

Week in The Review

Marshall High Closes

Students, parents and administrators of Marshall High School said their goodbyes on Tuesday during the southeast Portland school's final day of classes. Marshall is the first high school in the city to be shut down in three decades, after the school board voted 4-3 in the fall to close it and send its students to Madison and Franklin.

Saxophonist Suffers Stroke

E Street Band saxophonist Clarence Clemons suffered a stroke on Sunday night and underwent two brain surgeries. Clemons, an integral part of the Bruce Springsteen band, also recently performed on Lady Gaga's new album "Born This Way."



Coasters Singer Dies

Carl Gardner, a founding member and lead singer of the Coasters, the renowned R&B vocal group, died at the age of 83 on Sunday. For 50 years, the Texas-born Gardner was with the Coasters band, whose hits included 'Yakety Yak,' 'Charlie Brown' and 'Poison Ivy.'



Cho Hired at Charlotte



The Charlotte Bobcats on Monday hired former Portland Trail Blazer General Manager Rich Cho as their new

GM. Cho was fired by Blazer owner Paul Allen in May after working with the Trail Blazers for less than a year.

Homeowner Stabs Burglar

A homeowner stabbed an intruder shortly after 3 a.m. Tuesday after he awoke to find the burglar in his house near Northeast 43rd and Siskiyou Street. The intruder took off and has yet to be located.

Paraglider Arrested

A paraglider jumped off the Astoria Column on Saturday and posted the video of his stunt on YouTube. 41-year-old Dell Schanze of Salt Lake City was arrested Monday and charged for violating city code. Astoria police Sgt. Brad Johnston said the column is an icon and an Astoria treasure and the stunt is both dangerous and will not be tolerated.

Jobless Numbers Improve

Oregon's unemployment rate dropped to 9.3 percent in May, closing in on the national 9.1 percent level as the state added 1,300 jobs. The rate has fallen over the past five months, from 10.6 percent in December. It peaked in June 2009 at 11.6 percent

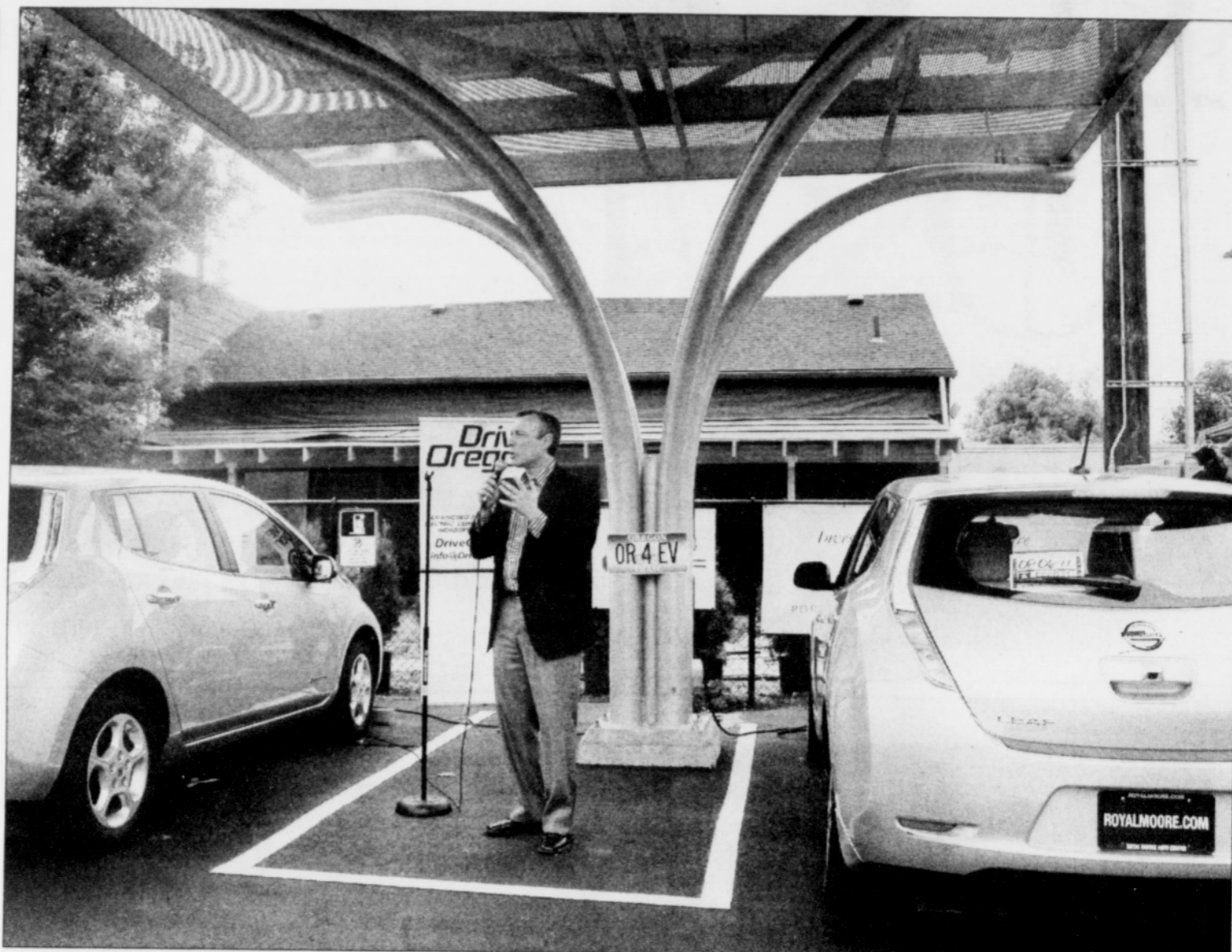


PHOTO BY MINDY COOPER/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Multnomah County Chair Jeff Cogen speaks at a celebration to welcome one of the first electric vehicle charging stations in Oregon at a public parking lot at 3620 N.E. Martin Luther King Boulevard, north of Fremont Street.

Charged Up for Portland's Future

First electric car charging station opens on MLK

BY MINDY COOPER
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A new solar electric vehicle charging facility, located in a park-

ing lot that serves more than 20 local businesses on Northeast Martin Luther King Boulevard, was celebrated June 8 during a special grand opening.

Multnomah County Chair Jeff Cogen attended the ceremony, which highlighted improvements to the Portland Development Commission's parking lot at 3620 Martin Luther King Blvd, where individuals throughout the community can now charge their electric vehicles conveniently, while simultaneously drawing customers to area retailers.

"We really are at the dawn of a new era," said Cogen after thanking stakeholders for locating the station conveniently in the heart of Northeast Portland.

"Portland Development Commission is here because they think this has an economic upside, revolutionizing our transportation system and our economy."

From a PDC standpoint, said Public Affairs Manager for PDC Shawn Uhlman, the charging station is an example of how the agency is furthering their investments in the neighborhood and demonstrating to the community their cluster industries, which in this case is electric vehicles.

"We're utilizing the space here so any resident in the local area can park here, charge their electric vehicles, and then visit the local businesses that are around," he said.

As the first of its kind within the Portland area, the locally constructed charging station is the second major community installa-

tion the company ECOTality, a leader in clean electric transportation, has rolled out, explained Rich Feldman, the project manager for the Electric Vehicles Project from Portland to Ashland.

With the level-two charging station, EV drivers can charge their car from zero to full battery in six to eight hours. "People can drive, charge up, do errands and charge back up," he said.

At the ceremony, Pacific Core provided power for a demonstration of a short charge for the EV Nissan Leaf.

"I could ride up here, charge my bike and ride back home again," said Chris Hoffman, the chief executive officer of Ryno Motors. Throughout the event he could be seen riding his electric powered micro cycle, which he said is half the bike and twice the personal transportation.

Although he lives in Southeast Portland, he explained the drive to the charging station will be a nice destination for a Sunday afternoon drive.

Some of the local businesses nearby, include Bandini Pizza and Pasta, Aphrodite Hair Design, Kings Closet, D & J Nails Spa, Not Cho' Stuff Gifts, Varsity Blue Bar-B-Que and King Blvd Liquor Store.

"What we are trying to do is make it clear that the neighborhoods of Portland will receive the attention on par with the central city," said Uhlman. "And these are resources we hope to make available by replicating this model throughout other Portland neighborhoods."

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CARLOS KALMAR, MUSIC DIRECTOR

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