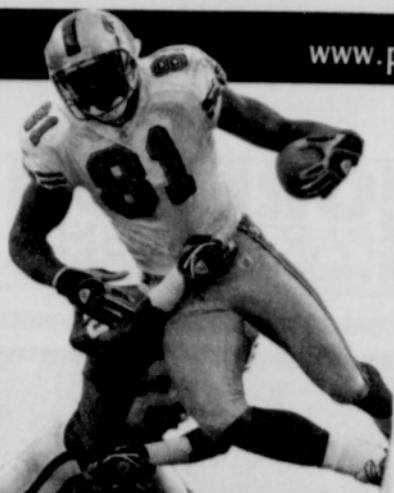
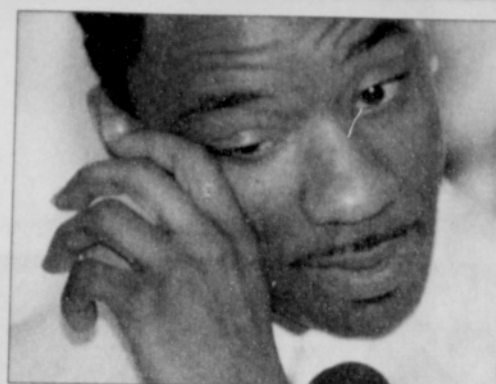


METRO

The Portland Observer



**NFL Star
Owens Gets
Trade Wish**
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**Terrell
Brandon
Retires**
Sports, page B6

Community Calendar

Prophetic Event

Evangel Temple Community Church is having a Prophetic Conference through Friday, March 19 at 7 p.m. at 5417 N. Williams Ave. For more information, call 503-287-7871.

Wellness Workshops

New Seasons Market offers a workshop called Allergies: Nothing to Sneeze At, from 7 to 9 p.m. Monday, March 29 and a class on Optimal Thyroid Health from 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesday, March 23 at the Concordia store, 5320 N.E. 33 Ave. To register, call 503-288-3838.

Bloomfest

Easter Seals Oregon announces BloomFest from April 6-10, asking volunteers to coordinate and sell fresh-cut tulip bunches for \$5. For more information, call 503-228-5108 ext. 317.

Heart Walk

Raise funds and save lives with a 5K/1K Heart Walk beginning at 8 a.m. Saturday, May 22 at the Eastbank Esplanade, Main Street Festival Plaza. To register, call 503-233-0100 or visit www.walk.americanheart.org.

Interest in Adoption?

A free information meeting for prospective adoptive parents is from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 17 at Belmont Public Library, 1038 S.E. 39th Ave. Meetings are held the third Wednesday of each month. For more information, call 503-226-4870 or visit www.openadopt.com.

Reunion Watch

Former students and faculty of Girls Polytechnic, James Monroe and Washington-Monroe high schools have the 66th annual all-school dinner at 5 p.m. Monday, April 12 at Our Lady of Sorrows School, 5239 S.E. Woodstock Blvd. Tickets are \$15. For more information, call 503-236-6557.

Packy Turns 40

Packy, the Oregon Zoo's elephant which became nationally renowned as the first Asian elephant born in the Western Hemisphere in more than 44 years, celebrates his 40th birthday with a cake stomping from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 14. Come by to sing happy birthday to Packy, and have a piece of cake for yourself. For more information, visit www.oregonzoo.com.

Honor Political Women

The Oregon Historical Society presents a program honoring the accomplishments of women in the historic 1970s legislature (including Mayor Vera Katz) in conjunction with Women's History Month. Conversations are at the Historical Society, 1200 S.W. Park Ave. from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, March 18. For more information, call 503-222-1741.

Trees Need Friends

Friends of Trees will plant trees and shrubs in the Piedmont and Cathedral Park/St. Johns neighborhoods on March 27, and in the Goose Hollow and Montavilla neighborhoods on April 3. If you want to be a help to your community and environment, call 503-284-TREE or visit www.friendsoftrees.org.

Minority Business Boost

A Small Business Economic Development Conference hosted by HUD is designed to help minorities and female business owners participate in federal government contracting prospects. The conference is at the Doubletree Hotel in Jantzen Beach, from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. March 18. Pre-registration is \$35. For information, call 877-741-3281 or visit www.hud.gov/washington.

Student Authors at Sabin



Chantell Wesley reads from "Unplanned Trip to the Rose Garden," the book she authored along with 300 of her fellow students at Sabin Elementary School.

It may not be the last book about the Portland Trail Blazers coach and key players, but Sabin Elementary School presented the third installment of their completed trilogy at an assembly, to coach

Maurice Cheeks and players Darius Miles, Dan Dickau and Jerome Kersey, characters in the story.

"Unplanned Trip to the Rose Garden," written and illustrated by the 300 students of

Sabin in a collaborative process, is a whimsical adventure of a fieldtrip to the Rose Garden gone awry from icy weather.

The experience gave Sabin kids important life skills lessons including flexibility,

patience, cooperation, pride, integrity, caring and teamwork.

The book was led by art specialist Chris Lamp, fifth grade teacher Nita Kreuzer and Principal Richard Shafer.



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
Roger Konkka and Gary Thomas plant a tree in front of Star E Rose Café on Alberta Street. They were among many volunteering to add trees to the urban landscape after the city's Alberta Street revitalization project ran over budget.

Alberta Trees Ensured

Shop owners plant own trees when city breaks promise

BY JAYMEE R. CUTI
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Frustrated Alberta Street business owners and neighbors are taking matters into their own hands, and hopefully green thumbs.

Neighbors say their tree wells remain empty slabs of mud despite promises from the city to plant and replace trees as part of a streetscape revitalization project.

Last week, Louisa Heamish, owner of Star E Rose Café, organized approximately 10 volunteers, mostly customers, to plant trees in front of her business on Alberta Street and 24th Avenue.

"This is truly a community effort to get the trees back," she said.

Heamish says the city promised many

improvements to the street, including benches, public art and trees, but stopped short after TriMet bus shelters were built.

Jean Senechal Biggs, project manager for the Portland Office of Transportation, confirmed that the Alberta streetscape project is over budget, pushing tree plantings to the background.

She said a request for more money to finish the project has been submitted and a response is anticipated in time for the fall 2004 planting season.

"We really want to stick with our commitment," said Senechal Biggs.

One cost-cutting option for the project costing between \$60,000 and \$85,000 for the 94 trees, is asking property owners to water and maintain the trees, once planted. Usually, contractors maintain newly-planted trees for the first year.

Jane Foreman, executive director of Friends of Trees, says the city cut back on

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Vision for Old School Redo

Surplus property closer to becoming community center

BY JAYMEE R. CUTI
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

One community's vision to turn a surplus property into a community center and pool is a step closer to reality.

The Portland City Council unanimously endorsed a resolution to negotiate an agreement to purchase at least half of now-vacant Washington High School campus between Southeast 12th and 14th avenues and Stark and Morrison streets.

Popular with neighbors is a plan including a community center with a pool, a playing field, 130 to 210 housing units, parking, retail outlets and preservation of open space.

The council plans to reprioritize itmes within the Portland Parks and Recreation budget to fund the project. Other funding options would come from Portland Parks and Recreation development charge funds, capital improvement project funds, a general fund and possibly the private sector.

The actual purchase of 4.5 acres of the property will come before council in a future meeting, after the details are negotiated between the city and Portland Public

Schools Real Estate Trust.

Commissioner Jim Francesconi called the project his "number one priority" and Mayor Vera Katz committed to keeping the project moving forward.

Those with a stake in the neighborhood, including Portland Parks and Recreation officials, a spokesman from Public Schools Real Estate Trust, the Buckman and Hosford-Abernathy neighborhood associations, Kerns Improvement Committee and South-



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
A plan moves forward to turn parts of the former Washington High School campus in southeast Portland into a community center, public pool and housing.

east Uplift, suggested that such a center would help attract people to the inner south-east neighborhood and ward against urban flight to the suburbs.

Washington High School merged with Monroe High School before closing in 1980 and has been underutilized by the district ever since. The building houses some district offices and a small Child Services Center.