

Interstate Max tests TriMet's ability to work with disadvantaged firms
See story in our Minority Enterprise Development Week special edition, inside



The



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THE WEEK IN REVIEW

Sniper Attacks Terrorize Maryland



Former Portland Police Chief Charles Moose is the top law enforcement officer in Montgomery County, Md., where a string of deadly sniper shootings goes unsolved. See related story on page A2.

Former N.Y. Police Commish to Lead LAPD
LOS ANGELES—Former New York City police commissioner William Bratton has been selected as the new chief of the Los Angeles Police Department, city officials said.

Deep Divide on Iraq Response

UNITED NATIONS—Russia criticized the draft U.S. resolution on Iraq, saying the document is an unnecessary delay in the return of weapons inspectors. Meanwhile, British Prime Minister Tony Blair said inspectors must get access to Saddam Hussein's palaces.

Breakthrough in Malaria Treatment

An international team of scientists has achieved a breakthrough that is expected to lead to the successful prevention and treatment of malaria, a disease that kills 2.5 million people and infects 500 million each year worldwide.

FDA Renews Sprout Warning

Federal health officials renewed warnings that raw or even lightly cooked sprouts can cause serious food poisoning. The FDA reissued its warning because of a late-summer E. coli outbreak in California caused by alfalfa sprouts.

Gulf Coast Prepares for Lili

NEW IBERIA, La.—Packing 110 mph wind, Hurricane Lili gained strength and churned toward the Gulf Coast, where residents braced for the second major storm in a week. Louisiana ordered a state of emergency, and thousands of residents began evacuating to higher ground.

Bomb Kills U.S. Soldier in Philippines

ZAMBOANGA, Philippines—An explosion near an army camp where U.S. soldiers have been staying killed three people, including an American, and injured at least 25, officials said.

Devoted to Miracles

Social club fights to stay open

BY WYNDE DYER

THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Elontene Banks started shooting drugs when she was nine years old.

Jean Davis wandered through a life of crime and methamphetamine addiction before landing herself in prison.

Gloria Reed was a drug addict for more than 22 years.

The paths of these three women crossed. Not on the streets during a drug deal, but while in recovery inside the safe walls of the Miracles Club. It's a place where miracles really do happen, club members say. But after 10 years of service in north and northeast Portland to a largely African-American membership, the drug-and-alcohol-free social club on the corner of Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Mason may face closure or relocation because of neighborhood complaints and zoning issues.

If we lose our building, a lot of people will lose their lives," Reed said.

Miracles Club might have saved Reed's life. She has attended Narcotics Anonymous meetings and social events at Miracles for nine years and has been a member of the volunteer board for five. After kicking her habit, Reed went back to school to become a drug and alcohol counselor.

Davis also ended the cycle of addiction when she started coming to Miracles eight years ago.

Banks, who has been drug-free for six years, can say the same. She's visited Miracles every day since it opened. She is grateful children can play pool and video games or eat hot dogs and candy at the



Miracles Club snack bar manager "Junior G" and patron Claudia Pepin take a break outside the northeast Portland social club. The drug and alcohol free facility is in a battle over land use regulations and neighborhood complaints.

PHOTO BY WYNDE DYER/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

snack bar while their parents attend daily Alcoholics Anonymous and NA meetings. On Friday night, Banks brings her kids in for the weekly dance.

"Where else can mothers on fixed incomes bring five or six kids," she said.

AN ALTERNATIVE TO ADDICTION

Before Miracles, many recovering addicts had to drive to Vancouver to attend drug-and-alcohol-free social events at the Personality Club. Another obstacle for recovering African Americans was that very

few 12-step programs in the Portland area were ethnically diverse.

The Miracles site has provided a safe environment for recovering addicts to socialize and establish support communities since 1994.

The facility offers a small conference room for meetings and a large social room with pool tables, a dance floor, a stage and a snack bar. Miracles is open from 7 a.m. well into the evening seven days a week and 24-hours a day during holidays when the threat

of relapse is most likely. There is a strict policy on sobriety and children are always welcome.

"We really provide a unique service for people who are struggling," said Miracles Club Secretary Marvis Brown. "The recovering community has a long arm. We reach out to everybody — not just people with addictions, but sufferers of domestic abuse and at risk youth, also. We offer resources,

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City Council Candidates Visit Applegate



Serena Cruz and Randy Leonard field questions from students at Applegate Elementary. The city council candidates visited the north Portland school to introduce children to politics and encourage parents to vote.



Event introduces kids to politics, encourages parents to vote

PHOTOS BY DAVID PLECHL/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

BY DAVID PLECHL/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
Portland City Council candidates Serena Cruz and Randy Leonard made an appearance at Applegate elementary school Thursday to introduce kids to the political process.

Taking time out of a busy schedule made more hectic by a November election runoff, Cruz and Leonard stressed the importance of good decision making to the students of the north Portland elementary.

The two candidates entertained pointed questions from a group of student panelists representing each grade.

"You are the future leaders of America,"

Cruz told the kids, who were a little unsure of what to make of the two.

The appearance was part of the Vote For Children campaign designed to register more parents to vote. Students were given a homework assignment to find out if their parents are registered. If not, parents could come to the school and register on-site.

Leonard stressed the importance of funding for schools and told students to trust their gut when making choices in life.

"I call it the tummy test," said Leonard. "If your tummy hurts when you're making a decision, you probably shouldn't do it."

Cruz, who lives in the Boise neighborhood, has stressed the importance of community safety and affordable housing throughout her campaign.

"If we're safe because we lock everybody up, that is one community I don't want to live in," she said.

Cruz was instrumental in forming the Gang Violence Prevention Task Force with Portland police and the northeast community.

The candidates are running for the council post vacated by Charlie Hales who has taken a job in the private sector.

Leonard is a 24 year veteran of the Port-

land Fire Bureau and has served 9 years in the Oregon Legislature, representing east Portland since 1993 in both the House and the Senate.

Applegate Principal Abby Meyers was happy the two could visit. The registration effort at the school already produced 22 new registered voters among parents.

"We're actually registering people on-site," Meyers said.

The last day to vote in the election is Tuesday, Nov. 5 when mail ballots must be received by election officials no later than 8 p.m. Postmarks will not count.

Coalition Sets Table for Health Fair

A major campaign to improve the health of local residents takes place Saturday, Oct. 22 when the 7th annual African American Wellness Village is held at the

Boys and Girls Club on east Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, from 9 a.m. — 4 p.m.

The African American Health Coalition is sponsoring the free event as an innovative, educational approach to reduce major diseases like diabetes, hypertension and cardiovascular disease. More than one thousand people are expected to attend.

The focus is on preventing future health problems. Health care professionals will offer dental and screening work; blood lead level testing; anemia testing; foot massage and foot care; and vision and hearing tests. A blood mobile; door prizes, music and more will also be part of the event.

The exhibitors will include Kaiser Permanente, Oregon Health Sciences University, Legacy Emanuel Hospital, the Susan G. Komen Foundation and the Eli Lilly and Co.

Taking a culturally specific approach to reaching the black com-

munity, the coalition is also hosting a kickoff event for up to 50 black pastors from the Portland area, encouraging them to provide health education to their congregations. The group will meet on Tuesday, Oct. 15 at Legacy Emanuel Hospital's atrium, from 6:30 p.m. — 8:30 p.m. Rev. Braxton from Mt. Zion in Seattle is the special guest speaker.

"We know through education and interventions that we can save lives and turn the statistics on this minority population around," said Corliss McKeever, African American Health Coalition president.



Corliss McKeever (left) and Dora Asana of the African American Health Coalition, are busy making plans for a free community health fair at the Blazer Boys and Girls Club on Saturday, Oct. 22.

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