



Challenging Preconceptions
Provocative play at Interstate Firehouse
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Culture, Ecology & Greed
Milagro hosts bilingual eco-drama
See El Observador, page A7



The Portland Observer

'City of Roses'
Volume XXXIV, Number 1

Established in 1970
Committed to Cultural Diversity

www.portlandobserver.com
Wednesday • January 7, 2009

Week in The Review

Gas Prices Up after 3 Months
Gasoline prices are up in Oregon with the average price of a gallon of unleaded gas rising 6.5 cents to \$1.81 from a week ago, the first increase in more than three months, according to AAA Oregon.

Heavy Rain in Forecast
Forecasters say another Pacific storm should dump several inches of rain on northwestern Oregon, with some streams flooding. The National Weather Service says the rainfall Wednesday and Thursday could total 1 inch to 3 inches in the Portland area.

Senate Rejects Burris
Democrat Roland Burris of Illinois was informed he would not be seated in the new Congress Tuesday. He pledged a lawsuit, the latest twist in a political drama that began when he was named to Obama's Senate seat by Gov. Rod Blagojevich, who has been charged with having attempted to sell the appointment. See story, page A2

Franken Win Brings Lawsuit
Republican Norm Coleman said Tuesday he is suing to challenge Democrat Al Franken's apparent recount victory in Minnesota's U.S. Senate race, delaying a resolution of the contest for weeks or months.

Rice Promotes Ceasefire
U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice flew to New York on Tuesday to discuss with key powers how to get a ceasefire in Gaza that the United States says must be durable, sustainable and indefinite.

Venus Eyes #1 Spot
Wimbledon champion Venus Williams is eyeing regaining the top spot in women's tennis as she gears up for another tilt at the season's opening Grand Slam, the Australian Open.

Social Security On-Line
The Social Security Administration, bracing for the coming eligibility of 80 million baby boomers, is introducing an online application that will allow people to apply for retirement benefits in as little as 15 minutes.

Travolta's Son Cremated
The body of actor John Travolta's 16-year-old son, Jett, was cremated in the Bahamas after his sudden death after a seizure during the New Year's holiday and his parents flew to Florida with his ashes, a Bahamian lawmaker said on Tuesday.

39 years of community service

Adams Era at City Hall Begins

New Mayor focuses on agenda

Mayor Sam Adams, a longtime fixture in City Hall politics, touted jobs, education and sustainability Monday as he took the oath of office during a public swearing in ceremony at Parkrose High School in northeast Portland.

"Our community, of course, has problems—big problems—and fixing them will be tough," Adams said. "One thing is absolutely certain: Despite the worst economic recession in 60 years bearing down on us, Portland cannot wait; the time to move is now."

Adams, 45, the chief of staff to former Mayor Vera Katz was first elected to the City Council in 2004, and was elected Mayor in last May's Primary Election with 58 percent of the vote, avoiding a runoff in the November General Election.

Adams described how his administration will focus on three areas in his four year term as mayor:

Jobs — "Good jobs that come from successful and ethical businesses," he said. "The City Council will work to support such companies to open, expand and stay here"

Schools — "Making sure our children graduate high school is more than just the

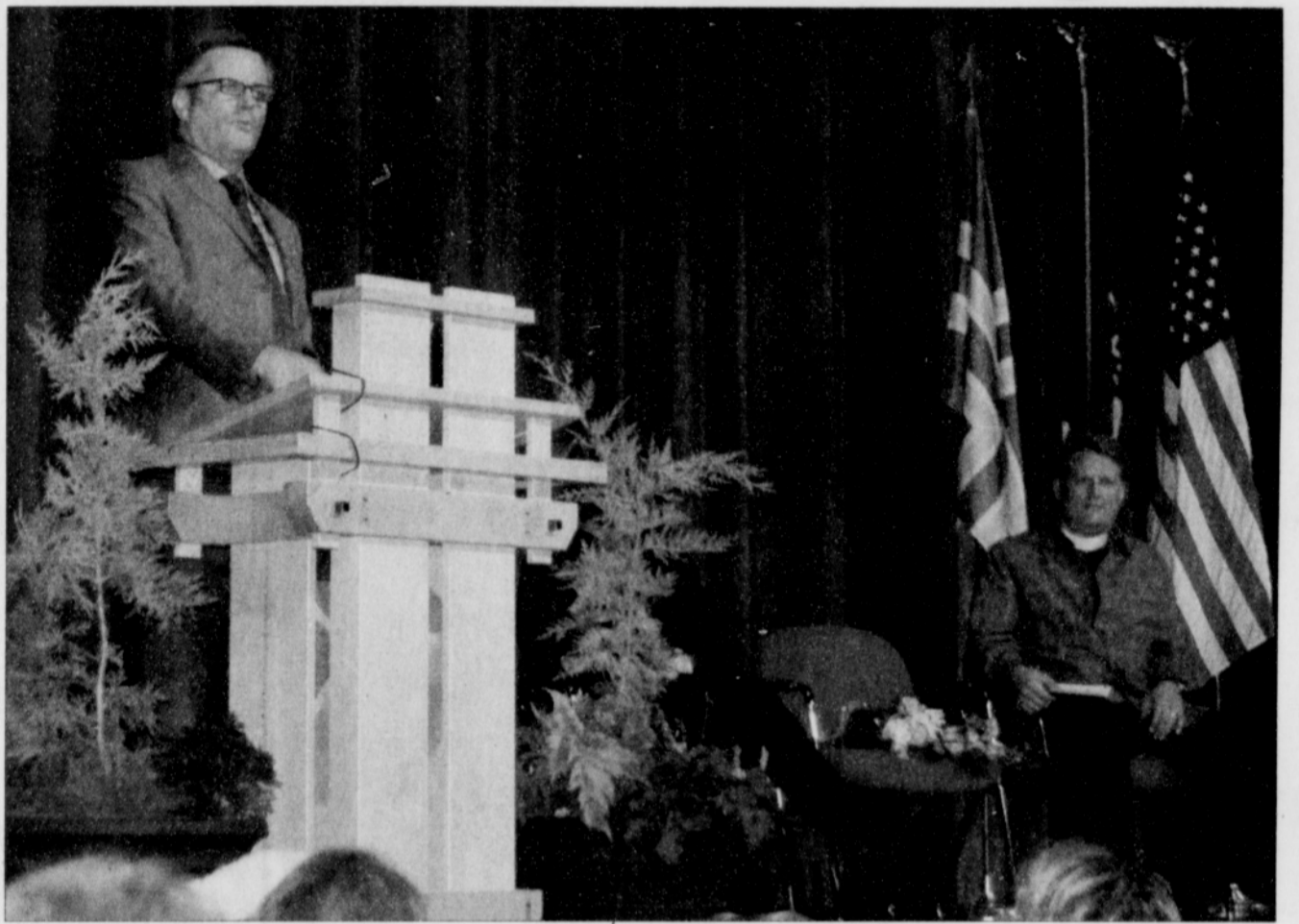


PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
Newly installed Portland Mayor Sam Adams takes the podium to focus on his agenda during a public swearing in ceremony Monday at Parkrose High School in northeast Portland.

right thing to do; it is a smart investment in our future prosperity," he said. "Our economy hinges on an educated workforce.

Sustainability — "A green revolution is

about to bloom across America," said Adams. "Let's make Portland the hub."

The public ceremony included students; members of Adams' family; Katz; city commissioners Dan Saltzman and

Randy Leonard; newly elected city commissioners Nick Fish and Amanda Fritz; and school leaders from the Parkrose and

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Avoiding a Blank TV Screen Come February

Consumers gear up for digital broadcasts

BY JAKE THOMAS
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Big changes could be on the horizon in 2009, and one of them could be in your living room. On midnight on Feb. 17, television broadcasters across the country will stop broadcasting in analog and convert to digital. Unless you've taken the right steps, you might be staring at a dark TV screen.

Digital television offers more vivid images and crisper sound. And because digital frequencies take up less bandwidth broadcasters can offer up several channels.

The switchover is one of the most momentous transitions in broadcasting history, as the U.S.



PHOTO BY JAKE THOMAS/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
Converter boxes that can convert new digital TV signals to analog for older TV sets are sold at a local Radio Shack store.

joins the ranks of several European countries which have gone digital. However, the switch could

render millions of televisions into oversized paper weights, and the move to digital may prove to be

prickly for consumers trying to get accurate information.

Approximately 15 percent of

households only have a television with analog reception, according to a Government Accountability Office (Congress' research arm) report.

According to Anne Kissel Elliot, vice president of communications for the Nielsen Company, which keeps extensive data on peoples' television watching habits, 6.8 percent of U.S. households are "completely unready," meaning that they will have a blank screen on Feb. 17. The number for Portland is 10 percent.

"No, the country is not prepared," said Chris Murray, senior counsel for Consumers Union. "I'm not sure what we're going to do about it."

In November, Consumers Union reported the results of a poll that found that although 93 percent of Americans were aware of the transition, only a third of respondents with at least one television affected knew they needed to take action, and only a quarter who would have no working television after the transition knew

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Waterfront Dock Named for Kevin Duckworth



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
A dock near the Steel Bridge will be named in honor of the late Kevin Duckworth, a Trail Blazer great and fan favorite who loved fishing on the Willamette River.

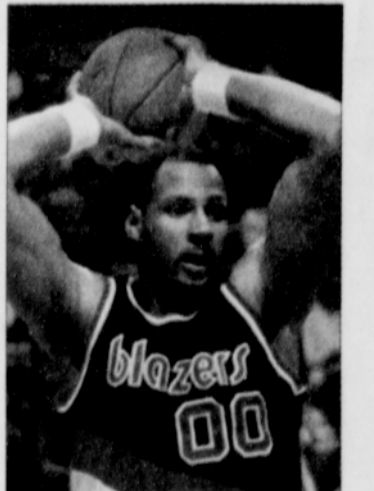
Blazer great loved fishing

The Portland City Council has announced plans to honor late Trail Blazers great Kevin Duckworth by officially renaming the "L" shaped dock adjacent to the floating portion of Vera Katz Eastbank Esplanade.

On Jan. 22 at 2 p.m. at City Hall, a public hearing will be held to officially designate the Kevin J. Duckworth Memorial Dock.

Testimony will be taken on behalf of Duckworth, who passed away on Aug. 25 and left a legacy of community involvement, and passion for the outdoors.

"Kevin Duckworth's family,



Kevin Duckworth friends and fans knew him to be a hardworking and genuinely nice guy who loved the outdoors and fishing.

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