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Patti LaBelle is Just One of the Big Names at **Essence Music Festival**



Teens Jump at the Chance to Grab \$100,000



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Declaration of Rio

Nearly four dozen leaders from the European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean signed a 69-point Declaration of Rio at a recent two-day summit. This new pact would create a new era of economic and political cooperation with a declaration of their intention to liberalize trade between them and work for peace and democracy.

Medicare Plan

President Clinton recently proposed changes to improving Medicare benefits by offering free preventive health services plus a \$1,000-ayear prescription drug benefit for older and disabled Americans - at the cost of a monthly \$24 premium. Availability of this drug benefit, if approved by Congress would be available as an option by the year 2002.

Rising Rates

Due to rising mortgage rates, the sales of new homes fell 5.1 percent in May, the biggest drop in four months. The 30-year mortgage rate had recently been raised nearly a full percentage point. Since April, sales of new single-family homes dropped to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 888,000 units last month, down from an April sales pace of 936,000 units.

Gun Control Bill

Oregon's House has expanded criminal background checks to gun shows and flea markets. In addition any individual may request a background check to be sure the person they're considering selling a weapon to isn't legally barred from buying firearms. The bill also makes it a crime to store guns in an unsafe manner that could put them in the hands of children. The measure now goes to the Oregon Senate.

Driver Screening

Fred Hansen, General Manager of Tri-Met is implementing a new system of background checks for job applicants. Those applying must also submit fingerprint checks as well. "Willamette Week" magazine was able to obtain personnel records after a three-month battle with Tri-Met. After running their own checks the magazine discovered 44 other Tri-Met drivers with criminal records. Their crimes include rape, sodomy, sex abuse, robbery, theft, assault and menacing.

Willamette River Water

The Wilsonville City Council has approved a plan to use the Willamette River for drinking water. A recent vote cleared the way for Wilsonville to join Tigard in developing 92 million gallons of water daily to solve the city's water problems. Wilsonville Mayor Charlotte Leehan says the water will be perfectly safe to drink, and the more she knows of the plan, the better she like it.

Portland Police Chief Charles Moose Honored

By Governor & State, With Proclamation



Police Chief Charles Moose

overnor John Kitzhaber signed a Proclamation honoring Portland Police Chief Charles Moose on Monday, June 28, 1999 in the Governor's Ceremonial Office. Chief Charles Moosewas honored for his outstanding service and accomplishments during his tenure in Portland. Chief Moose assumes the duties of Police of Montgomery County, Maryland, a suburb of Washington, D.C., in August.

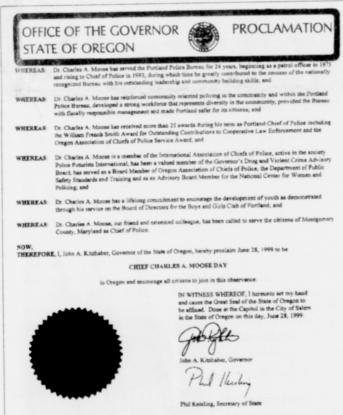
Governor John Kitzhaber, Senator Avel Gordly, and a host of Oregon's leadership spoke at the ceremony.

Senator Avel Gordly, organizer of the event for Chief Moose said, "Dr. Moose is at the top of his profession. He has been called to serve in Montgomery County, Maryland. He is one of the most honest, thoughtful, compassionate and genuinely caring people I have ever met.

His good work has been a blessing to us all." Following the Reception, Chief Moose joined Senator Gordly at her desk during the Senate Session.



Governor John Kitzhaber



Urban League Of Portland Announces Restructuring For 21st Century

The Urban League of Portland announces an internal restructuring which is designed to better carry out its mission and to better serve its clients.

The League is redefining several staff positions and eliminating some positions in some departments. Eleven existing positions will be cut, although in some instances current staff may apply for several new, restructured positions.

The Urban League, whose mission is "to strengthen African Americans and all who strive towardeconomic self-reliance and social equality," seeks to become even more efficient and customer-focused with these changes. Current programs and services to clients, in almost every case, will not be reduced or eliminated. One exception is the League's HIV/AIDS program, which will be restructured to focus on advocacy, policy development, education, and prevention awareness regarding HIV/AIDS in communities served by the League, rather than providing direct services to a smaller number of clients. This change is consistent with the League's vision statement regarding its leadership role as the "hub of the wheel" for health issues in communities of color, and it is also consistent with the direction urged by current and potential funders.

The League has also announced a temporary delay in the opening of the Whitney M. Young Education Center next fall, which assists youth from sixth grade and up with homework and after-school activities. The program has in the past opened in September, and this year it will open in November after the first school grading period. While the League will continue to search for additional funding for this key program - which involves not only significant staff costs but also the feeding of students both after school and at dinner - the League must plan for a program that will operate within the means of support now available. It is important to note that the cost of providing services needed by the community often exceeds the resources provided for that service. While we are taking major steps to make the Urban League operate in a more efficient manner, we will also be working with the community to develop adequate funding to meet critical community needs.

The Board of Directors of the Urban League of Portland has worked very hard over a several-month process to develop and adopt a comprehensive vision statement for the League for the next five years. The reorganization announced is consistent with and part of the implementation of that vision. The reorganization is also consistent with the need for a lean and efficient Urban League in the near future. The United Way of the Columbia-Willamette has recently announced an 18% cut in its allocations to the League for the coming fiscal year. This reflects an overall decrease in dollars available for allocations to all member agencies by the United Way and a forty-one percent increase in donor choice (people specifically directing where their contributions should be made).

The changes announced are difficult ones, which have involved hard choices designed to continue and to increase the strength of all programs at the League. In particular, it is difficult to see some of the League's employees impacted



Lawrence Dark

by the restructuring. Change is always difficult and this has been a hard process for us. We are sad to see good people impacted by the reorganization. Hard as it is, this is the right thing to do to meet the needs of the community and to assure that the Urban League enters the next century as a strong client-centered, mission-driven organization. While the reorganization requires the reduction of some positions, it also offers the growth of both new and existing programs, and it promises even better delivery of services to the community in the future.

Robin Roberts Named PDC's New **Economic** Development **Director**



Robin L. Roberts

he Portland Development Commis sion (PDC) has named Robin L. Roberts as its new Economic Development Director. Roberts is currently Executive Director of the Central Oregon Economic Development Council (COEDC). She will assume her post at PDC July 26.

Roberts will administer the Commission's business retention, expansion and recruitment programs, finance and business assistance programs and international business development program.

We believe Robin has exactly the right combination skills and energy to manage our quality jobs agenda,

PDC Executive Director Felicia Trader

"We believe Robin has exactly the right combination of skills and energy to manage our quality jobs agenda," said PDC Executive Director Felicia Trader. "She has demonstrated experience in developing and implementing strategic economic development programs in one of Oregon's fastest growing urban areas which also seeks to balance job growth with livability."

During her tenure at the COEDC, Roberts assisted in recruiting or retaining 34 companies and over 1, 166 jobs. Before joining COEDC Roberts served as International Program Manager and Tourism Development Manager for the Oregon Economic Development Department's Tourism Commission.

She is a graduate of Oregon State University and holds a master's degree from Portland State University.

She has served on the board of the Oregon Downtown Development Association; the advisory council of the Portland Art Museum Imperial Tombs of China Exhibit; the board of the Oregon Economic Development Association and as president of the board of the Cascade Festival of Music.