

The Motion Picture "Ride" Is Coming To A Theater Near You

March 27th Get ready to go for a "Ride" you'll never forget. See Entertainment, page B



Aquatic Staff Sought

For Rayne Houghton, life is not meant to be dry, the 19 year old finds himself teaching young children how to swim on their own. See Metro, inside.



ONE THAT CHANGES

See Popeye's Coupon's Inside!

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THE WEEK IN REVIEW

Clinton Praises U.N. Chief Annan

President Clinton praised U.N. chief Kofi Annan's deal with Iraq and said the Secretary-General deserves praise for helping avoid an armed conflict. Annan met with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein last month and hammered out a deal giving unfettered access for U.N. inspectors to Iraqi palaces. The agreement averted a possible U.S.-led military strike against Baghdad after Iraq refused to allow weapons inspectors check certain sites. Inspectors have been back at work and have reported no difficulties gaining access. Annan also was expected to appeal for the United States to pay the \$1.3 billion dollars in back dues it owes the United Nations.

Floods Drive Thousands From Homes

The entire town of Elba may be moved after two levee breaks and two floods since 1990. James Lee Witt, the director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, toured the area today and he said moving Elba is a possibility. He said it would be up to the residents. The latest flood came Sunday when a Depression-era levee failed. About 2,000 people were left homeless.

Senate: Try Saddam As War Criminal

The Senate wants Iraqi president Saddam Hussein to be tried as an international war criminal. The Senate voted 93-0 to urge the creation of a United Nations tribunal "for the purpose of indicting, prosecuting and imprisoning Saddam Hussein." Sen. Byron L. Dorgan, D-N.D., told the Senate that Saddam had used chemical weapons on his enemies, both inside and outside Iraq, had waged war against Iran and Kuwait, had attacked Israel and had plotted the assassination of former President Bush.

Rep. Joseph Kennedy To Retire

Rep. Joseph P. Kennedy II announced he will not run for re-election and plans to leave politics to run the nonprofit agency formerly headed by his late brother, Michael. Kennedy is the eldest son of the late Sen. Robert F. Kennedy and is a six-term congressman. The aide said that the death of Michael Kennedy in a skiing accident in December was a big factor in the decision. Kennedy last August said he would not run for governor, although he was viewed as a heavy favorite. Kennedy, 45, will lead the Citizens Energy Corp., a nonprofit heating assistance corporation he took over after Michael's death.

FDA OKs Cheaper Osteoporosis Test

Tests for crippling osteoporosis are getting easier and cheaper. The Food and Drug Administration approved Hologic's Sahara bone test, the first osteoporosis test that does not use X-rays. Women can just slide a foot into a little machine and learn minutes later if their bones are dangerously thin. The device uses high-frequency sound waves to assess a woman's bones by measuring the density of her heel. Patients will pay about \$40 a test. Typically with an X-ray, patients are charged \$127 per test. Osteoporosis afflicts an estimated 10 million Americans, mostly elderly women.

New Buyer for Rosemont Site

By Lee Pearlman

The Portland Development Commission plans to purchase the old Rosemont School site in the Piedmont neighborhood and draw up a master plan for its future use.

Steve Rudman, director of the Bureau of Housing and Community Development, said the development commission will consider allocating funds for the purchase of the 7.6 acre former Catholic school at 597 N. Dekum St. He adds that if the commission does not vote the money the city may make other arrangements to acquire the property.

In January the city acquired an option to purchase the land

from Central City Concern, a non-profit corporation, good until April 14. CCC's own option to purchase from the Sisters of the Good Shepherd expires May 14.

CCC has been trying to develop the property since 1995. Its first proposal included building up to 75 units of housing for recovering alcoholics and drug abusers and their families. This drew opposition from the Piedmont Neighborhood Association, which said that putting such a large "fragile population" so close together would defeat their efforts to stabilize the area.

Last year CCC and developer Brian McCarl proposed to convert the property's historic former convent to 60 units of assisted living housing, construct another building with 50 more units of elderly housing, and devote most of the site to owner-occupied housing.

For this last element CCC approached HOST Community Development, another non-profit whose specialty is owner-occu-



Old Rosemont School site in the Piedmont Neighborhood.

(Photo By M. Washington)

piated housing development. HOST considered the proposal but backed out in January,

citing financial commitments to other projects, CCC executive director Richard

Harris says.

The agency approached other housing providers, but was unable to come up with a satisfactory arrangement, Harris says. He adds, "Owner-occupied housing is beyond the scope of our mission. With the decision to pursue this kind of housing, Central City's role in the project was greatly diminished, and so was our interest in it." This, plus the cost of pursuing the project, convinced him that turning the property over to the city was the best way to ensure that it is used for low-cost housing, he said.

Rudman says the city plans to convene a task force of city and community representatives to create a master plan for the property's use. It will be similar to the process the city pursued with the former Kennedy School, later converted to a bed and breakfast and brew pub by the McMenamin brothers, but will be less "open-ended," he said. With Kennedy School the task force considered all possible uses for its future use. At Rosemont, the city is committed to housing of some sort, he said.

Betsy Radigan of the Piedmont Association says the process could clarify "some unanswered questions we've had all along, such as whether the old (convent) building can be saved." However, after talking to Rudman, she says the process "will reopen some old issues we thought we had resolved," such as the place of low-income rental housing in the plans.

Rudman says the process will not begin with a "blank slate - we understand the desire to preserve the convent." However, he added, "We aren't bound by the previous agreement." Providing low-cost housing is a city priority, he said.

What's the track like now for north-south light rail?



Light rail stations like this one at Lloyd Center will become part of the landscape between Clackamas Town Center and North Portland in the future.

(Photo by Neil Heilpern).

By Neil Heilpern

A map of alternative routes and stations for the planned South-North Light Rail system looks like a connect-the-dots mass transit spider web designed to serve Portland's growing transportation needs.

The ultimate shape of that web depends on a public input process, started last week with a series of open houses for public review of the recently released Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The document gives an overview of benefits, costs and impacts of extending existing light rail system to a South/North corridor between Clackamas Town Center and North Portland.

The line would travel from Clackamas Town Center, through Milwaukie and continue over one of two possible Willamette River crossing routes to the west side. One would travel on current railroad right of way, stop at OMSI and cross a new bridge south of the Marquam Bridge. A different span goes over Ross Island, heading downtown via Johns Landing.

Routing considerations include displace-

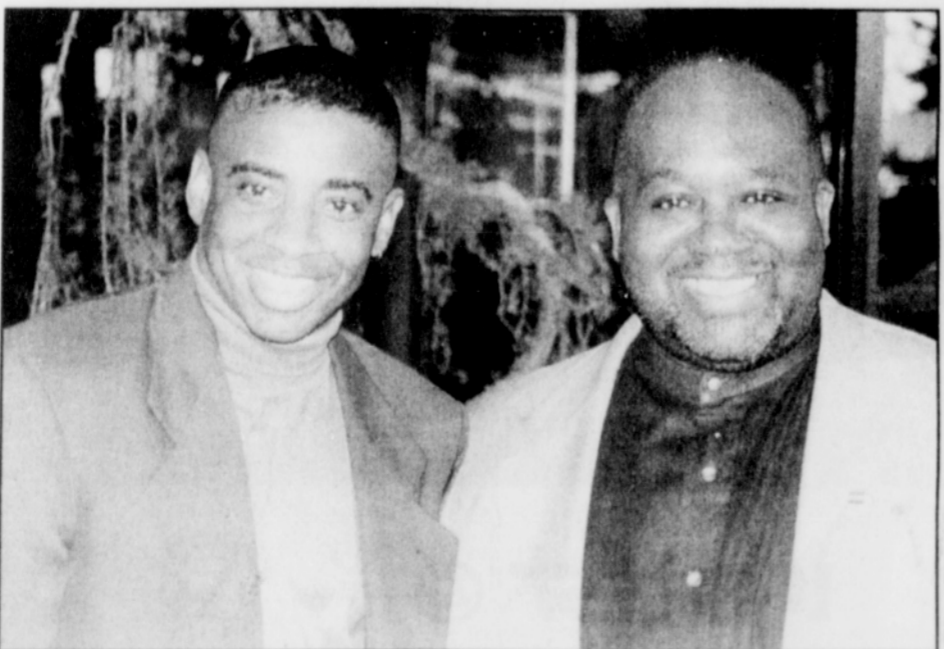
ment comparisons, costs, and decisions about serving existing populations on the east side or encouraging new development in Johns Landing as an alternative to extending urban growth boundaries.

After joining the downtown transit hub, light rail would cross back over the river to the Rose Quarter where two more alternate routes are being considered to North Portland.

One would follow the I-5 corridor, accessible to pedestrians along current streets east of the existing freeway. The other would be carved out of a portion of Wheeler/Russell Streets, Interstate Ave and North Lombard.

Open houses for people to review the options were held Saturday at the Oregon Convention Center and Monday at the Kaiser Town Hall Ballroom on N. Interstate and the Portland Building.

Upcoming open houses included 4-8 pm, Thursday, at New Hope Community Church (Interstate 20 and SE Stevens Road), and 5-8 pm, Monday, March 23, at the Public Safety Building in Milwaukie.



Breakfast at the Portland Marriott Hotel with Hugh B. Price, President and Chief Executive Officer of the National Urban League. Mr. Price was in Portland for the awards banquet of the Portland Urban League, that was held on March 12, 1998. And to promote the 87-year-old organization's annual convention, which begins on August 4 in Washington, D.C. and the theme of this year's gathering is Economic Power: The Next Civil Rights Frontier. Right Picture; From left: Gary Ann Taylor of The Portland Observer Newspaper and Hugh B. Price President and CEO of the National Urban League. Left Picture; From Left: James Winters and Lawrence J. Dark President and CEO of The Urban League of Portland.

