures equally show the disease as the leading cause of death among white males.

The virus has never been an exclusively gay disease. About 52 percent of female AIDS carriers in Multnomah County are heterosexuals. Overall, people of color now account for 50 percent of all AIDS cases among women and children.

It is on this premise that the Multicultural HIV/AIDS Alliance of Oregon was born. The mission of the organization is to develop, maintain and advocate for competent, culturally-appropriate HIV prevention and health service delivery systems.

Webster said the alliance will represent African-Americans, Hispanics/Latinos, American Indians, Asian-Americans, Pacific Islanders, newly arriving immigrants, international students and other racial/minority populations living in the state.

