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What's on your list today?.

LOCAL NEWS



PHOTO BY DONOVAN M. SMITH/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A former Portland Fire Station comes tumbling down on Friday as crews demolish the structure at 4867 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

Historic Resource Demolished

A former Portland Fire Station in the King Neighborhood that had been used as commercial office space in recent decades was demolished by a wrecking crew on Friday.

Constructed in 1924 as Chemical Engine Station #14, the building on the west side of Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard just south of Alberta Street, was listed in Portland's in-

ventory of historic resources, but was not protected as a historic landmark, said officials with the city's Bureau of Development Services.

The fire station was originally designed by former Fire Chief Lee G. Holden in a manner that was similar to other fire houses he had built in the city at the time with its Colonial style, portico, and Tuscan columns,

officials said.

No details were available on what will be developed on the property site. Calls to the demolition applicant, listed in public records as Concord Associates and North Neighborhood, two limited liability corporations, with James Adamson named as owner, were not returned.

Help for Troubled Insurance Exchange

Governor brings in outside expertise

(AP) — Gov. John Kitzhaber said Friday he is bringing in outside help to get Oregon's troubled health insurance exchange going.

The governor said former Providence Health System CEO Greg Van Pelt will "lend his expertise and provide an independent, outsider's view of Cover Oregon." Pelt will not be paid.

Oregon was an early leader in developing an exchange but was embarrassed when the online enrollment system wasn't ready to launch in October. The exchange, known as Cover Oregon, is running far behind other states and has yet to enroll anyone.

The state is using a paper-based backup system instead and has hired or reassigned 400 workers to process applications by hand.



Governor John Kitzhaber

Kitzhaber also said Dr. Bruce Goldberg, director of the Oregon Health Authority, will oversee the application and enrollment process. Oregon has received about 30,000 paper applications thus far, the governor said. About 5,000 have been processed and sent back to applicants, who then have the option to pick an insurance plan and send their choice back to the state to enroll.

The state has also enrolled about 75,000 people in Medicaid via a "fast-track" enrollment process, reducing the ranks of the uninsured by more than 10 percent.

Kitzhaber says the moves will free Cover Oregon Executive Director Rocky King to focus on getting the exchange website working.

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