

Mayoral Candidates Address Issues

The Community Association of Portsmouth and University Park United Methodist Church will co-sponsor a Mayoral Candidate Forum in north Portland on Friday, Oct. 8, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Both candidates, Tom Potter and Jim Francesconi will attend.

Currently, north Portland is experiencing rising property values and large public investments in transportation, commercial developments, public housing, and affordable housing.

The forum will be moderated by Rev. Dr. Jeanne Knepper. Each candidate will give a brief introduction. They will then be asked a series of questions posed by the sponsors. Each candidate will have the opportunity to respond. There will be a chance for the public to ask questions through the moderator. Following the forum, refreshments will be served, and attendees can speak personally with the candidates.

Women's Business

The Mt. Hood Community College BizCenter is offering a comprehensive educational program geared to helping women develop their own businesses.

"Fresh Start for Women Starting New Businesses" will hold twice monthly workshops, and 12 hours of individual counseling from business consultant, Dollie Mercedes.

Some of the topics covered in the workshops include: ways to define your business, find the market potential, create an action plan and how to develop leadership skills.

School Begins with Track Safety Push



Ockley Green Middle School's Gobbleau Calhoun gets some tips from Richard Parker, a CEC Security officer for TriMet, on how to be safe around the Yellow Line Max Tracks next to her school at North Interstate Avenue and Ainsworth Street.

Trimet officials say the simplest advice is still the best: look both ways before crossing the train tracks.

With students flooding the streets on their way to school, TriMet wants to remind pedestrians to

cross tracks safely and keep an eye out for the Interstate Max's new Yellowline in north Portland, which was not running before school let out.

"We have quite a few elements as

well as a lot of signs to remind people how to be safe around Max," said Mary Fetch, a spokeswoman for TriMet.

TriMet has installed sophisticated crosswalk signals with images of a

train, audio warnings and crosswalk countdowns.

TriMet staff monitored platforms last week near Ockley Green Elementary School to make sure kids knew how to cross the tracks safely.

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER



Denyse O. Peterson

Caldwell's Colonial Chapel

20 N.E. 14th Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97232
(503) 232-4111

The Pre-arrangement Concept

Dear Family Member:

Denyse Peterson represents funeral homes and cemeteries in the Portland Metropolitan area. Many families have a difficult time getting through all the associated decisions, questions, grief and financial responsibilities that follow when a love one dies. Denyse's responsibility is to provide information. Pre-arranging lessens the burden before the time of death with challenges such as emotional overspending, indecision, haste and worry.

Our personal planning guide can be a great benefit to love ones. Overall, pre-arranging will benefit families tremendously.

The pre-arrangement Dignity Memorial providers are honored to help families in our community with your funeral needs.

Representing these fine funeral homes:

- Caldwell's Colonial Chapel
- Sunnyside Chapel & Memorial Gardens
- Lincoln Memorial Park & Funeral Home
- Hennessey, Goetsch & McGee Funeral Directors
- Gateway Little Chapel of the Chimes
- Lincoln-Willamette Funeral Directors
- Killingsworth Little Chapel of the Chimes
- Ross Hollywood Chapel
- Skyline Memorial Gardens & Funeral Home



For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call Denyse Peterson at (503) 232-4111.

Parental Abductions Addressed

Local leader supports new task force

A new task force of law enforcement officials and other experts will study strategies to reduce parental abductions in Oregon and find methods to resolve them in a manner that serves the best interests of the child and the child's family.

The effort has the backing of state Sen. Avel Gordly, an African American lawmaker representing northeast and southeast Portland.

"Each year, 200,000 children in America fall victim to parental abduction. Their cases receive far less police and media attention than abductions by strangers, even though stranger abductions are far less common," said Gordly. "It is my hope that this task force will help raise awareness of the problem and lead to more effective strategies for dealing with it."

The Senate Interim Task Force on Parental and Family Abductions began its challenging work in June. It will study a wide range of topics, including the emotional problems caused by parental abductions, the financial impact of such abductions on abducted children, their families and their schools, the actual incidence of parental abductions in Oregon and methods to resolve



Sen. Avel Gordly supports a taskforce on parental abductions.

parental abductions successfully.

The task force is also developing bills for the next regular legislative session, including one that requires law enforcement officers to report parental abduction information to the Missing Children's Clearinghouse.

Although often dismissed as custody battles, parental abductions are in reality a form of child abuse. Victims of parental abduction are torn away from their homes and loved ones and forced to suddenly start a new life. Abducted children are often given new names, religions and

identities, and instructed never to speak about their past.

Experts say children taken into hiding by a parent or family member are often in serious jeopardy, both psychological and physical.

Because parental abduction currently is not considered a criminal offense, the Oregon State Police have little involvement with such cases.

"Currently it's a civil issue, statutory changes would have to be made to turn it into a criminal issue," said Glenn Chastain, OSP's public information officer.

Portland Team Heads to Uganda

Three veteran medical volunteers with Northwest Medical Teams are headed to Uganda to care for thousands of displaced,

needy families camped in makeshift shelters.

Dr. Stephen Boyer, a Portland emergency room physician with Providence St. Vincent Medical Center, Dr. Robert Gibson, a Portland cardiologist in private practice, and Scott Gotter, a Hillsboro firefighter and paramedic with the City of Portland, are the first volunteers ever sent to Uganda by the Portland-based agency.

The team will carry in more than \$40,000 in critically needed medical supplies. The antibiotics, bandages, surgical kits and other items will treat 10,000 patients for a 30-day period.

According to the United Nations, more than 1.5 million Ugandans have been driven from their homes in response to the on going fighting between the Ugandan government and rebel forces.

Book Giveaway Saturday

Give your kids the gift of reading by attending the annual Children's Book Fair, sponsored by the Urban League of Portland and the North Portland branch of the Multnomah County Library.

The Fair is from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday Sept. 18, at the library, 512 N. Killingsworth St. Each child who attends can choose a free book to take home.

The free event is intended for pre-school through elementary school-age children and features crafts, storytelling and games. Bookman and Bookwoman, the event's caped crusaders of literacy, will make an appearance. Stories in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, French, German and Chinese will be featured.

For more information, call 503-988-5394.

Get real

MAX weighs 55 tons

Look both ways before crossing tracks

TRIMET

