

Champion boxer encourages local kids to fight for their dreams

See Metro section, inside.

MedStars experience health careers up close

See special coverage, pages B4-B5.

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Week in The Review

Oprah Goes Home

She has advised millions of loyal fans on what to read, how to manage relationships and how to lose weight. Next, Oprah Winfrey will be serving up advice on furniture and bedspreads. Encouraged by the popularity of a previous issue devoted to home decorating, O, The Oprah Magazine will publish a 48-page home-design supplement next month, magazine spokeswoman Elizabeth Dye said Monday.

Tents Answer Housing Crisis?

In budget-strapped Oregon, camping is the latest solution to the thorny issue of housing ex-cons - particularly registered sex offenders - that has vexed officials for years as they struggle with nervous neighbors and reluctant landlords.

Davis' Lawyers to Sue for Recall Delay

Gov. Gray Davis will ask the California Supreme Court to delay his Oct. 7 recall election until March and make him a candidate to, in effect, replace himself, his attorneys said.

Deputy Down in Desert

Police and volunteers searched the Mojave Desert for the person who killed a Los Angeles County sheriff's deputy and for a possible witness to the shooting. Deputy Stephen Sorensen, 46, was killed Saturday while following up on a trespassing call in Llano, about 40 miles northeast of downtown Los Angeles. His patrol car was found along with bloodstains and other signs of a struggle, authorities said. Sorensen's body was discovered less than a quarter-mile away, shot in the upper torso. His handgun was missing, officials said.

Rescue Troops Warmly Received in Liberia

West Africa's first troops landed Monday on an international rescue mission for Liberia, greeted by overjoyed civilians who spilled onto the airfield by the hundreds, screaming, "We want peace!"

Cameras in Kobe's Court

The judge in the Kobe Bryant case Monday rejected the NBA star's request to keep cameras out of the courtroom during his first court appearance on a sexual assault charge. Bryant's attorneys argued against allowing cameras during the hearing scheduled Wednesday, saying they could jeopardize Bryant's right to a fair trial.

First Out of the Gate in Mayor's Race

Jim Francesconi could run city or leave politics completely

BY JAYMEE R. CUTI
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Commissioner Jim Francesconi has no interest in Salem and doesn't have an eye for Washington, D.C. In fact, his plan is to leave politics altogether if he's defeated in his run for mayor of Portland.

Francesconi's all or nothing approach may be the jolt that Portland needs to offer jobs, education and equal opportunities for all of its residents. His short "to do" list packs a punch, especially with African American and low-income residents.

A lifelong Democrat, pro-social mantras flow fluidly from Francesconi's lips.

"African Americans already know that they need to be part of the solution, but they also need to benefit from our city," he said.

By diversifying city commissions, specifically the planning commission, pressuring big businesses to hire minorities for both entry level and high-paying jobs, supporting minority-owned businesses and making it easier for minorities to buy homes in Portland proper, Francesconi said he hopes everyone will enjoy the high quality of life that the city provides.

"Our whole community, including African Americans, has to feel safe and feel the police are here to protect them," Francesconi said.

During his run for commissioner, Francesconi was endorsed by the Portland Police Bureau. This may not sit well with some African Americans who feel they face acute racial profiling, and still feel the sting from a slap on the wrist resolution for Kendra James' death at the hands of a North Precinct police officer who will keep his job.

While largely absent from public discussion surrounding Kendra James' shooting,

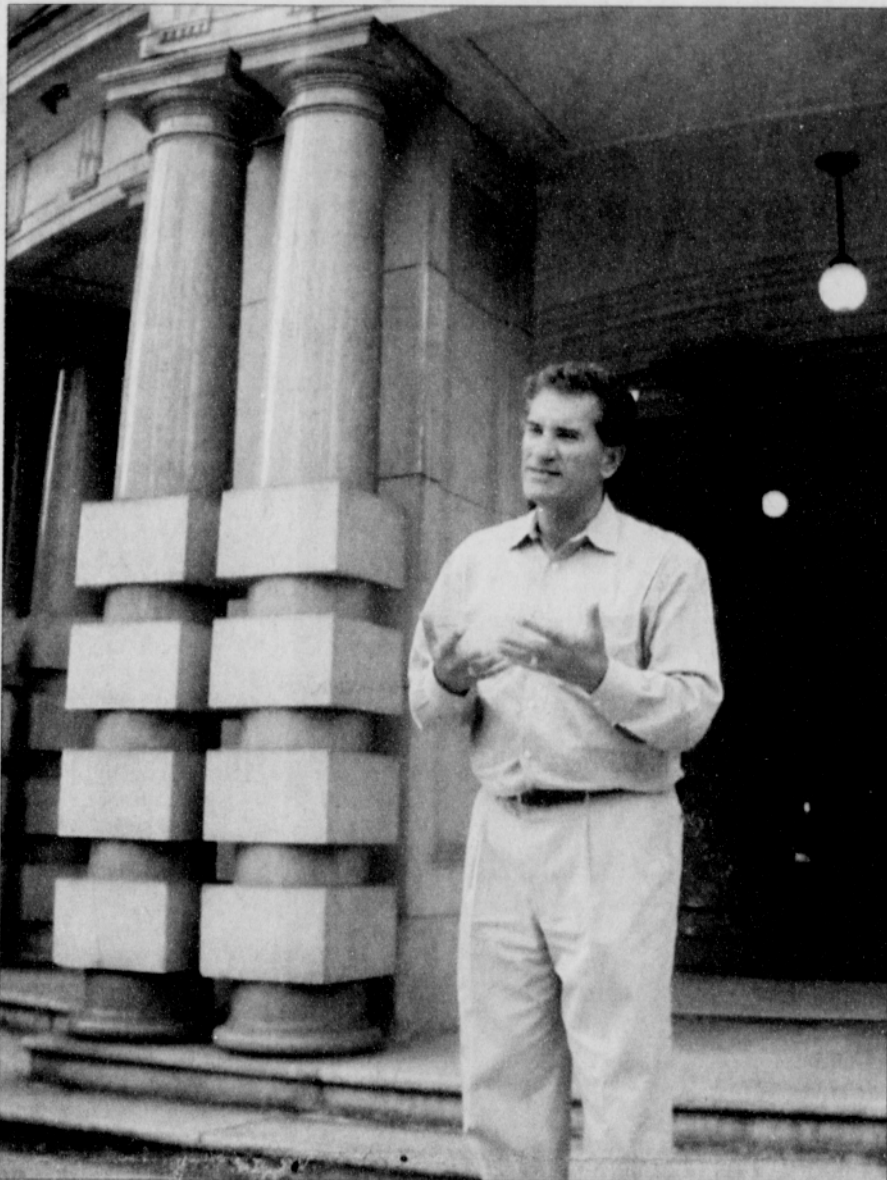


PHOTO BY TONY WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
Portland City Commissioner Jim Francesconi looks to replace Mayor Vera Katz at City Hall. Katz recently announced that she won't seek re-election.

Francesconi said he met with African American ministers and police to discuss a narrowing of deadly force policy.

"My goal is to prevent something like this from ever happening again," he told the Portland Observer at the time.

Francesconi hopes to win the police endorsement again, but also plans to institute an apprenticeship program to diversify the force, as he did in the Fire Department.

"The Fire Department is not where it needs

to be, but it's a lot more diverse than the Police Department," Francesconi said.

Francesconi oversaw the Fire Bureau from 1999 to 2002, during a strong campaign to diversify the staff.

His past endorsements include African American state senators Margaret Carter and Avel Gordly (D-Portland), school board member Lorenzo Poe, Self Enhancement, Inc. founder Tony Hopson and Roy Jay, president of the African American Chamber of Commerce.

Francesconi is serving his seventh year as city commissioner, in charge of transportation and parks and recreation.

With a strong interest in parks, he pledges to improve and maintain public green space

African Americans already know that they need to be part of the solution, but they also need to benefit from our city.

— Mayor Candidate Jim Francesconi

and community centers. Fixing potholes in city streets also is a pet cause.

Francesconi has a plan to cut the city's utility bills and tighten the belt on the city budget through efficient spending. He promises to hold every city agency accountable to performance measures.

A resident of northeast Portland's Alameda neighborhood, Francesconi said he would return to his 20-year career as a trial attorney if he loses the mayoral race.

After graduating from the University of Oregon, Francesconi served as a full-time volunteer in inner northeast Portland with

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Legacy Summer Jobs Promote Medical Careers

BY JAYMEE R. CUTI
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Statistics show that Latino and African American students have lower high school graduation rates than whites. Coupled with a shortage of minority workers in health care, minority students might feel a struggle or at least a lack of role models when breaking into the medical field.

Legacy Health System is trying to combat those statistics with its Youth Employment in Summers program, encouraging Latino and African American students to graduate from high school, get a college education and acquaint themselves to healthcare as a career choice.

The goal is to diversify the medical industry and give minority kids the experience to compete in the medical field.

This year, 17 students were recommended by their schools or mentors to participate in the 10-week paid internship program at area hospitals, including Legacy Emanuel and Good Samaritan Hospitals. Students assist in a variety of real-life medical situations, sometimes observing surgeries, learning to



Hakin Hasan works with Maddie Hayes at Legacy Emanuel Hospital's Pediatric Rehabilitation Clinic.
PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

use equipment and interacting with patients.

Melissa Garcia, a 21-year-old immigrant from Honduras, is working with nurses in the trauma ward. She currently attends Portland Community College and aspires to be a trauma nurse. At Legacy, she often helps to translate for her Spanish-speaking patients.

"This is for me a dream. With my English level and education level, I never thought I'd be able to see patients in a hospital," she said.

Garcia describes herself as a born caregiver, often volunteering to help sick neighbors and her older sister, who has polio.

Hakin Hasan, a Benson High School graduate attending Howard University in Washington, DC, is in his third year with the program.

He works with children in the pediatric rehabilitation unit at Emanuel and says he values his role in calming families during a traumatic situation.

"It helped me deal with people on another

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Donations for Park Staff

Portland Parks and Recreation hired five full-time coordinators to its Summer Playgrounds Program in local parks, with the help of a \$25,000 donation from Nike.

The staff leads unstructured games such as ultimate Frisbee, table tennis and kickball at Alberta, Irving, Argay, Essex and Pier Parks. Specialized activities promote the joys of movement and combat early obesity and the diseases that go along with a sedentary lifestyle.

"Nike and Portland Parks and Recreation share the goal of helping children develop healthy habits at an early age. Together, through the generosity of Nike, we will be able to reach more neighborhood children this year," said Commissioner Jim Francesconi.

The Summer Playground Program, which typically runs from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., has provided fun and safe activities for 75,000 youngsters this summer.

In addition to providing free activities, including arts and crafts, the playground program provides free lunches to participants.



Richard Owens and Demetri Jackson enjoy a game of ping-pong at Alberta Park.

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