

Westside Max Station Dedicated to Hatfield

Former Senator Mark Hatfield looks at a plaque that is part of the MAX station that was dedicated in his honor on June 4th. Congresswoman Elizabeth Furse, Hillsboro Mayor Gordon Faber, former Hillsboro mayor Shirley Huffman and Tri-Met General Manager Tom Walsh joined in the dedication at the Mark O. Hatfield Government Center MAX Station. "Senator Hatfield was the one person absolutely critical to the MAX light rail effort," said Walsh. "Without him, MAX simply would not exist." The Hatfield station is located in Hillsboro on Adams between Washington and Main. Westside MAX service will begin at 11 am, September 12th.



A Lynching In Jasper, Texas: The Intolerable Acts Continue

BY RON DANIELS

As President Clinton's well intentioned initiative on racism continues to hobble along aimlessly, mounting acts of racial violence and terrorism clearly indicate that racism is alive and well in Amerikkka. The grisly lynching of James Byrd, Jr. in Jasper, Texas by three White men who allegedly beat him senseless, chained him to the bumper of a pick up truck and dragged his body for more than two miles is a stunning reminder that white supremacy can be as deadly as ever before in the United States. While the lynching of James Byrd received national and international attention, another incident in Virginia where an African American was decapitated and burned, was hardly noticed. These two heinous murders and the brutal manner in which they were carried out are alarmingly reminiscent of the horrific lynchings of thousands of African Americans after the civil War and well into the twentieth century.

What is perhaps more alarming, however, is the fact that these horrendous crimes against African Americans are occurring within a climate which breeds hatred, legitimizes racism and ultimately encourages racial violence. Though the outright lynching of Black people is horrifying, the intolerable acts of racism perpetuated by mainstream politicians, religious leaders, corporations and well established institutions is equally insidious, dangerous and damaging. The negative portrayal of Blacks in the media and the criminalization of young black males in particular has become commonplace. As a consequence Black

people are far more likely to be arrested, more often convicted, serve longer sentences, and, as a recent study revealed, far more likely to receive the death penalty. Racism pervades the criminal justice system from police departments, to prosecutors, judges and jails/prisons. Hence the explosive growth of the prison-jail industrial complex where the vast majority of the inmates are African Americans and Latinos.

Affirmative action programs and other civil rights measures are now routinely overturned by the courts on the grounds that they are unfair to White people in a "race neutral" or "color blind" society. The lack of education over the real need and intent of affirmative action programs and other measures designed to overcome the effects of past and present discrimination has meant the "civil rights" is increasingly seen as unnecessary and unfair by large numbers of White Americans. This is breeding the kind of resentment that fueled the burning of hundreds of Black churches over the last decade and increasing incidents of racial violence like the ones in Jasper, Texas and Virginia.

There appears to be a direct correlation between the rhetoric of public policy pronouncements, the decisions of political leaders and the proliferation of hate groups and racial violence in this society. As the rightwing conservative tide has swept this country with its attacks on Black progress, racist hate groups have become bolder and bolder in their verbal and physical attacks on Blacks and other groups who are not seen as acceptable in a "white Aryan society."

The rise to hegemony of the right has also given license to widespread practices of racism within private institutions. The internal memos at the Texaco corporation which revealed an utter disdain for Blacks by executives and managers of that company likely mirror the not so secret attitudes of large numbers of corporate executives and managers. The internal memo from Amcasts advertising groups which described Black and Latino consumers as "suspects" not "prospects," and therefore recommended to major White companies that they minimize allocations for Black owned media, is yet another example of the raw naked racism practiced with impunity in "mainstream" America.

W.E.B. DuBois warned that the "problem of the twentieth century will be the colorline." As Africans in America and the world prepare to enter the twenty first century the colorline, the reality of racism and white supremacy remains a huge barrier to racial justice and racial reconciliation. The intolerable acts suffered by Africans in America are a function of deep seated attitudes and longstanding, institutionalized customs and policies. Historically, more than one African American leader has suggested that the intolerable acts heaped upon the sons and daughters of Africa in America will continue until we confront the forces of white supremacy head on at the ballot box and in the streets—by any means necessary to preserve and defend our dignity and destiny. The lynchings and other intolerable acts against the Black Nation will continue until we rise up in righteous rebellion.

Oregon's welfare-to-work efforts bring national recognition Welfare rolls have in past four years

A rigorous independent review of welfare to work efforts across the country has singled out Oregon's JOBS program as "unusually successful" and concluded that it increases employment, finds jobs that pay higher wages, and cuts costs to taxpayers.

"These findings and the national recognition they bring confirm what Oregon employers and their workers have known for some time," said Governor John A. Kitzhaber. "We have found a way to help thousands of poor families achieve genuine self-sufficiency while saving hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars."

"Although there have been

other studies of the Oregon JOBS program, none has been as rigorous and thorough as today's report," said Sandie Hoback, administrator of the Adult and Family Services Division in the Oregon Department of Human Resources. "This is the first time that independent national researchers have collected and analyzed such in-depth data about our results in placements, wages, health care and tax savings."

The report found that participation in Oregon JOBS increased employment by 18% and boosted the proportion of individuals with employer provided health insurance by 71%. It also raised pay by 86 cents an hour, lifted two year earnings by 35%, and re-

duced welfare spending by 17%. Hard to place recipients as well as those with relatively few barriers to employment achieved job and earnings gains, the report said.

The report also praised Oregon for its efforts to encourage program participants "to look for and take jobs that pay above the minimum wage and offer benefits and potential for advancement."

"This is our approach," Hoback said. "even by accepting a minimum wage job, families are increasing their financial resources by nearly three quarters. And Oregon's average job placement off welfare is at least \$1 above the minimum wage."

Eastbound motorists on the Sunset Highway (U.S. 26) will soon find the trip through the Vista Ridge Tunnel much brighter. That's thanks to a project now underway to replace the present lighting system, which dates back to the late 1960's, with brighter, more energy efficient, illumination.

The \$1.06 million job is starting with some cleanup

work made necessary by years of cars burning leaded gasoline. Crews are in the process of removing lead contaminated material from work area, or "attic," immediately above the tunnel. During this phase of activity, no work will be visible to motorists.

Once that part of the project is done, work can go ahead on installing wiring

and light fixtures that will be part of the new system.

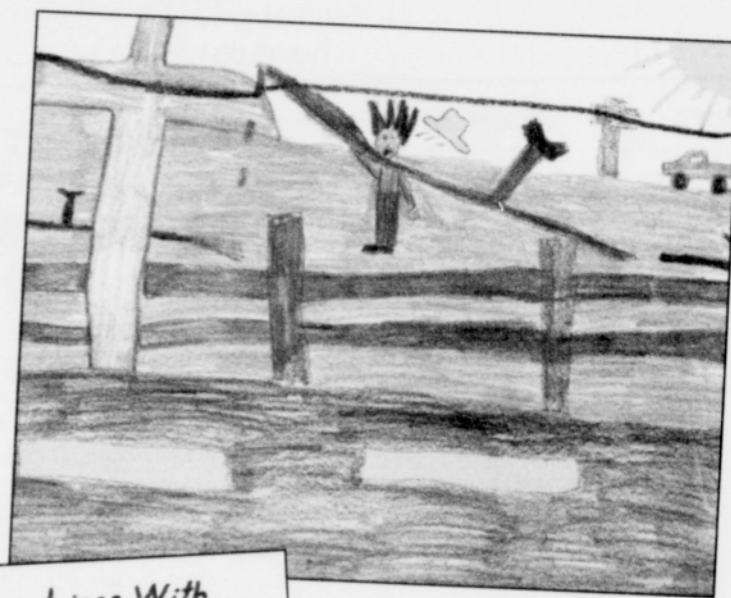
Motorists can expect eastbound lane closures, mainly at night, beginning around August 1. This will create a safe work for crews attaching the actual light fixtures inside the tunnel.

Tice Electric of Portland, OR., is the contractor on the project. Work should be complete by October 31.

Old MacDonald had a farm E-I-E-I... UH OH

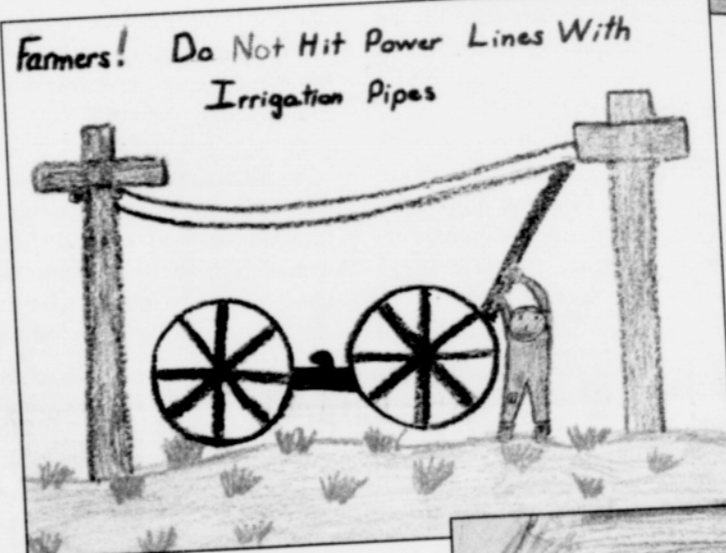


Check for overhead lines when moving irrigation pipes or equipment



JDM, age 10

Use spotters when operating trucks or heavy machinery



Kayleen, age 7

Always wear proper safety equipment

Avoid power lines when clearing debris



Cody, age 6

Locate all power lines before pruning trees or harvesting fruit



Jacilyn, age 12

Outdoor electric safety is important to all of us — especially this time of year when we're outside more. With the help of some of last year's winners in Pacific Power's Electric Safety Contest, we wanted to make you aware of some of the potentially hazardous situations you and your kids can get into while working or playing outdoors.



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