

Obama Picks Insider

Nominee would give high court three female members

(AP) -- President Barack Obama nominated Solicitor General Elena Kagan to the Supreme Court on Monday, declaring the former Harvard Law School dean "one of the nation's foremost legal minds." She would be the court's youngest justice and give it three female members for the first time.

The nomination to replace liberal retiring Justice John Paul Stevens set the stage for a potentially bruising confirmation battle, though mathematically Democrats should be able to prevail in the end.

At 50, Kagan is relatively young for the lifetime post and could help shape the high court's decisions for decades. If confirmed by the Senate, she would become only the fourth female justice in history.

Obama cited what he called Kagan's "openness to a broad array of viewpoints" and her "fair mindedness."

Standing beside the president in



Elena Kagan

the East Room of the White House, Kagan said she was "honored and humbled by this nomination."

"I look forward to working with the Senate in the next stage of this process, and I thank you again, Mr. President, for this honor of a lifetime," she said.

Republicans are expected to criticize her for attempting to bar military recruiters from the Harvard Law campus while she was dean. That issue was used against her by critics during her confirmation hearing last year for her current post.

Democratic officials said Kagan would begin making the rounds of senators' offices on Wednesday.

With control of 59 votes in the Senate, Democrats should be able to win confirmation. However, if all 41 Republicans vote together, they could delay a vote with a filibuster.

Republicans have shown no signs in advance that they would try to prevent a vote on Kagan, but they are certain to grill her in confirmation hearings over her experience, her thin record of legal writings and her decisions at Harvard.

The senator who will preside over her confirmation hearing, Democrat Patrick Leahy of Vermont, said, "The Senate should confirm Ms. Kagan before" Labor Day.

"Our constituents deserve a civil and thoughtful debate on this nomination, followed by an up-or-down vote," said the chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Bridge Deck Replacement Project N Lombard St - Columbia Slough

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE

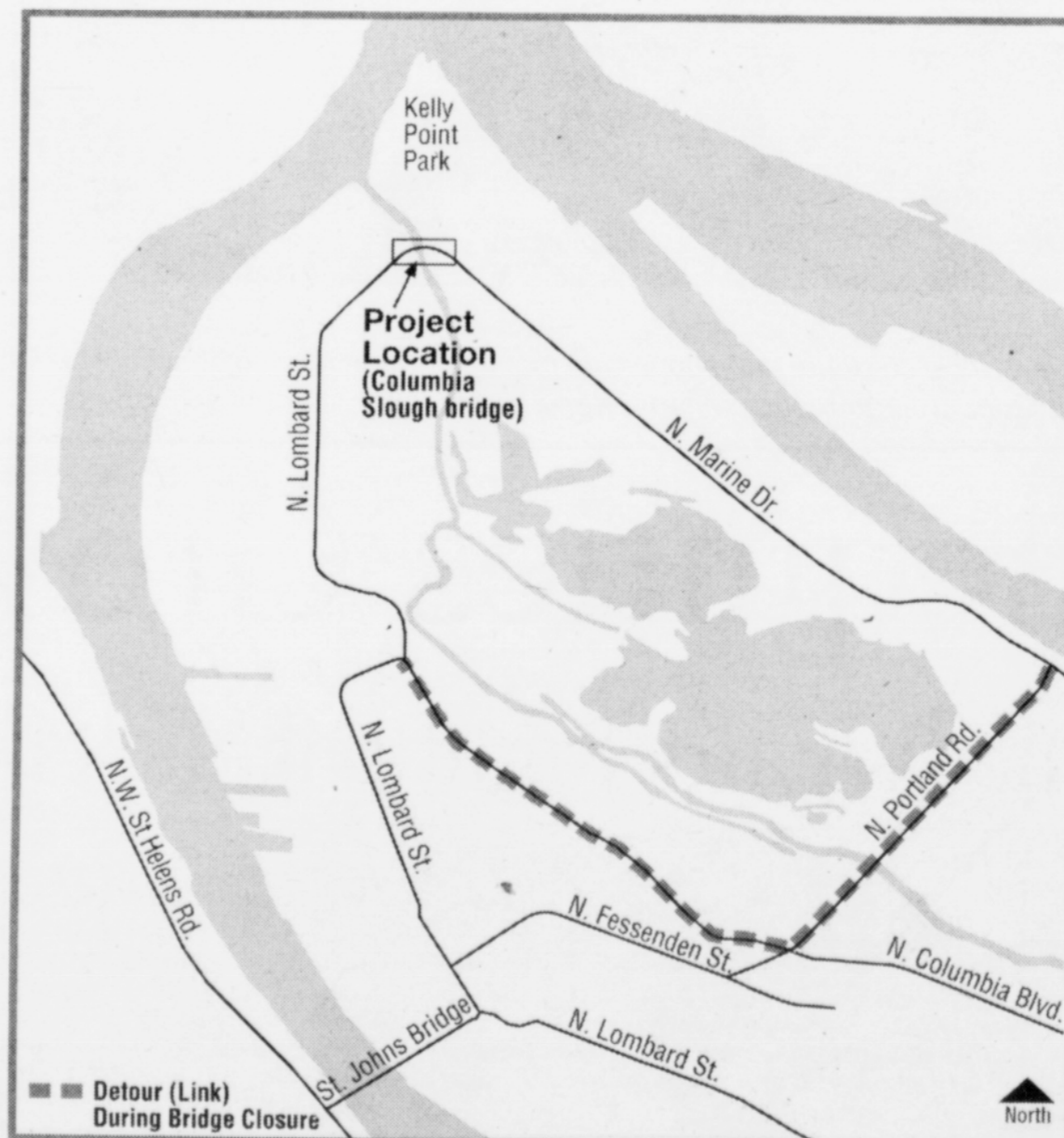
St. Johns Community Center
8427 N Central St

Wednesday, May 19
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

- Please join us to learn more about the project.
- The purpose of the project is to replace the deteriorated bridge deck that carries traffic on N Lombard Street over the Columbia Slough near Kelly Point Park.
- Preliminary design drawings will be available to view.
- The Columbia Slough bridge will be closed and detours will be in effect during construction. (see map)

The project is anticipated to be constructed in the Spring of 2011.

If you have any questions or need more information, please contact Cameron Glasgow at 503-823-9726.



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Week in The Review

City Makes Diversity Pledge

The Springfield City Council has unanimously approved a goal to "create a positive environment that values diversity." Monday's vote came three months after city officials learned of racist and crude e-mails circulating in the city's maintenance division.

Walters Needs Heart Valve

Barbara Walters says she will have surgery later this week to replace a faulty heart valve. The 80-year-old television legend said she's known about her condition for a while and thought the time was right for the surgery because she can take the summer off and "can come roaring back in September."



Biden's Son Suffers Stroke

Vice President Joe Biden's oldest son, the Delaware attorney general, had a mild stroke Tuesday and was transferred to a Philadelphia hospital, where he was recovering. Beau Biden, 41, was expected to recover, his doctor said.

Second Try for Spewing Oil

A second, smaller oil containment box is being brought to the site of a blown-out well in the Gulf of Mexico. Engineers hope to avoid the same kind of ice crystal buildup that stymied their first attempt at using a larger box. More than 4 million gallons of oil have spewed from the well since the drilling rig exploded April 20.

Dolphins Wash Up on Gulf

Federal wildlife officials are treating the deaths of six dolphins on the Gulf Coast as oil-related even though other factors may be to blame.

Whale Stuns Scientists

The appearance of a grey whale swimming off the coast of Israel has stunned scientists, in what was thought to be the first time the giant mammal has been seen outside the Pacific in several hundred years.

