



Mayor Vera Katz Mayor to Undergo Cancer Therapy

Mayor Vera Katz announced Monday that she will undergo further treatment following her surgery and hysterectomy in April that removed a fibroid tumor.

Last week, during a follow-up examination, the surgeon who had performed the hysterectomy discovered a polyp that contained cancer cells.

The Mayor was advised by her medical team to begin a course of chemotherapy. She expects to continue her duties as Mayor either from home or in the office during the next 12 weeks of expected treatment.

"I am blessed to have been born with an abundance of energy," Katz said. "This will allow me to continue to lead this city while completing my treatment."

Mayor Katz intends to serve out her term in office, which expires at the end of December.

Albertsons Eyes Vanport Project

Retailer considers site for new store

BY LEE PERLMAN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard's long-delayed Vanport Project is not only still alive, but may deliver a new Albertson's grocery store to Northeast Portland.

The Portland Development Commission announced that the food chain has signed a "letter of interest" about locating a 50,000 square foot market on Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard north of Alberta Street as part of the project. According to the PDC, Albertson's officials will negotiate with Vanport's African-American partners Ray Leary, Jeana Woolley and the Gerding-Edlen Corp. over the next 90 days.

PDC staffer Abe Farkas said the commission will purchase four single family homes along Northeast Garfield to make room for the project. Two other adjacent homeowners have refused to sell. As a result, if an Albertson's is built, it will be built around the two remaining structures, Farkas said.

Conceived in 2001, the project was originally intended to cover three square blocks between North Alberta and Killingsworth streets



Albertsons has an interest in opening a new store on Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard north of Alberta Street

on the east side of MLK, and to include 250,000 square feet of housing and commercial activity as well as structured parking.

Over time, as the partners were unable to secure an anchor, the project was cut back in scope. The parking structure was abandoned

and PDC abandoned plans to purchase the northernmost block from Multnomah County, the site of the Multicultural Senior Center.

PDC Director Don Mazziotti said Albertson's could serve as a magnet to attract additional investment. But the reality is the marketplace

will decide what's built there." Commission members Noelle Webb and Janice Wilson made the case for retail over housing interests.

"This is our last chance for a commercial node on this street," Noelle, an African-American com-

munity leader said. "There's always money for housing; PDC is here to do the difficult stuff. I would be absolutely opposed to housing on this site."

Leary said the Vanport project has been a trying effort, but "I feel we're closer than ever."

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Minority Parking Bid Expands

The Alliance of Minority Chambers and Star Park has received two thumbs up for the management portion of a multi-million dollar contract to manage Portland's Smart Park garages.

The recommendation moves to the Portland City Council for final approval.

African American Chamber of Commerce President Roy Jay said his group's bid included proactive management and innovative business concepts.

Jay promises a new attitude and a new level of public parking service with ticket booth attendants assigned as concierge level representatives to enhance downtown as a shopping, tourism and employment destination. Several private garage owners are also consid-



The Alliance of Minority Chambers and Star Park is poised to take over complete management of Portland's Smart Park garages.

ering moving their contracts to the Chamber alliance.

The Alliance of Minority Chambers includes the Hispanic Met-

ropolitan Chamber, Philippine Chamber of Commerce and the African American Chamber of Commerce of Oregon.

Police Investigate Weekend Shootings



Myesha Hammick, 28, was shot in the leg in a drive-by shooting at Northeast Prescott and 14th Place on Sunday.

Two separate shooting incidents over the weekend leave police looking for suspects, motives and evidence.

Myesha Hammick, 28, narrowly escaped life-threatening injuries when she was shot in the leg shortly before 11:30 p.m. on Sunday, June 13, police said.

The motive was not immediately known but Gang Enforcement Team officers said they did not believe Hammick had gang relations.

Also on Sunday, approximately half an hour later, police responded to another shooting several blocks away. No one was injured but a parked car was hit with bullets near the Texas Club at North Vancouver Avenue and Fremont Street.

Investigators urge anyone with information about the shootings to call 503-823-3333.



Former President Clinton and former first lady Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-N.Y., stand by their portraits during a ceremony unveiling of the Clinton portraits, Monday, in the East Room of the White House. (AP photo)

White House Portraits Make History

Simmie Knox felt connected to Clinton

(AP) — An artist whose official portraits of former President Clinton and Hillary Rodham Clinton was unveiled at the White House Monday says he felt a special connection to Clinton because the two men grew up poor in the South.

Simmie Knox is self-taught and was born in 1935 in Aliceville, Ala., to a family of black sharecroppers. Clinton

grew up in Hot Springs, Ark.

He is the first black painter to be commissioned for a presidential portrait.

"I knew the day he came into office, if I ever have the chance to paint a president I think this is the one. Somehow I felt that."

Best known for his portraits of such celebrities as baseball legend Hank Aaron and comedian Bill Cosby, Knox was chosen to paint Clinton because the former president and first lady liked his depiction of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg, a Clinton appointee to the Supreme Court.

Knox took dozens of photo-

graphs and discussed what Clinton, 57, would like to see in the portrait.

"You need to get your mind's-eye image," Knox said. "Once I see you I'll never forget you. When I don't know you and I work from an image in a photo I'm really feeling in the dark, but when I meet with you and talk to you, it really registers, and all I need is one good exposure."

Official portraits of presidents and first ladies often are unveiled at the same time, but rarely by the same artist. Hillary Clinton asked Knox to paint her after seeing some mock-ups of her husband's portrait.

Advertise with diversity in
The Portland Observer
Call 503-288-0033
or email: ads@portlandobserver.com

The Portland Observer Established 1970
USPS 959-680

4747 NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., Portland, OR 97211

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, PUBLISHER: Charles H. Washington

EDITOR: Michael Leighton

REPORTER: Jaymee R. Cui

DISTRIBUTION MANAGER: Mark Washington

CREATIVE DIRECTOR: Paul Neufeldt

OFFICE MANAGER: Kathy Linder

The Portland Observer welcomes freelance submissions. Manuscripts and photographs should be clearly labeled and will be returned if accompanied by a self-addressed envelope. All created design display ads become the sole property of the newspaper and cannot be used in other publications or personal usage without the written consent of the general manager, unless the client has purchased the composition of such ad. © 1996 THE PORTLAND OBSERVER. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. REPRODUCTION IN WHOLE OR IN PART WITHOUT PERMISSION IS PROHIBITED.

The Portland Observer—Oregon's Oldest Multicultural Publication—is a member of the National Newspaper Association—Founded in 1885, and The National Advertising Representative Amalgamated Publishers, Inc., New York, NY, and The West Coast Black Publishers Association • Serving Portland and Vancouver.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Portland Observer
PO Box 3137, Portland, OR 97208
Periodical Postage paid in Portland, OR
Subscriptions are \$60.00 per year

503-288-0033 FAX 503-288-0015
news@portlandobserver.com subscription@portlandobserver.com
ads@portlandobserver.com classifieds@portlandobserver.com

Get real

MAX weighs 55 tons

Look both ways before crossing tracks

TRIOMET

