



A traffic lane reserved for bicycles is filled to capacity at the approach the Hawthorne Bridge in southeast Portland.

PHOTO BY JAKE THOMAS/ THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Two Wheels on the Rise

continued from Front

bike-friendly infrastructure. Its received mentions in bike magazines, and it snagged the League of American Bicyclists platinum-level designation, the first major city to earn the distinction.

Portland's reputation as a bicycling haven has gotten to the point where a tourism industry has emerged around the activity. Pedal Bike Tours offers a view of the city from two-

wheels. Todd Roll, they company's founder, said that he has people come from all over the country to ride bikes in Portland. Some haven't ridden a bike in 20 years.

"People want to ride bikes," he said.

Earl Blumenauer, a Democrat who represents east Portland in the House of Representatives, founded the Congressional Bike Caucus and can be found commuting to by bike Capitol Hill when Congress is in ses-

sion. However, Portland's bicycle use rate is pitiful compared to a European city like Amsterdam, where an estimated 30 percent of residents commute to work.

Michelle Poyourow, an advocate and educator with the Bicycle Transportation Alliance, said that the city's investments in the 1990s have paid off, but the city could be doing more.

She said that money for car-oriented infrastructure makes up the lion's share of the city's

transportation bureau budget, with less than one percent going towards bike-oriented projects.

In Oregon, one percent of investments from the Highway Trust Fund goes toward bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure. The most recent transportation bill passed by the Legislature allocated \$300 million annually towards transportation infrastructure. Only \$5.6 million went toward bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure.

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Senate Pick Spurs House Vacancy

continued from Front

very similar to that used for a Senate seat. Anyone interested in a newly-vacated seat must meet all regular eligibility requirements and be affiliated with the party of the legislator who stepped down.

People who meet these requirements must apply to the party of the departing lawmaker. The party will then submit three to five names to the county commission for a final vote after the Secretary of State ensures they are eligible.

So far, Lew Frederick, a communications consultant and member of the Oregon State Board of Education; Eddie Lincoln, president of the faculty union at Portland Community College; and Collymore have expressed interest.

Carter's absence leaves only one African American in the 90-member Legislature.

Lincoln told the Portland Observer that he would make education funding, economic revitalization, and a fair tax system his priorities if appointed to the open seat.

"Education benefits all," said Lincoln, who points out that businesses need an educated workforce. He added that raising the corporate income tax is long overdue, and would help inject needed funds into public schools that have had to lay off staff due to budget shortfalls.

He also stressed the importance of small businesses to the economy, and wants the state to offer technical support to

such businesses.

Lincoln argued that his deep roots in the district will make him a responsive representative. He said that he has the chops to be a legislator from testifying before legislative panels regarding PCC funding, and has negotiated with the college on behalf of the faculty for fair contracts.

Frederick has similar priorities.

He wants to see best practices in education put in place, and wants to ensure equity for all students.

"We know what works, we're just not using it," he said.

Frederick said that health care is an important issue for him personally, being weighed down by medical bills from his treatment for prostate cancer two years ago. He argued that the Legislature's latest health care reform "didn't go far enough" to contain costs. The bill taxed hospitals and insurers to expand insurance to children and uninsured adults. It also created an authority to help streamline costs.

But Frederick argues that the bill left out little things that can have a huge impact on peoples' lives, like dental and vision coverage.

Frederick also wants to boost small businesses. He said that smaller businesses often don't get a shot at lucrative government contracts because of the clout of their larger and better-established counterparts. He also wants to see industrial manufacturing busi-

nesses get started up in the district.

Frederick, like Lincoln, has lived in the area for many years. He points out that his breadth of experiences as a broadcast journalist, public information officer for Portland Public Schools, and current member of the State Board of Education will make him well-suited for Salem.

Shields beat out a number of local activists, business owners, and former legislators for the Senate seat, some of which might throw their hats into the ring to replace him in the House.

Bowman, a former legislator, told the Portland Observer that she has no interest in returning to the House. She added that it was odd that Collymore got two votes from the county commission, considering she works for a member of it.

"That was a little interesting," said Bowman, who got one vote from County Chair Ted Wheeler, who later changed it to Shields when it became clear she wasn't going to prevail.

Collymore explained that the two votes she got from the commission came from the hard work and talent they've seen working with her. She announced on Tuesday she would now pursue Shields' House seat.

Harold Williams Two, who had expressed interest in the Senate post, didn't respond to a request for comment on whether he would seek the House seat.

Fred Stewart, a local businessman who also applied for

In Loving Memory of Aaron Bates

Many things can be said about Aaron Bates. Known to friends and acquaintances as a friendly, energetic, empathic and decisive man, his compassionate nature would always shine through, revealing his charm, warmth and conscientious demeanor. He was warmhearted, gentle and organized in all the things he sought to accomplish. Aaron was a mentor, a natural teacher capable of seeing things clearly, leading others and bringing out the best in all of those around him. He generally had a focus on harmony and peace.

His parents were Aaron Bill Bates Sr. and Willie Mae Bates. When he was young, Aaron's friends and family found that "straightforward" and "honest" were perfect words to describe him. Aaron grew up with three siblings, two sisters and one brother. Aaron was constantly involved in all sorts of activities with his family.

Aaron attended Prescott Elementary and he graduated from Fremont High School in 1966. He did well in school and genuinely enjoyed telling stories in a way that drew people to him. Aaron loved running track and did well in sports.

In 1969, while stationed with the armed forces in Colorado Springs, Colo., Aaron's whole life took a dramatic turn when he met the love of his life, Claudette Woods. Compassionate and devoted, he was always generous with his time and this meant that Claudette came first in Aaron's book. He was always caring and made

certain that he considered Claudette's feelings. By trusting his emotions, Aaron did his best to make sure that both the marriage and home life ran smoothly. This is just one more example of how Aaron was truly a person of empathy. On Aug. 11, 2009, Aaron and Claudette celebrated the strength of their love by observing their 40th wedding anniversary.



Aaron's quality of being a caring and tolerant person who was very accepting of others translated to being a good father to his children. Aaron shared these values with his daughters, Patress, Camille, Syreeta and Aaronette. Aaron related well to children of all ages and was able to connect to them on their level. The children always loved him and he was completely and totally devoted to them.

Aaron was an Army veteran. He volunteered to serve in 1968. His fellow soldiers knew him as being very resourceful and kind. Aaron demonstrated personal initiative and valued these same principles in those with whom he served.

Aaron passed peacefully of natural causes, surrounded by his family on Sept. 5, 2009 in Portland. He is survived by his wife and, Claudette, his four daughters, Patress Bates-Runsewe, Camille Marie Bates, Syreeta Yvonne Bates, Aaronette Claudette-Connie Bates; 21 grandchildren, a sister, Rose Marie Thompson, a brother, Leroy Davis and a host of relatives and friends.

Aaron leaves behind him a legacy of life-long friendships and cherished memories.

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