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Take Back the Land

Radical calls for civil disobedience to address housing crisis
See story, page A2



Talented Jefferson Dancers

Prestigious high school dance troupe sets spring concert dates
See Arts & Entertainment, page A11



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Week in The Review

US Flu Deaths Likely



Federal officials warned on Tuesday that swine-flu related deaths were likely in the United States as the disease that

killed scores in Mexico continued to spread across the world and governments intensified steps to battle the outbreak. See story, page A2

Oregon Menu Calories Law Passes Committee

An Oregon House committee approved a bill that would require chain restaurants to post calorie counts on menus and reader boards. If the bill passes the full House and Senate, Oregon would become the second state to adopt such a standard.

Urban League Chief Visits

National Urban League President and CEO Marc Morial delivered a "State of Black America" report during a visit to Portland Monday, citing effects from a housing crisis and a growing gap between the rich and poor. See story, page A3.



Portland Bicyclist Killed

Authorities say a bicyclist died late Monday afternoon when he collided with a pickup near the intersection of Northeast Weidler Street and 106th Avenue. Portland Police said the adult male was riding eastbound on a one-way westbound street.

Specter Shifts to Democrat

Veteran Republican Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania switched parties Tuesday, a moderate's defection that pushed Democrats to within a vote of the 60 needed to overcome filibusters and enact President Obama's top legislative priorities.



Governor Expands Oregon Unemployment Benefits

Gov. Kulongoski signed a law last week that creates an alternative base year to count wages for unemployment benefits, allowing 6,000 more jobless Oregonians to qualify.

PCC Cascade Job Fair

More than 40 employers will be featured at the Portland Community College's 12th annual Cascade Job Fair, a free event open to the public from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Tuesday, May 5 in the school's North Killingsworth Street gym.

PDX Housing Prices Fall

A new monthly report finds Portland-area home prices fell 14.4 percent in February, compared to the same month a year earlier, the biggest drop in real estate values since the 1980s.

39 years of community service

Tailpipe Shudders

Scientist blasts 12-lane bridge

BY JAKE THOMAS
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The Columbia River Crossing, a proposed new bridge linking Vancouver to Portland, is slated to be the largest public works project ever undertaken in the Pacific Northwest, with a price tag of \$4.2 billion.

The Portland City Council gave approval to the most car-friendly option for the bridge with 12 lanes for automobiles.

The decision last month has generated scores of critics, many of which recently congregated in Portland's Waterfront Park to rally against the project.

The opponents are concerned about the potential to significantly add more tailpipe emissions to an area that's already one of the most toxic regions of the city in terms of air pollution and cancer-causing chemicals.



Linda George

In order to get a better handle on what the crossing will do to air quality, the Portland Observer sat down with Linda

George, an atmospheric chemist at Portland State University who has extensively studied the air pollution of the area.

"It's going to make a bad situation worse," said George, who explained that putting more tailpipes on the freeway could easily exacerbate north and northeast Portland's already poor air quality.

George said that there is no way to expand lanes and decrease pollution in the long term, and can't think of any city to have pulled off a similar project without contributing to more pollution.

Cars are just dirty vehicles, explained George. She points out that research shows that even cars that use clean energy still emit chemicals harmful to human health. Tires alone kick

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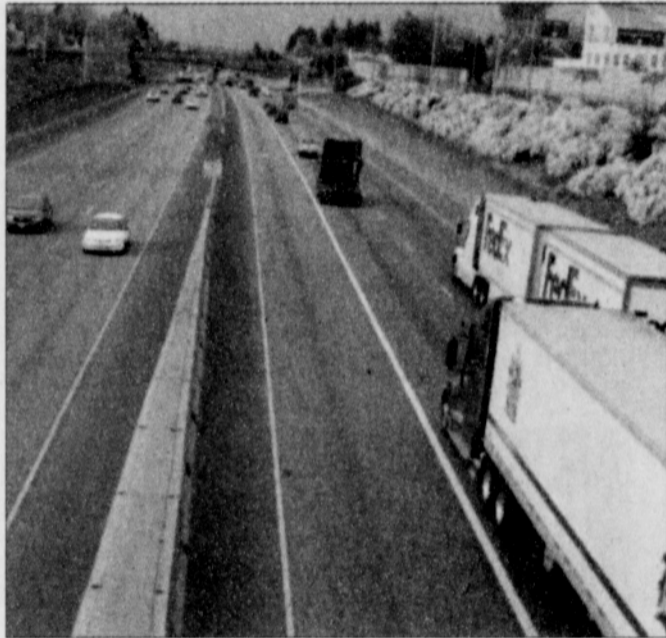


PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
I-5 runs smooth during Monday's early evening commute in north Portland. But will it clog up when the freeway is fed by 12 lanes as proposed with a new I-5 bridge at Jantzen Beach. Opponents fear a future of gridlock with pollution emitting tailpipes.

Farmers Market to Open in Northeast



Neighborhood activists Paige Coleman and David Sweet usher in a new farmers market which makes its debut this Sunday at northeast Portland's King School Park. The market will open each Sunday through Sept. 27 offering home grown produce, flowers, cheese and meats.

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Venture to bind diverse communities

BY LEE PERLMAN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

"The farmers are coming!" proclaim the flyers, and organizers hope that local residents will too—and become involved.

The new King Farmers Mar-

ket will commence Sunday, May 3 and be open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. every Sunday through Sept 27 in the King School Park parking lot at 4815 N.E. Seventh Ave.

A joint venture by Portland Farmers' Market and the Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods, the market will feature more than 40 food booths selling locally created produce, flowers, cheese and meats. There will also be prepared

foods from local restaurants, cooking demonstrations, music and entertainment, and information about local activities.

Sabin neighborhood volunteer David Sweet, the chair of the market's organizing committee, is thrilled about the potential for building a sense of community between multicultural populations.

"Among the things we have in common, one of the most

common is food," he told the Portland Observer. "This is an opportunity to break bread together. At the grocery is where you run into your neighbors. The Farmers Market will decidedly be that sort of place. It's an open air community where you can come early, bring your kids and watch them play in the park and enjoy a cup of coffee. There'll also be a connection to the source of the food—you

can meet the farmers who produced it, which is an experience you don't get at the grocery."

Northeast Coalition executive Paige Coleman adds that there will be electronic machines on site allowing people with food stamps to use their Oregon Trail cards. Not only that, she says, the coalition hopes to institute a Neighbors Feeding

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Local Kids Get Excited About Science

With Lego Robotics competition

BY JAKE THOMAS
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The first year was a good one for north Portland's Lego Robotics team, the Joybots. After competing against 20 other schools in Portland and southwest Washington, they made it all the way to the qualifying tournament and walked away with the top prize for engineering teamwork.

The Lego Robotics program, sponsored by Oregon Robotics Tournament and Outreach Program, seeks to get kids excited about science and technology by having teams build and program robots to perform tasks



PHOTO BY JAKE THOMAS/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
Rayawine Paris joins her north Portland Joybots teammates to line up objects that represent environmental concerns in a Lego Robotics competition.

Ernest Hartzog, a retired school administrator who volunteered on the program, said

the Joybots had the only robotics teams from the metro area composed primarily of

people of color.

The students from three groups divided by age met after school and on the weekends to build robots from Legos and other materials, and then programmed them to perform tasks.

Antonio Jackson, who heads the fraternity, said that it was important to have a program like this in the area.

The Joybots, made up of nine to 14 year olds, may have won the prize for teamwork, but in the beginning they struggled to get along, said Rayawine Paris, a 10-year-old student at Cathedral School.

"In the beginning we didn't work together," said Paris. "But we wanted to win it so much we started being nice to each other."

On Sunday, Bethel AME continued on page A7