The Portland Observer



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Bus Tickets Phasing Out

TriMet expands electronic fare system

As TriMet expands its electronic fare system, retailers will soon shift to selling Hop Fastpass cards only, no longer selling conventional tickets and passes as soon as Feb. 1, officials announced last week.

The public transit agency's network of retail outlets that sell transit fares has grown from a little more than 100 in 2016 to more than 350 today, officials said. And by July, more than 500 stores and outlets will sell and load a value on Hop cards.

Hop is a regional account-based, electronic fare system. Riders pay their fare on TriMet, C-TRAN and Portland Streetcar by tapping a Hop card or their phone against a reader on board a vehicle or at a rail platform. The system automatically deducts the cost of the ride from the user's balance.

You can purchase a Hop card at one of the participating local retailers or a TriMet ticket office and load money on to it. Riders with Android Pay will be able to buy a virtual card and store it in their mobile wallet - making Hop the first transit fare card in the world available in Android Pay.

The Week in Review

Icy Conditions on Roads

The Portland metro area was slowing thawing from a Christmas Eve storm on Tuesday with some clear skies but an accumulation of ice, snow and slush on the roads made for slippery commutes.

Chief Protected Against Stalking

An Oregon judge granted new Portland Police Chief Danielle Outlaw a stalking protective order last Friday against Eli Richey, 27, a man she says has repeatedly contacted and filmed her without permission and outside her duties as chief. Officials said his behavior and comments caused concern for Outlaw's safety and the safety of people close to her.

Eudaly Accused of Bullying

Portland City Commissioner Chloe Eudaly is accused of using her personal Facebook account to bully and ridicule a frequent critic of the Portland City Council in a lawsuit filed in federal court Thursday. Mimi German seeks to compel the release of the posts along with monetary damages.

Smith Fined for Violation

Multnomah County Commissioner Loretta Smith was fined \$250 for a technical violation of state elections law last week. The Secretary of State's office ruled Smith had failed to register financial statements that reflected her intention to run for the Portland City



TriMet's "Hop Fastpass" becomes easier to reload in 2018 and will replace conventional tickets and passes beginning in February.

Council this May. Smith was avoiding a formal entry into the race until after Jan. 1, because county rules don't allow commissioners to run for another office until the last year in their term.

Health Carrier Shuts Down

A Medicaid carrier that serves more than 100,000 children and adults in the Portland area decided to shut down last week after the company and state failed to agree on a contract for 2018. But Family-Care said it will stay open until the end of January to give time for the state to transfer those currently served to other Medicaid administrators.

Stadium Expansion Okayed

The Portland Timbers got City Council's approval

Thursday to expand Providence Park by up to 4,000 seats. The team's owners will contribute \$50 million for the construction.



The city will subsidize other costs to the tune of \$3 million and waive about \$5 million in ticket tax revenue over the next 10 years to help pay for the project.

UN Condemns Decision

The United Nations voted overwhelmingly Thursday to condemn President Donald Trump's decision to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, condemning the decision as illegal, destabilizing, and a violation of international law. Ambassador Nikki Haley said the US will put its embassy in Jerusalem regardless of the vote.

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PUBLISHER: Mark Washington, Sr. EDITOR: Michael Leighton EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Rakeem Washington Advertising Manager: Leonard Latin Office Manager/Classifieds: Lucinda Baldwin CREATIVE DIRECTOR: Paul Neufeldt REPORTER/WEB EDITOR: Christa McIntyre REPORTER/WEB EDITOR: Danny Peterson PUBLIC RELATIONS: Mark Washington Jr. OFFICE ASSISTANT/SALES: Shawntell Washington

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