

METRO Life

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

"Bridging Portland's Communities"

Community Calendar

Share in the Harvest

On the evening of Saturday, Oct. 27 at the beautiful World Forestry Center, Portland's top-ranked Chefs will team up with local farmers and winemakers to combine their considerable skills to present one of the most extraordinary food and wine events in Portland history. If you would like to purchase seats/table, go online to www.portlandbridges.com/harvest/ or call Laurie Simms at 503-635-9580.

Lifeways Psychic Expo

Explore the mysteries of mind, body and spirit with over 100 of the Northwest's Finest Psychics and Retailers. Enjoy Portland's Lifeways Psychic Expo, which takes place Saturday, Oct. 13, 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. and Sunday, Oct. 14, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. at the Montgomery Park Ballroom, 2701 N.W. Vaughn. Call 541-482-3722 or visit www.LifewaysExpo.com.

League of Women Voters

On Tuesday, Oct. 9, the League of Women Voters of Portland will present a panel to discuss the Oregon tax system, its dependence on income tax revenues and possible alternatives. The event will be at the Fireside Room of Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1624 N.E. Hancock St., 7 p.m. Parking is on 16th Ave. across from the church.

A Night for Basic Rights

Hundreds of community and political leaders will come together on Oct. 19 for Basic Rights of Oregon's Annual Fall Dinner in the Grand Ballroom at the Portland Hilton, located at 921 S.W. 6th Ave. "Come As You Are: Express Yourself!" is the dress code, which is sure to provide plenty of pageantry and color. Call 503-222-6151.

A Communities Retreat

All are welcome to attend a communities retreat on Oct. 13 and 14 at the Jackson Bottoms Wetlands. The goal of the gathering is to provide opportunities for varied members of communities to dialogue about what actions are effective in our communities; to give value to actions by including them in the agenda and respecting diversity. To register, call Jill Severson at 503-753-3520.

National Bowl-A-Thon

AMF and its employees are uniting to sponsor a national bowl-a-thon on Oct. 7 to raise money for the benefit of New York City Firefighter, Police and Rescue Workers. AMF's goal is to raise more than \$3 million for the relief fund established by New York Mayor Giuliani's office. For additional info., go online to www.nyc.gov. Sign up at your local bowling center.

Women of Achievement

The Annual Women of Achievement Award is a semi-formal gala attended by politicians, corporate principles and citizens who support women's rights. Their dinner reception and silent auction will be held on Saturday, Oct. 13, starting at 5:30 p.m. at the DoubleTree Hotel Lloyd Center in the Lloyd Center Ballroom, located at 1000 N.E. Multnomah. Call 503-725-5889.

Halloween Carnival

It's a carnival of Halloween holiday fun - games, crafts, tattoos, and face painting! Admission is one can of food per person for Sunshine Division. For age 3 & up with adult. The carnival will be held at the Peninsula Park Community Center, located at 700 N. Portland Blvd. For more info., call 503-823-3620.



Here's Looking at You...

Red light cameras installed on Sandy, Grand and Burnside

The Portland Police Bureau Traffic Division and the City of Portland Office of Transportation are installing the city's first red light cameras.

The first two cameras have been installed at the intersection of Northeast Sandy Boulevard and 39th Avenue. The third camera will be installed at the intersection of East Burnside and Grand.

The two intersections were chosen based on the number of collisions, number of complaints of red light violations, and the number of actual violations.

It is the desire of the Portland Police bureau and the City of Portland Office of Transportation that the red light cameras reduce the number of accidents and violations at these intersections.

Traffic monitoring television equipment is attached to a pole at Northeast Sandy Boulevard and 39th Avenue as part of the city's first effort at using cameras to enforce red light signals.

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Jefferson's Athletes Say Thanks

Billy Reed and his wife Lydia Lundberg get a big thank-you from Jefferson High School football players Demarcus Carney (from left), Ryan Martin and Evan Martin for the \$40,000 they donated to the school's athletic department for team uniforms and equipment. As ongoing support for the inner city school, Billy Reed's Restaurant on Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard is selling dining coupons, where a percentage of the proceeds go to help Jefferson kids.

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER



Freightliner Cuts Employee Pay and Benefits

(AP) — Freightliner has cut back pay and benefits for thousands of nonunion workers in another sign the largest commercial truck maker in North America is struggling.

Freightliner is expected to announce a restructuring plan before the end of October, and the possibility of closing its Portland headquarters has led to a recent flurry of meetings with state, city and union officials.

The DaimlerChrysler subsidiary also has plants in North Carolina, Canada and Mexico.

The latest cost-cutting measure, announced Thursday, will cut pay by 5 percent, require medical and prescription drug co-payments and scrap this year's bonus for 13,100 nonunion employees, including 1,800 in Portland.

Freightliner has asked 1,200 union employees in Portland to consider similar wage and benefit concessions to keep its truck- and parts-manufacturing plants on Swan Island from closing.

"These changes are necessary to address Freightliner's current financial position and to ultimately return the company to profitability," said Freightliner spokesman Chris Brandt. "This is one component of our turnaround plan."

Union members have been told that the company

expects to lose \$1.2 billion this year and that DaimlerChrysler is considering closing the Portland plants, yet another blow to a Pacific Northwest economy already buffeted by planned layoffs at Boeing, major airlines and technology firms.

Gov. John Kitzhaber and Mayor Vera Katz visited Freightliner in early October to discuss the company's future. State and city development officials have declined to discuss details of the talks. "We're trying to make sure that as Freightliner examines its options for solving its problems, that they're fully aware of the support that the city and state have to offer," William Scott, director of the Oregon Economic and Community Development Department.

"They've got very large numbers of employees in very high-wage jobs," Scott said. "It's a major engine of the economy in the Portland area."

Portland businessman Leland James founded Freightliner in 1942. It employs a total of 15,800 workers.

The trucking industry is considered a leading indicator of the economy, and orders have fallen steeply in the past year. Freightliner also is facing problems from a costly guarantee, made before the downturn, to buy back used trucks.



North Portland's Swan Island holds the birthplace roots for Freightliner, a worldwide truck maker now owned by DaimlerChrysler and fighting for its survival.

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER