

# METRO

# Life

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

## Community Calendar

### Winter Break

When schools close their doors for Winter Break, many youth-serving organizations will open their doors to keep kids active and involved. The Police Activities League (PAL) Youth Center at 424 NE 172nd will be open to youth ages eight through high school for recreation, sports, arts & crafts, movies, reading, and special classes, December 20, 21, 2, 23, 27, 28, 29, 30, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. cost is \$20 for a youth membership which lasts through June 9, 2000; or free to PAL members.

### Holiday Luncheon

You are invited to join us for a "Holiday Luncheon" on Saturday, December 18 at Shenanigan's Restaurant, located at 4575 N. Channel at 11 a.m. The special guest speaker will be Prophetess Pat Hyché of Seattle, Washington. Donation amount is \$25. The event is sponsored by the Kings Temple Christian Center Pastor Sam Bailey. For further information, please call 503/287-5177.

### Christmas Fantasy Trail

Take a walk through a lighted, wooded trail decorated with thousands of lights. We have an assortment of Christmas trees, cedar boughs, swags and holly are for sale. Refreshments are available. Open from 6 to 9 p.m., Mondays through Saturdays at Wenzel Farm, 19754 South Ridge Road, Oregon City. Admission costs are adults \$3, ages 12 and younger \$2.

### Oregon Tradeswomen

The next meeting of the Oregon Tradeswomen Network is scheduled for Thursday, December 16, 1999 at 6 p.m. at the State Office Building, 800 NE Oregon St., room 120. This month's topic will be "From Junk to Jewelry". Create some unique gifts from hardware and electronic parts. Childcare is provided at no cost and everyone is welcome. The meetings are free and no pre-registration is required. For more information, call 503/943-2228.

### ZooLights Festival

The ZooLights Festival at the Oregon Zoo, a Metro facility, runs every evening through January 2, except December 24 and 25.

### Christmas Tree Recycling

Metro will help recycle about 50,000 trees this year. It will have the master list of the Scout groups and other nonprofit community organizations that recycle trees as a way to raise funds. Area-specific lists will be available soon for publication. Trees can be recycled through curbside yard debris programs and at local yard debris processing businesses. Metro can assist with information on recycling other after-holiday stuff ranging from packing peanuts to cardboard. Contact Judy Miller at 503/797-1503.

### Winterizing the Chinese Way

Learn to winterize the Chinese Way with winter herbal tonics and other tips for staying healthy with Chinese medicine. The Oregon College of Oriental Medicine will present ways to stay healthy during this rainy, cold winter in Portland by Hong Jin, Dean of Faculty at the college on Wednesday, December 8 from 6:30 - 8 p.m. The cost is \$5 for Garden Society members and \$10 for non-members. For more information, call Melissa at 253-3443, ext.204.

### The Heathman Lodge

There's no better place in Vancouver to visit with Santa than The Heathman Lodge. In addition to experiencing the magic of the hotel's one-of-a-kind decorations, kids of all ages can enjoy FREE hot chocolate and cookies and pose for a photo with a very special "Celebrity Santa." Through December 17, the Lodge will turn the annual tradition of visiting with Santa into a way to support important programs funded by SWIFT. For a suggested \$2 donation, kids and families can sit with Santa and pose for a keepsake photo. "Celebrity Santas" will be on site each evening from 5:30 to 7 p.m. All proceeds will be donated to SWIFT. Call 503/221-0480.

## Freight train derailment causes Steel Bridge fire

CONTRIBUTED STORY  
FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

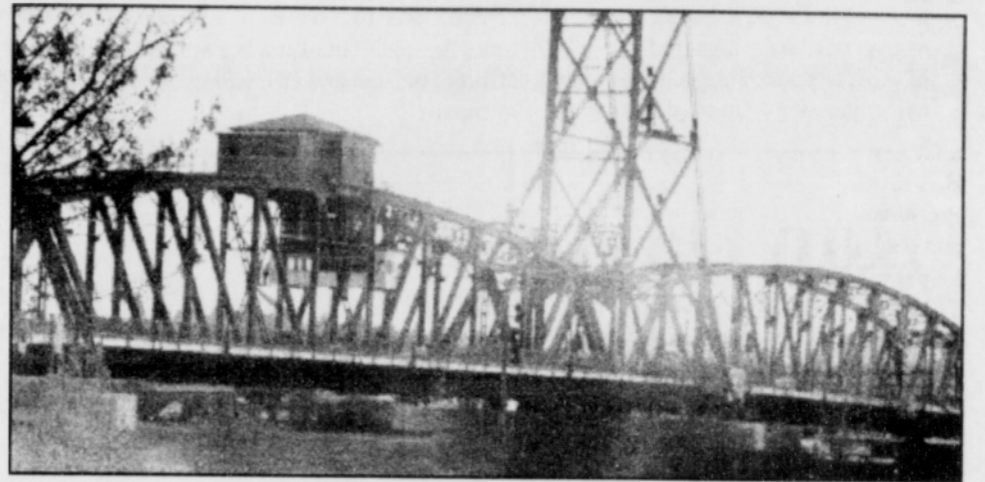
A freight train derailed near the Steel Bridge Tuesday evening, breaking a natural gas line and causing a massive fire on the historical bridge that halted late night traffic. The train was traveling westbound toward Union Station at about 8:50 p.m. when it went off the tracks and hit a gas pipeline near the bridge, said Neil Heesacker, a spokesman for the Portland Fire Bureau. Firefighters sprayed water from the river and

above on the flames that shot about 50 feet into the air.

A spokesman for the Northwest Natural Gas said a train car fell on a gas regulator and the valve broke.

He also said the downtown post office on Hoyt had been the only gas customer impacted by the fire at about 10:30 p.m.

Firefighters continued to douse the bridge with water throughout the night because of the fact that when steel reaches 1,000 degrees, it loses about 90 percent of its strength, Heesacker said.



## Partnerings building better communities



Nike opened its Factory store on Northeast. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard last Wednesday just in time for Christmas and just in time to coincide with a "Community Volunteer Day," which was held on the same day. Trailblazers Scottie Pippen and Damon

Stoudamire, along with Houston Comets' Cynthia Cooper joined in the opening celebration and the volunteer day. Volunteers of America Oregon, Nike and Hands On Portland came together to implement the volunteer day. More than 600 Nike employees teamed up with the agencies to complete a variety of community projects.

Volunteers of America solicited community projects from local schools social service organizations. More than 30 social service agencies in need of volunteer help submitted projects, including the Ronald McDonald House, Robert Gray Middle School, FISH Emergency Services, Common Bond, Vision Northwest, Loaves & Fishes, Community Action Organization, Neighborhood House and the Children's Club.

"We applaud Nike for making volunteering and community involvement part of their culture," says Kay Toran, president and CEO of Volunteers of America Oregon.



## Parents root of nations ills not children, SEI president says

DIONNE PEEPLES  
OF THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

School shootings.  
Gang violence.

Drugs and disrespect.

Many people say America has a problem with its youth today. But Tony Hopson, president of Self-Enhancement Inc., said it's not the young people with the problem. It's the nation's adults.

"If they (youths) are doing wrong, they have seen an adult doing wrong," Hopson said. "They learn from what they see. ... If we want our kids to do the right thing, we need to love them and they need to see that we are doing the right thing."

The Black United Fund of Oregon honored Hopson this month for his unwavering commitment to Portland's youth and his community. Hopson received the Black United Fund's Legacy Award at the organization's Fourth Annual Community Unity Banquet held at the Portland Hilton in downtown. As a tribute to Hopson and other awardees, the Black United Fund dedicated the banquet to the community's youth.

Throughout the dinner, youths showcased their talents through soulful ballads, tap dance and speeches as ways to pay homage to the community leaders and Hopson, who mentored several of them.

Hopson, a Portland native, started SEI in 1981, as a weeklong summer camp for high school students. The camp served 80 students. Since then, SEI has expanded to serve more than 1,200 students and was

recognized as a Point of Light by former President George Bush.

But Hopson, who does not work one-on-one with youths as he once did, was quick not to take all the credit for SEI's success. "There are a lot of people who have their hands in the work. There are many in the SEI family," Hopson said. "I will never accept an award without putting them first."

Representatives from US Bank and PacificCorp received the agency's Unity Award and three Portland high school seniors each received \$1,000 scholarships. The scholarship recipients were Roderick Edwards of Jefferson High School, Crystal Roberts of Roosevelt High School and Sadiki Stone of Jefferson High School.



## Rosemont to be converted to senior housing units

CONTRIBUTED STORY  
FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A consortium headed by Walsh Construction Company has been selected to redevelop the former Rosemont School Property.

Walsh was selected from among four finalists last week by a committee of neighborhood representatives and city officials, according to Baruti Arthuree of the Portland Development Commission. PDC will now enter into negotiations with Walsh on a contract for the project, Arthuree says.

Walsh proposes to convert the property's historic convent into 100 senior housing units, plus some market rate rental housing. On the rest of the 7.5 acre former Catholic girls school at 597 N. Dekum St., he will build 31 market-rate homes designed by Andrews Architects plus some below market rate rentals. HOST Community Development, and Habitat for Humanity, will each build another 10 homes for first-time home owners at below market rates. Innovative Housing Inc. will manage the rentals.

"I'm really pleased with this proposal," Tom

Markgraf, a representative and former chair of the Piedmont Neighborhood Association told the Observer. "It has more quality housing, of the quality that already exists in the neighborhood, than I would have thought possible. We wanted a mix of incomes and a mix of developers, so that the whole thing didn't look like a project. Walsh's houses are of such high quality, of the kind that I would want to move into, yet he manages to sell them for \$120-\$130,000."

Markgraf had at one point been a vocal critic of PDC plans to develop the property for low-income housing, and had tried to promote its use as a satellite campus by the LaSalle Catholic High School of Milwaukie. Earlier this month, LaSalle announced it was establishing such a campus at the former Queen of Peace school on North Delaware Avenue.

The former Villa Saint Rose property has been vacant since the Rosemont School for delinquent girls left in 1987. A bid by the non-profit agency Central City Concern to redevelop the property for low-income housing met with strong opposition from

Piedmont. CCC sold its option to purchase to PDC.

Tom Walsh, owner of Walsh Construction, said he was attracted to the project by the

"unique partnership" between Piedmont and the city, its call for a mixture of incomes as part of the development, and the chance to utilize the historic convent.

