

The Week in Review

Ivanice Harris' Funeral

Ivanice Harris, a Portland woman who was murdered while celebrating her 29th birthday in Hawaii, was laid to rest on Monday after a memorial service at Life Change Christian Center. A suspect has not been named in her case, as police continue to investigate.



egon Zoo. The 30-year-old elephant is being treated, and currently is showing no signs of her illness. She poses no significant risk to the public, officials said.

Oklahoma Tornadoes

The death toll from Oklahoma's Friday tornado has risen to 14. The dead include five children and nine adults. According to authorities, this number is expected to rise with half a dozen people, mostly children still missing.

Police Fired for Beating

Jasper, Texas, a town with a history of racial unrest, fired two white police officers Monday after a video captured by security cameras caught them slamming a black woman's head into a countertop and wrestling her to the ground. "The amount of force used was abominable," said the woman's attorney Cade Bernsen.

All in the Family Death

Jean Stapleton, most notably known for her role as Edith Bunker in the 70's sitcom "All in the Family" has died at the age of 90. The actress passed away at her New York City home on Friday of



natural causes.

Death at the Gorge

A 25-year-old Ohio man died after jumping into Punchbowl Falls in Columbia Gorge east of Portland. Three others were injured. The man has been identified as Jason Endicott; recovery efforts for his body began on Monday.

Open-Air Reservoirs

After a tense nine-year-battle with the Environmental Protection Agency, Portland City Council has decided to cover the city's open-air reservoirs. The reservoir on Mt. Tabor will be shut down, while a reservoir in Washington Park will be capped.

Ills at the Zoo

Asian elephant Rama has tested positive for tuberculosis at the Or-

Retiring Pulliams to Address Grads

Inspirational speakers lined up for PCC commencement

A total of 4,900 degrees, certificates and awards will be handed out and more than 700 students are planning to walk in front of thousands of friends, family and community members at the 51st Portland Community College Commencement Ceremony.

Graduation proceedings are set for 7 p.m., Friday, June 14, in the Memorial Coliseum, 1401 N. Wheeler.

Cascade Campus President Algie Gatewood will serve as master of ceremonies and be joined by Board Chair Denise Frisbee, and national anthem singer M. Nichol Patterson. Keynote speaker is retiring PCC President Preston Pulliams and the student speaker is Tigard's Michelle Reers.

Pulliams is retiring in July after nine years guiding Oregon's largest college. As a young man, he was expected to join his father as a foundry worker, but became the first in his family to attend college thanks to a \$600 scholarship award from his local Rotary Club to fund two years of school.

That first gift of opportunity inspired him to create access for students who would not otherwise have had the chance to earn a college degree. Specifically, first-generation college students who need financial assistance and student support to attend PCC and complete their degrees.

One of the most significant achievements during Pulliams' tenure was the passage of a \$374 million bond

measure in 2008, the largest educational bond measure in Oregon at the time.

Another accomplishment by Pulliams included helping to boost annual contributions to the PCC Foundation, which has tripled scholarship awards to students. Pulliams also was instrumental in developing a partnership between PCC and the City of Portland to create the Future Connect Scholarship Program, and he championed efforts with Portland Public Schools to redesign Jefferson High School to become the Jefferson Middle College. Both initiatives took a critical step toward helping the region's most needy students.

Reers, the graduation ceremony's student speaker, is earning her transfer degree this year after getting her associate's degree in general studies and an accounting certificate last year.

At age 42, Reers' story consists of getting a second chance at redemption through college. She had tried attending a university back in 1986, but lasted just one term and soon became pregnant with her first child. After ending a 10-year marriage to the father of her three children, a meth addiction, bad friendships and poor workplace conditions were ruling her life.

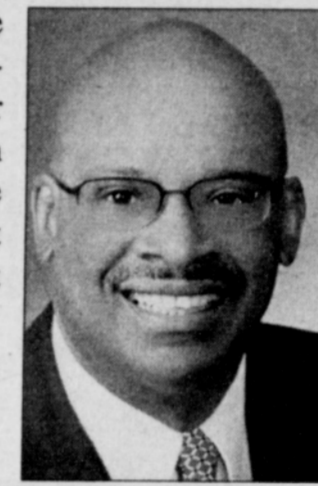
When her sister earned an associate's degree a few years ago at PCC, it gave her a great reason, and inspiration, to get back to school.

Thanks to the support she received from staff and faculty, she began to succeed and earned two Miller Foundation scholarships through the PCC Foundation along the way that kept her going.

She will graduate with a 3.84 grade-point average and is now headed to Oregon State University's Honors College to study botany. Now meth free for close to a decade, Reers has big plans to be a field researcher once she gets her bachelor's degree.



Michelle Reers



Preston Pulliams

TriMet Financial Problems: Self-Inflicted?

TriMet has cut our passengers' service and raised fares. Each day, we hear from our passengers how these changes have made their lives more difficult. At the same time, TriMet intends to cut our family income in at least 80 different ways. Whenever the question, "Why are TriMet's workers and passengers being asked to make such deep sacrifices?" is raised, the response is always the same: "TriMet has terrible financial problems." We started investigating, looking for the cause of those "financial problems." This investigation raised a number of questions. Below are just two of them.

**\$18.9 MILLION DISABILITY CONTRACT**

We're seeing more and more disabled passengers being forced off the LIFT service and onto fixed route buses. Yet, TriMet pays over \$18.9 million a year to a Scottish multinational corporation to provide the LIFT service using TriMet-owned vehicles and buildings. That cost has grown by \$6 million in the last ten years.

TriMet hired two different financial experts to examine whether TriMet itself could provide the

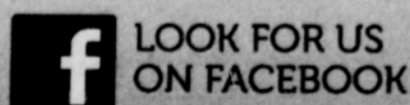
same service at a lower cost. Each time, the experts answered with a resounding "Yes!" The last expert, in 2004, stated TriMet could save nearly \$3.7 million. TriMet rejected these expert's opinions. If there is such a financial crisis, why are these opinions being ignored? Why is it a good idea to have a foreign corporation take millions in profits out of our local community?

**\$10.3 MILLION IN POLICE CONTRACTS**

We love our transit police officers. They are competent and caring. But we seldom see them. This is because they must respond to non-transit calls. When we ask what these 56 officers do for \$10 million per year, TriMet's response is that it doesn't audit performance under the contracts. If there is such a financial crisis, does it make sense that taxpayers are paying so much extra for police service we rarely see?

Nationally, subcontracting is proving to be the more expensive approach. It is being used to reduce the workload of well-paid transit managers and limit their responsibility when things go wrong. We believe the above expenditures deserve more public scrutiny, as do other financial decisions we will talk about in the months to come. An independent inquiry of TriMet's financial decisions is long overdue.

Sincerely, Your Transit Workers



LET YOUR VOICE COUNT!

LEARN MORE AT

TRANSITVOICE.ORG