



**Cogen Won't Resign County Post**

A week after Jeff Cogen's extramarital affair with a county executive was made public, all four Multnomah County commissioners called for his immediate resignation as county chair. But Cogen refused after the commissioners voted on Thursday, citing that he "doesn't understand the rush to judgment"

**St Johns Bridge Closings**

Oregon Highway officials shut down the St. Johns Bridge to all motor vehicles on Sunday night. The north Portland bridge will close for maintenance from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. every night, seven days a week until Sunday, Aug 18.

**Kyron Horman's Mom Drops Suit**

The mother of Kyron Horman who was

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just 7, when he mysteriously went missing two years ago from Skyline School, announced on Tuesday that she will no longer pursue her civil suit against his step-mother Terri Horman, due to the ongoing criminal investigation.

**"Private Benjamin" Star Dies**



Mrs. Peacock in "Clue" and Miss Banister in "The New Adventures of Pippi Longstocking," died Sunday at the age of 80.

After a bout with cancer actress Eileen Brannan, most-known for her TV and movie roles, including Army Capt. Doreen Lewis in "Private Benjamin,"



**Bradley Manning Verdict**

A military judge has ruled that Pfc. Bradley Manning not guilty of aiding the enemy. Manning, however, was found guilty of most of the other charges brought against him in the biggest release of classified information in the history of the nation. He faces a possible 136 years in prison.

**Country's First Gay Divorce**

After being wed in 2009, same-sex couple Juli-Yim and Lorelei Jones have successfully finalized the first gay divorce in the country. The two were married in Massachusetts, but the ruling came down in the state of Colorado.

**Health Fair for National Night Out**

Kids, families and community members are invited to a free outdoor health fair on National Night Out, Tuesday, Aug. 6, at Multnomah County's Northeast Health Center, 5329 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

The fair, from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m., will feature music, dancing, kids' activities, health screenings, a local youth art exhibit and important information about healthy living and health insurance options.

Community health centers provide health care to nearly 21 million patients nationwide, many of whom are living in areas with limited access to health care. Community clinics treat the whole patient through culturally-competent, accessible and integrated care.



**TriMet: Blind Spot on Bus Safety**

In 2004, a TriMet bus that was turning left struck and killed a man in a crosswalk. The investigation that followed determined that the design of the bus itself was partly to blame. The 8-inch windshield pillar was so wide that it effectively blocked the operator's vision during left-hand turns. For small stature operators, the risk was even greater. Further analysis of accident statistics showed that the wide-pillar buses were responsible for over 36% of all crosswalk accidents, even though that model made up just over 10% of the TriMet fleet at the time.

SUBSEQUENTLY, the Union presented TriMet with videos, diagrams and expert witness testimony to demonstrate that this particular model of bus was inherently dangerous to pedestrians. The Union went on to request that TriMet provide special training to drivers, especially small stature drivers, so that more people would not be killed during left-hand turns. Lastly, the Union asked that those buses not be used on routes that had left-hand turns.

**TRIMET IGNORED BOTH REQUESTS AND DID NOTHING TO FIX THE PROBLEM.**

Fast-forward eight years to 2012, when TriMet signed a contract for 365 new buses. Operators were horrified to learn that the windshield pillar of the new buses is even wider. As shown in the photos on the left, a wide pillar like that on the new bus can "hide" as many as six adults, two children and a baby in a stroller - all at the same time! When the side mirror is added to that width, the blind spot becomes enormous, especially for short stature operators.

While there is no question that TriMet needs new buses, it is unbelievable that the agency would compromise public safety with such a significant purchase. What's even more unbelievable is that each of these 365 buses is getting an \$11,000 "nose job".

That's right. TriMet has decided to add a custom-fabricated "snoot" to each bus in order to match the look of the new Max trains. The expense alone seems questionable, but there's more. The snoot further compromises safety by creating yet another visual obstruction near the windshield pillar.

At a time when TriMet is blaming workers' benefits for its financial problems, the agency is spending over \$4 million on cosmetic surgery for 365 new buses. It appears that TriMet not only has a blind spot on bus safety, but also has a blind-eye for prudent spending.

*Sincerely, Your Transit Workers*

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