

49
years of
community service
'City of Roses'

House Demolished for Hotel

Economic forces transforming historic black neighborhood

See story inside, page 3



Helping Residents Stay Housed

Volunteers tackle housing crises by making free home repairs

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Back to School

School bus safety gets focus as class bells ring

PHOTOS BY DANNY PETERSON/
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
Jaheim Adrien, 7, demonstrates a safety best practice by exiting the school bus while using a handrail.



BY DANNY PETERSON
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

School bus safety is the focus of Mike Hamel, general manager for the bus company First Student, as students, parents, and motorists alike prepare to adjust to the ring of the class bell bringing more buses on the road and students walking to bus stops and school.

Hamel told The Portland Observer his important message for kids, drivers, and pedestrians alike is to keep in mind that riding a school bus is the safest way for children to get to and from school.

“Studies show that children who ride on a school

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First Student Area Manager Mike Hamel gets the word out about school bus safety tips for students, their parents, and motorists in preparation of the school year. He manages the bus barn at 6755 N.E. Columbia Blvd.



A still frame from KATU video shows fire crews responding to a 4-alarm fire late Monday afternoon in the Madison South neighborhood.

Inferno Erupts from Dry Grass

Smoke, flames damage nearby homes, businesses

A fire that erupted in dry grass late Monday afternoon at an abandoned golf driving range on Northeast 82nd Avenue across from Madison High School was intentionally set, fire investigators determined Tuesday.

The inferno spread flames to homes and businesses in the Rocky Butte area of northeast Portland, destroying at least two commercial buildings and damaging at least two townhomes.

The Portland Fire Bureau said they know the fire was started by a person, but they are still investigating whether it was malicious.

When the fire broke out about 5:20 p.m. Monday a thick column of smoke bellowed throughout the area and could be seen for miles. It soon registered four alarms. About 120 firefighters led by Portland Fire and Rescue fought back the flames.

Dozens of people had to evacuate their residences and homes not impacted nearby were told to keep their windows and doors closed to keep dangerous smoke at bay. Grand Avenue Boxing Club owner Waldo Rojas believed

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