

Observing

Fire Marshals Issue Joint Warning About Sprinklers

Vancouver Fire Marshal Rick Atkins and Clark County Fire Marshal David Lynam want to focus the community's attention on a national recall of Omega sprinkler heads. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) is recalling over 8 million Omega brand fire sprinklers manufactured since 1982 by Central Sprinkler Corp. CPSC alleges that Omegas are defective and could likely fail in a fire. There are hundreds of Omega installations in Vancouver and Clark County in multi-family dwellings, homes and businesses.

"We want to stress how important it is for people to take immediate action to determine whether buildings where they live and work are equipped with Omegas," says Atkins. On most models, consumers will be able to see three flat round metal disks stacked one above the other with a small space

between each disk. Consumers should not attempt to unscrew the sprinkler or shut down the sprinkler system. Central Sprinkler Corp. will send a packet of information to help them identify the sprinklers and participate in the recall. Call 1-800-896-5685 for information and claim forms.

Building owners should contact their sprinkler contractor to inspect their system and see if any of the sprinkler heads in question are in their buildings. The Vancouver Fire Department and Clark County Fire Marshal's Office are developing procedures for follow-up inspection to ensure public safety. Prior to replacing any sprinkler heads, contact your local fire department. "Properly functioning automatic sprinkler systems reduce the risk of fatalities in a fire and help save hundreds of thousands of dollars in property loss and damage each

year," says Lynam. "We encourage fire sprinkler installations, and don't want this recall to negatively affect the public's opinion of fire sprinkler safety systems."

Central Sprinkler is offering free replacement glass bulb fire sprinklers and reimbursement toward the cost of having Omega sprinklers removed and replaced. For consumers to get reimbursement for installation costs, they must submit a proof of claim to Central Sprinkler postmarked by Aug. 1, 1999. Since Omegas may not operate in a fire, it is particularly important that consumers have at least one fully operational smoke detector on every floor of their home, especially near bedrooms. To ensure that the detector's batteries are working, test the detector every month. For additional internet information on the recall, view: www.cpsc.gov

Justice: Clark County Style (correction)

Information was released concerning gross bias against a father by a judge in the Clark County Superior Court (Vancouver, Washington). We identified him as Judge John F. Nichols.

We have since learned we

made a mistake of identity. The offending jurist was not the Honorable John F. Nichols but the not so honorable Randal B. Fritzler.

We regret any embarrassment or inconvenience this honest mistake may have caused Judge

Nichols, who went a long way a few days later to correcting what is happening to that father. Now, if the police only read.

Hey, you ever try to read a judge's signature?

Stay tuned.

Colored Pencil Art On View At Water Resources Education Center

Colored pencil images of "Sky Series" by artist Alfred Maurice will be shown on the second floor gallery of the Water Resources Education Center from November 18th through Thursday, December 31st.

The 14 images in the show range from a study of a New Mexico sky, described as having an intense blue unlike anything seen in the midwest, to dramatic cloud formations of dawn and sunset. The most current



image depicts the lowering, darkening cloud forms that herald an imminent storm.

Maurice has extensive experience in producing and teaching art. The Water Center is privileged to host a showing of his current work.

The City of Vancouver Water Resources Education Center is at 4600 SE Columbia Way. It is open Monday through Saturday, from 9 AM to 5 PM. Admission is free.

Islam and Farrakhan: Two Differing Muslim Paths

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Since Farrakhan's rise in public profile during the 1980's, his religious movement has kept him in a swirl of controversy.

Farrakhan has made many attempts at Black solidarity through organizing the Million Man March, Million Youth March and a 20-nation "World Friendship Tour" that has helped him move closer to the political mainstream. His other intent to gradually bring his followers towards true Islam is questionable by many.

Even though the Islamic faith and the Nation of Islam differ on many counts, a common bond between them is their obedience of the Qur'an Holy Book. Within it, Muhammad's divine

knowledge from God are revealed. At the age of 40 in 609 C.E., the Archangel Gabriel came to Muhammad with revelations that continued for 23 years that established his prophethood. They were recorded by him as a collective body of spiritual writings. There is no other holy book like the Qur'an whose text has remained pure in its entirety for twelve centuries. The message of Universal Brotherhood and a doctrine on the equality of mankind was Muhammad's gift to the world.

Despite Farrakhan's contradictory stances and divergence from Islamic orthodoxy, his Nation of Islam serves a diversity of truth seekers throughout the world. The Islamic faith does the same. Essentially, both paths are valid

in their own right as a direct path to their vital Source, Allah (God).

"God does not forbid you from showing kindness and dealing justly with those who have not fought you about religion and have not driven you out of your homes. God loves just dealers." (The Qur'an on Islam as a religion of mercy, not terrorism)

"On the material side, two, we will find no difference except for what Nature requires for its own ends. A woman can earn and inherit and own property and dispose of it as a man can." (The Qur'an on the equality of Muslim women to men)

"As-Salaam-Alaikum" (A greeting between Muslims which means peace be unto you)

Muslim Community To Build A New Mosque

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

a model in the community that is a part of the community so we can make contributions to the community."

Construction work of the Masjid Al Hijrah building is expected to begin as soon as the city permits the use of land for the two different entities in this residential area. The first entity covers the non-profit private entity for the Muslim Community and Human Development Corp. The project is in its second phase of development with the primary and necessary works already done. Architectural consultants and planners have begun work-

ing hand-in-hand with the center to develop the architectural design of the project to meet the city's requirements and members' request. Like all Mosques around the world, the main building, the Masjid, is given a special feature to face Qibla in Mecca from Portland. In doing so, the design allows members to make their prayers facing Qabba the first building that was built for the worship of one God.

"I know I will not live to see the full potential of the project," said Shabazz, "but I am hoping generations and generations of good will come out of it."

The community plans to spend \$7

to \$8 million dollars to finish the project. Funding for the projects comes from fundraising events, payments by members and grants from federal and state agencies.

"It is more for the future than it is for the present," said Shabazz. "We feel it is our responsibility as indigenous people to influence our community." The Portland Muslim community is among the Muslim Orthodoxy that came out of The Nation of Islam in 1975. As one of the fastest growing religion, the number of Muslims in the United States is estimated to be in the order of six to eight million strong.

Police News

Commercial Robbery On Video

The Portland Police Bureau

In cooperation with Crime Stoppers, is asking for your help in identifying and apprehending a couple who robbed a convenience store at knife point.

On Sunday, August 9, 1998, at approximately 7:45 in the morning, a surveillance camera recorded a man and woman walking into the 7-11 on Swan Island. The camera shows the couple purchasing two cups of coffee, the woman stealing a pack of cigarettes, and then the couple leaving the store. Approximately four minutes later, the camera records the same couple re-enter the store and rob the clerk at knife point.



Suspect #1 is described as a male white in his 40's, 6'0" tall, 180 pounds with brown hair, a moustache, and extensive tattoos on both forearms.

Suspect #2 is described as a female white in her 40's, 5'8", 140 pounds, with brown hair worn in a ponytail.

Crime Stoppers is offering a cash reward of up to \$1,000 for information, reported to Crime Stoppers, which leads to an arrest in this case or any unsolved felony crime, and you can remain anonymous. Call Crime Stoppers at (503) 823-HELP.

Portland Woman Killed In Pedestrian-Automobile Accident

3800 Block SE 136th Avenue

November 11, 1998, Wednesday, at approximately 7:00 P.M., Stacey Coalle Lilly, age 22, was walking Southbound on the East side of SE 136th Ave. Between SE Powell Blvd and SE Holgate St. when she was struck head on by a vehicle which

was operated by Rodney Dale Brewick, age 40, killing her instantly. Brewick's van veered off the road and struck Ms. Lilly who had been walking on the soft shoulder of SE 136th Ave. at the time of the accident.

Portland Police identified Brewick as the driver at the scene and took him into custody for an outstanding arrest warrant

charging him with Possession of a Controlled Substance. Officers also found a small amount of suspected methamphetamine in Brewick's possession at the time of his arrest. Mr. Brewick was also charged with Negligent Homicide in the death of Ms. Lilly and was lodged at Multnomah County Detention Center, MCDC.

She's a gang leader... with a goal.

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