



# Business



## Strike up the grill with the Best

Some of the best chefs and top kitchens in the Portland area turn to Paul Peffer for supplies of 100 percent charcoal products, such as Mesquite from the trees of Mexico.

### Mesquite ... what is it?

This is a common question in the Portland area is that some restaurant managers ask, "Is it mined out of the ground like coal?" Many people do not know that it is a hardwood tree similar to oak that grows in the arid Southwest.

At the time Cortez set foot in Central America, the Indians had already been cooking for hundreds of years using a fuel that is yet to be matched — mesquite. Imagine Cortez's chef's surprise at finding uneducated natives possessing a fuel far superior to that of civilized Spanish people.

Perhaps his curiosity was sparked enough to venture into the forest. There he would have seen the Indians chopping down this very special tree called "mesquite", watch them pile it into domes (a pyramid of wood), covering the domes with mud and grass and then carefully control the burning by poking holes in the sides of the structure, and, while these were curing, they would open other domes and remove the charcoal. This was the course of this remarkable fuel that he had admired, and to this day, is still relatively unknown to many.

BY MICHAEL LEIGHTON  
OF THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Summer may be fading, but it's not too late to start the barbecue. Just ask Paul Peffer of northeast Portland. Peffer is a national barbecue judge. He's an expert on how to make outdoor cooking taste great.

Local businesses, from the rib pits on the corner to the finest restaurants, know what he is talking about.

Peffer is well known as a supplier of the highest grade of charcoal and other barbecue supplies. For 13 years he has serviced northwest cooks, from Seattle to Portland.

He says an essential element that makes for a good barbecue is the right kind of fire.

Peffer specializes in 100-percent natural wood burning products. Compare that to the charcoal you find in the store which is actually a briquette that uses 50 percent filler, clay or sand to produce a charcoal-like product.

The filler produces a lot of the ash you find at the bottom of the pan when the burning is done.

"A real piece of charcoal is chunks of wood that has been carbonized," Peffer says.

Another problem with most store-bought charcoal is that it's bound together with a petroleum product that can contaminate the taste of your food. That's why store brands advise you to wait until the briquettes turn gray before you put your meat on the grill.

Peffer's supply of authentic Mesquite charcoal comes from Mexico, where they build pits in the ground, fire up the wood and put mud on top so that the product can smolder to just the right point of consistency where it's perfect for re-igniting.

Using an authentic charcoal product not only makes barbecuing tastier, but also more enjoyable.

"Once you try real lump charcoal, you will not go back to briquettes," Peffer says.

For more information you can call Peffer's at 503.254.0774.

## Construction means Tri-Met detours

• *Steel Bridge will close on Saturday*

CONTRIBUTED STORY  
FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

MAX shuttle service & bus reroutes will be starting Sept. 9

Tri-Met's MAX light rail and bus service over the Steel Bridge will be disrupted Saturday, Sept. 9 due to bridge construction. Shuttle buses carrying MAX passengers and eight bus lines will be detoured across the Broadway Bridge, while a new pedestrian and bikeway is added to the Steel Bridge.

Minor delays are expected while service is detoured around the bridge. All MAX and bus service will be back to normal by Monday's morning commute.

While the Steel Bridge is closed, MAX riders will be

shuttled between Rose Quarter Transit Center and the Old Town/Chinatown Station. No stations will be missed. If construction isn't done by Sunday morning, shuttle service will start again at 9 pm Sunday until 4 am on Monday.

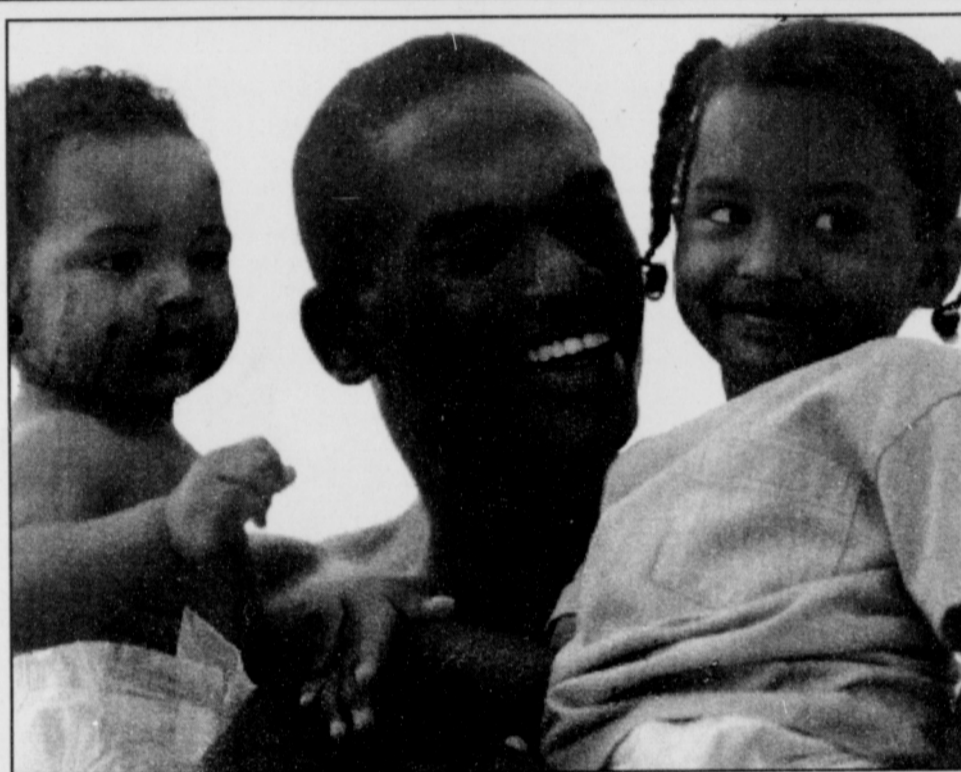
Tri-Met volunteers will be on hand at shuttle bus stops to assist riders with questions.

### Bus reroutes throughout Saturday

Starting early Saturday morning, eight bus routes that normally cross the Steel Bridge will be detoured to the Broadway Bridge, causing minor delays but no missed stops. They will continue on the detour until construction is done. These lines, which make 600 trips across the Steel Bridge, will be affected:

1-Greeley · 4-Fessenden · 5-Interstate Ave · 8-NE 15th Ave · 10-NE 33rd Ave · 33-Fremont · 40-Mocks Crest · 77-Broadway/Lovejoy.

For bus route information check [www.tri-met.org](http://www.tri-met.org) or for trip-planning assistance, call 503-238-RIDE weekdays from 7:30 am to 5:30 pm, TTY 503-238-5811.



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Department of Human Services, Oregon Health Division

## Wage

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that most people were skeptical about it. Rather than drop the idea of a big tax cut, he said, they have now "carved it up into teensy slices" in an attempt to get it passed.

"The Republicans were dogged. They kept at it and they refused to take no for an answer," Clinton said. "That, in a nutshell, is what brings us to the current endgame. We have a lot of work to do."

Lockhart said Clinton — with no campaign of his own and little time left in office — is willing to devote his full attention to budget negotiations, even if they spill over into the campaign's final stretch.

"If Congress can't get their work done by Oct. 1, we're not going any place," Lockhart said. "We'll stay here through Election Day if need be."

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