

METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

Community Calendar

Trees Need Friends

Friends of Trees will plant trees and shrubs in the Boise/Humboldt/ King/ Sabin/ Vernon neighborhood on Feb. 21 and the Hough/Rosmere and Vancouver neighborhood on March 6. If you want to be a help to your community and environment, call 503-284-TREE or visit www.friendsoftrees.org.

Health For Everyone

The 6th annual Health Fair featuring "Health Issues that Affect Everyone" is from 9:30 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. Saturday, March 13 at the Ainsworth United Church of Christ, 2941 N.E. Ainsworth United Church of Christ. The event is free, and lunch is provided. For more information, call 503-284-8767.

Bicentennial Symphony

Willamette Falls Symphony in Oregon City is presenting a concert to commemorate the Bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark Expedition at 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 22 at Gregory Forum, Clackamas Community College, 19600 S. Molalla Ave. in Oregon City. For more information, call 503-632-7267 or visit www.orgsites.com/or/willamette-falls-symphony.

Buckle Up

Law enforcement officers will conduct increased safety seat and seat belt enforcement through Feb. 22, coinciding with National Child Passenger Safety week.

In His Name

Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church Youth Choir holds a concert in honor of Black History Month at 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 22, at 5828 N.E. Eighth Ave. Any youth choir interested in singing, call Kandie Berry at 360-771-3561.

African Film Festival

Family Film Day at the Kennedy School presents "Nightjohn" at 11:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 21, 5736 N.E. 33rd Ave.

What's Fido Thinking?

Learn about what goes through your pooch's mind at Canine 101 through the Oregon Humane Society, 1067 N.E. Columbia Blvd. Classes is at 11 a.m. Saturdays, March 6 and 20. Donations are \$10. For more information, call 503-285-7722.

International Exchange

The University of Portland's International Club, Associated Students of the University of Portland and the Office of International Student Services invites you to a night of cultural sights, sounds and tastes with "Intervention," from 5 to 7 p.m. Feb. 28 at the University Commons on campus, 5000 N. Willamette. Tickets are \$8. For more information, call 503-943-7367.

Immunize Now!

Keep your kids in school by attending an immunization clinic before the school exclusion deadline of Feb. 25. Upcoming clinics include an opportunity from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Feb. 21 at Our Savior Lutheran Church, 11100 N.E. Skidmore and the Dexco Building, 727 N.E. 24 Ave. from 9 to 11:30 a.m. and 1 to 5:30 p.m. Feb. 24. For a full listing of clinics, call 503-988-3816 or visit www.ohd.hr.state.or.us/imm/index.cfm.

Mood Enhancement

Learn about how food affects mood at New Seasons Market, 5320 N.E. 33 Ave., from 5 to 7 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 29. For reservations, call 503-288-3838.



Vanessa Gaston, president and chief executive officer of the Urban League of Portland, meets Gregory Heights Middle School student Tieanti Brown during her tenure as the northeast Portland school's 'principal for the day.'

School Dedication

Community leaders get active with local schools

Vanessa Gaston, president and CEO of the Urban League of Portland, was "principal for a day" at Gregory Heights Middle School in northeast Portland.

Like 115 other civic and business leaders who fanned out recently into each of Portland's schools, Gaston expressed

appreciation of the high-quality teaching and dedication she saw.

"In a school where over half of the students come from low-income homes and almost a fifth are learning English as a second language, I saw teachers challenging and engaging all of their students with a rigorous curriculum," said Gaston. "Their approach was, let's talk about children and building a community. How can we develop these children into productive adults?"

Gaston was part of the fourth annual

Principal for a Day program, sponsored by the Portland Schools Foundation in partnership with Portland Public Schools.

This year, Wendy D. Puriefoy, President of the Public Education Network in Washington D.C., urged Principals for a Day to take an active role in closing the achievement gap between affluent students and high poverty students, English language learners and children of color.

Puriefoy, who also addressed the City Club of Portland, told the city's business

and civic leaders, "Closing the achievement gap can only be accomplished by closing the engagement gap between communities where schools benefit from high levels of citizen involvement and those where schools struggle in isolation for resources and support."

The Principal for a Day program is designed to inspire partnerships that increase community involvement and resources for all of Portland's schools, particularly schools in low-income neighborhoods.

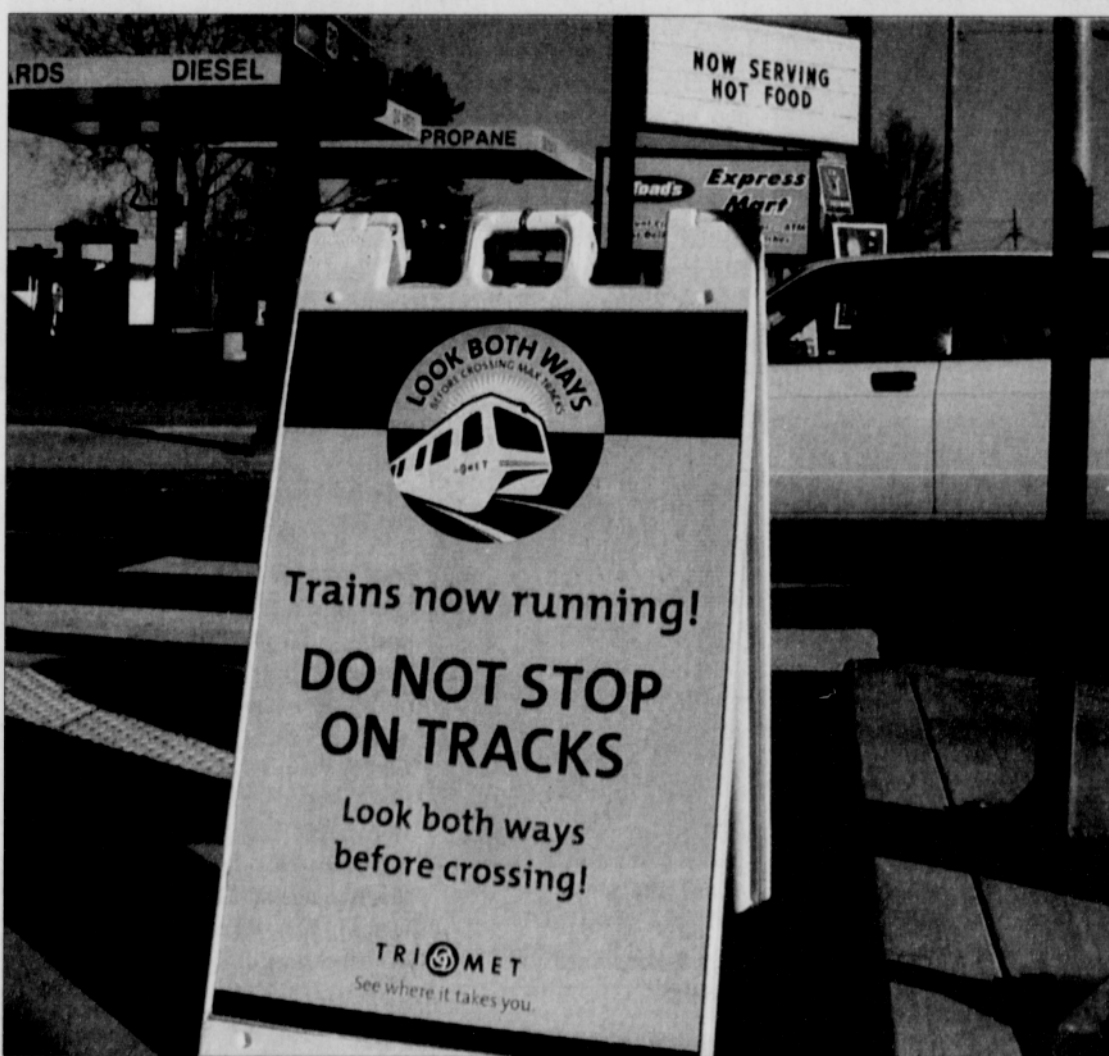


PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Signs have been added to the new TriMet Max light-rail line on Interstate Avenue warning pedestrians about safety. Trains are now testing the tracks as the transportation agency prepares for a May 1 opening.

Residents Urged to Look Both Ways

BY LEE PERLMAN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Commuter trains on the new Interstate Max light-rail line on Interstate Avenue has raised safety concerns.

The Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods is not sure the

public is ready to look both ways before crossing the tracks as trains have already begun testing the line.

Interstate Max is scheduled to open to the public on May 1. The 5.5-mile "yellow line," will run from the Expo Center in north Portland to Southwest 11th Avenue down-

town via North Interstate Avenue.

During a recent bus tour of the line, some members of the coalition feared that the ultra-quiet vehicles may hit unwary vehicles and pedestrians.

continued ▼ on page B5

John Lewis Honored at PSU



U.S. Rep. John Lewis



PSU President Daniel O. Bernstine

John Lewis named PSU commencement speaker

Portland State University President Daniel O. Bernstine announced that Congressman John Lewis of Georgia, a celebrated leader in the nation's civil rights movement, will deliver the keynote address at the University's annual spring commencement ceremony this June.

This will not be the Congressman's first trip to Portland State. He visited the downtown campus as a part of Sen. Robert Kennedy's 1968 bid for president and again in the summer of 2003 to discuss the civil rights movement with Bernstine and members of PSU's campus commu-

nity.

"I am honored that Congressman Lewis will be PSU's commencement speaker, 40 years after he led the Students Nonviolent Coordinating Committee's Mississippi Summer Project to register blacks to vote in the 1964 election," Bernstine said. "At a time when our graduates face many challenges,

Congressman Lewis provides a living example of the value of social change, advocacy for peace and equal rights.

— PSU President Daniel O. Bernstine

Congressman Lewis provides a living example of the value of social change, advocacy for peace and equal rights."

continued ▼ on page B5