

50¢

**Legendary Al Green**

Famed singer brings his soul magic to the lawn at McMenamins Edgefield in Troutdale

See Arts & Entertainment, page A10

**Hot Jazz Weekend**

Vancouver's Wine and Jazz Festival offers a diverse lineup of hot jazz, fabulous wines and delicious cuisine

See page A7, inside



# The Portland Observer



Established in 1970

Committed to Cultural Diversity

www.portlandobserver.com

Volume XXXIV, Number 33

Wednesday • August 19, 2009

## Week in The Review

### Jobless Barely Budes

The recession may finally be hitting bottom in Oregon with another month of unemployment figures hovering around 12 percent. The good news was that things have not gotten worse, economists said.

### Free Bus Rides to End

Cash-strapped TriMet has decided to end free service in the Fareless Square area of downtown and Lloyd Center beginning Jan. 3. Transit officials will continue to offer free Fareless Square service on the Max light rail and the Portland streetcar.

### Lottery Revenues Decline

With overall lottery revenues declining, Oregon lottery officials are opening debate on whether to cut more deeply into the video gambling commissions paid to bars and taverns that host the machines. Currently, a tavern or bar gets to keep about 23 cents of every dollar a patron leaves behind in the machines.

### Yang Bests Tiger Woods



Yong-eun Yang on Sunday became the first Asian player to win one of golf's majors — the PGA Championship — when the 37-year-old from South Korea took down none other than Tiger Woods, the sport's No. 1 player.

### Clunkers Cash Boosts GM

Higher sales from the government's Cash for Clunkers program have prompted General Motors Co. to boost production at several of its factories, according to company and union officials.

### Journalist Dead at 78



Robert Novak, one of Washington's most influential political journalists of the past half-century, died Tuesday after a battle with brain cancer. He was 78.

### Shooting at McCoy Park

A 19-year-old was taken into custody Tuesday after north Portland residents reported hearing gunshots fired in McCoy Park. Jeffery Anthony Ali was charged with unlawful use and possession of a firearm after officers recovered a rifle near the location where he was found hiding.



### Gas Price Tick Up

For the third consecutive week, Oregon gas prices are the seventh highest in the nation. The statewide average for regular unleaded is \$2.79, up about a half-cent compared to last week, according to AAA of Oregon/Idaho. The national average is down a penny this week to \$2.63.

## Cutting Edge Displacement? Streetcars may speed area gentrification

BY JAKE THOMAS

### THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

When Portland was awarded \$45 million in federal funds for a streetcar expansion earlier this year, the city's political class hailed the project as a major contributor to the city's world-class public transportation system, a driver for new industrial jobs in Oregon, and proof that Portland was on the cutting edge of all things sustainable.

However, streetcar cheerleaders have been largely mute on how it is going to drastically alter any neighborhood and community it is extended into. Businesses could be displaced as property values soar; locals might find themselves priced out of their neighborhoods; and the city has few plans to deal with these unintended consequences.

Streetcars are such a powerful force in reshaping urban landscapes in large part because of how they are perceived.

Christopher B. Leinberger, a visiting fellow with the Brookings Institution's Metropolitan Policy Program, explained that in the minds of moneyed people, streetcars are different from bus or light rail.

It's as if bus transit put signs on their doors saying, "only ye who are poor shall enter," Leinberger said.

He said streetcars are considered an innovative mode of



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER  
The Portland streetcar follows its route downtown to Portland State University.

transportation and are associated with livable neighborhoods. But as a consequence, whenever a new streetcar line is planned, interest in the area spikes as does real estate prices.

The 3.3-mile streetcar extension now coming to the central eastside will snake across the Broadway Bridge and then extend south along the Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Grand Avenue corridor.

If you want to see what this area will look like when it's finished in 2011, you may want to look no further than the Pearl District in northwest Portland.

The Pearl was once a lifeless area that consisted of warehouses and aging industrial facilities before the four-mile streetcar line was installed in 2001.

Since then the area has boomed with high-rise condominiums, up-scale businesses, and posh art galleries.

According to a study conducted by the City of Portland Bureau of Transportation, \$3.5 billion in new development has been invested within two blocks of the streetcar since plans were finalized in 1997, which accounts for nearly two-thirds of all development in the westside central city.

The economic development created over 3,000 residential

continued ▼ on page A2

## Carter Moves on; Successor Unclear

### Historic leader takes new job

BY JAKE THOMAS

### THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Margaret Carter, the first African American woman elected to the Oregon Legislature, is stepping down after serving nearly a quarter of a century.

Carter will take a position

next month as state Deputy Director for Human Services Programs, leaving only one African American in the Legislature, Sen. Jackie Winters, R-Salem.

"I am fortunate, though, to carry forward into my new career my passion for ensuring that our most vulnerable citizens receive the services they need to thrive and prosper," she said in a statement.

Social services and protecting the most vulnerable have long been issues deeply important to Carter, 73, a Democrat whose Senate district represents all of north Portland and a big part of inner north-east Portland.

She co-chaired the Joint Ways and Means Committee during the last Legislative session, which played a critical role in writing the state's



Margaret Carter

budget after being hit with a drastic loss of revenue due to the recession.

Before first being elected to the Oregon House of Representatives in 1984, Carter worked as a counselor at Portland Community College's north Portland Cascade Campus. A few years ago she served as president and chief

continued ▼ on page A3



PHOTO BY JAKE THOMAS/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Saturday Market will celebrate the grand opening of its new digs at Waterfront Park this weekend. The new public plaza with its covered elements sits just south of the Burnside Bridge, directly across the street from the former market location.

## Saturday Market Celebrates Relocation

### New digs come with waterfront redevelopment

You've undoubtedly heard that the Portland Saturday Market has moved into their new digs in Waterfront Park and Ankeny Plaza. Well now

its time to join in the celebration with a Grand Opening on Saturday, Aug. 22 and Sunday, Aug. 23.

The market is celebrating its

new beautiful park setting along with the new Bill Naito Legacy Fountain, part of a \$10 million Waterfront Park Improvement project funded by the Portland Development Commission, Portland Parks and Recreation and Portland Parks Foundation.

The facility includes an 8,000-

square-foot open-sided pavilion, a cantilevered deck overlooking the river and a circular plaza. As part of the city's sustainability program, there is a bioswale to capture the rain runoff.

The site was designed to encourage interaction between the fountain element and the

market, and will have the effect of creating a vibrant, custom designed space in which the market will operate for years to come.

The improvements were first proposed with a Waterfront Park Master Plan, drafted

continued ▼ on page A2

39  
years of  
community service