

## Shields Pulls Bill for Reason of Ethics

BY MICHAEL LEIGHTON  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

An ethical dilemma has pushed a Portland lawmaker to back down from legislation that could benefit him personally.

State Sen. Chip Shields, who represents north and northeast Portland, has been known more for his support of social justice issues during his 10 years in the Legislature than on promoting new regulations on the construction industry.

But last week, his support for proposed legislation to require biodegradable lubricants in publicly funded construction and maintenance projects evaporated when the Willamette Week reported Shields' family ties and employment with Schaeffer Specialty Lubricants, a multimillion dollar company based in St. Louis that makes the product.

Shields responded by saying

he made a mistake to promote the bill, not based on the environmental merits of the legislation but in hindsight for the possible conflict of interest it posed with him personally. He asked another north and northeast Portland lawmaker, fellow Democrat Lew Frederick, to drop efforts to carry the bill on his behalf.

The public revelation that Shields works as a sales executive for Schaeffer, where his father, brother and cousin are all top executives, may also be a surprise to many of his constituents.

Before starting his political career, Shields honed his credentials in the African American community by overseeing Better People, a social services non-profit that helped give former inmates a second chance at employment. He listed his work as manger of his wife's medical clinic, Hands on Medicine, when he last ran for office in 2012.

## Judge Rules for Teen in Arrest

A Roosevelt High School student has won his case in court after being arrested by Portland Police during a disturbance last summer in the St. Johns community of north Portland.

Thai Gurule, held his mother tightly as Judge Diana Stuart

acquitted the 16-year-old boy of resisting arrest last week. Instead, Stuart came down on the officers, rejecting their claims that the teenager strangled and assaulted them.

She said police were "senseless and aggressive" on the night of the arrest which was recorded on video

by bystanders.

The case was watched closely by Portland's African-American community, which involved three Portland officers wrestling the young Gurule to the ground before punching, kicking, and eventually using a Taser on the high-schooler.

## Disciple Program Upsets Parents

A school disciple program at Cesar Chavez Elementary School in north Portland has been suspended pending a school district investigation because of complaints by some parents.

The program punished students who ran into trouble by imposing manual labor, including cleaning up after other students

and picking up trash during lunch or recess breaks.

Christine Miles, a Portland Public Schools spokeswoman, said the program was intended to be "restorative," providing the school an alternative to suspensions and expulsions, which Superintendent Carole Smith has mandated local schools try to curb to keep students learning in the

classroom.

Some parents and community members are concerned that the discipline imposed by school authorities at Cesar Chavez seems unfair and carries racist undertones, especially since African-American and Latino students have historically been over-represented in school punishment actions.

## The Week in Review

### Advocate Remembered

Former Portland City Commissioner and Oregon legislator Gretchen Kafoury died Friday at the age of 72. Kafoury was known for her advocacy of housing issues. She was also a professor at Portland State University until 2008. She died peacefully of natural causes in her downtown home, family members said.



an in downtown Portland Monday morning when it tried to make a turn while a man crossed the street on a walk signal, police said. The pedestrian lost one of his legs and was hospitalized in critical condition.

### Teen Charged in Shooting

A 16-year-old boy was arraigned Monday afternoon on an allegation of attempted murder stemming from a shooting Saturday night in front of the Portland Police Bureau's East Precinct. A bullet struck the precinct, but no one was injured. Police are accusing the boy of having shot at some rival gang members after a sweet 16 party that night.

### Winds Cause Damages

Heavy rains and strong winds combined to create problems in the Portland area on Sunday. Residents reported trees down, along with some dozens of broken power lines. Portland General Electric reported 45,000 customers without power on Sunday, without about 7,000 people still without power Monday morning.

### Massive Tire Slashing

A northeast Portland transportation company was targeted over the weekend when someone slashed 72 tires on 26 different vehicles, nearly wiping out its entire fleet. SAFE Transportation, off 102nd and Northeast Halsey, is a family-owned company providing specialized transportation to school and medical appointments.

### UW Fraternity Accused

Another fraternity is making headlines for its anti black discrimination. University of Washington fraternity chapter of Sigma Alpha Epsilon faces allegations that some of its members used racial slurs against black demonstrators. The Sigma Alpha Epsilon chapter at the University of Oklahoma was recently shut down after a video showed members singing white supremacist lyrics went viral.

### PSU Approves Tuition Hike

Portland State University last week approved a 4.2 percent tuition increase for Oregon students starting this fall, citing a lack of state financial support. The increase combined with a proposed \$4.7 million cut in Portland State's spending next academic year is necessary to balance the budget, officials stated.

### Garbage Truck Hits Man

A garbage truck struck a pedestri-

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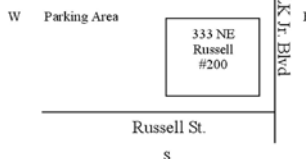
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