

Here and there

Blazers' Wallace analyzes his different play, home and away — SPORTS, B8



Memory master

Portland Jazz Festival honors long-time trumpeter — LIFE, B1



# Portland Tribune

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## TriMet cuts take rough route

Agency says union health care costs are lynchpin in reductions

By JIM REDDEN  
The Tribune

TriMet General Manager Neil McFarlane had harsh words Wednesday morning for the transit agency's labor union, which he hopes will do its part to close a potential \$17 million budget gap.

Without changes in health care insurance costs for Amalgamated Transit Union Local 757 members, McFarlane says the agency would have to cut deeper into services and jobs.

"The embedded leadership of the union is not addressing the long-term stability of the workplace," McFarlane told TriMet Board members during the first public look at a proposed budget-cutting package that could reduce service on nearly four dozen bus lines and trim employment at the agency.

"TriMet's financial stability depends on a stable labor agreement," he added.

TriMet and the ATU are in arbitration on health care cost contribution proposals that the agency hopes would save \$5 million to \$10 million in cuts. An arbitrator's decision is expected this spring. If the union proposal is selected, TriMet would have to cut about \$17 million from its budget. If TriMet's plan is selected, the agency would

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A MAX train crosses the Steel Bridge on its way to Old Town.

TRIBUNE PHOTO: CHRISTOPHER ONSTOTT

## School choice is often less filling

Fewer transfers are allowed in name of more balanced schools

By JENNIFER ANDERSON  
The Tribune

Love your neighborhood but not your neighborhood school?

In the past, it's been as easy as the click of a mouse to enroll in another Portland Public School across town — whether it's in search of a language immersion program, environmental or art focus program, a school with a drama club, AP classes, or simply a better "vibe" or reputation.

No questions were asked; families simply entered the school choice lottery in February and were randomly selected for enrollment at their first-, second- or third-choice school as long space was available.

Last year, 3,518 students (7 percent of the district's enrollment) took advantage of the lottery and applied for a transfer.

That's all about to change. This fall, the district is clamping down on the transfer process in an effort to balance enrollment at the neighborhood schools, one third of which Supt. Carole Smith says are too crowded or underenrolled.

In other words, the unintended consequence of unfettered school choice has been a huge disparity in enrollment, staffing and programming that the school board is trying to remedy in the name of equity. "We're not saying choice is horrible," says Judy Brennan, enrollment and transfer office director. "We just can't let choice drive the system."

This month, as the school transfer lottery kicks off, most of the district's families will get their first good look at the new reality.

Here are the major changes,



SMITH

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## VOLUNTEER CITY, USA



■ Actually, we're No. 2, but what else is there to do in Minneapolis in the winter?

Portlanders have consistently ranked among the most willing volunteers in the nation. PSU graduate student Steve Braum (above) helps plant native trees, shrubs and wildflowers at Tideman Johnson Park.

Ten years ago, Joy Cartier was one of three staff members at The Salvation Army's school for the homeless forced to close because of budget cutbacks. The three decided to start their own nonprofit to keep the work going. Within three months, they had nonprofit status. Within three weeks of opening their doors, they had as many volunteers as they needed.

Getting volunteers has never been difficult in Portland, says Cartier, who has lived in San Francisco, London and Salt Lake City. Pear has its home in Old Town, and 20 volunteers a week come in regularly to tutor children, play chess with them and cook meals. Some of those helpers come in dur-

Story by Peter Korn  
Photos by Christopher Onstott

ing work hours because their bosses give them time off for volunteer activities.

Once a year, Pear needs about 75 people to help stage a fundraiser. A call goes out to Hands On Greater Portland, among others, and before long the program has its 75.

"This is the most generous city I've ever lived in," Cartier says.

If you're counting time rather than money, Portland is the second-most generous city in the country. Only Minneapolis has a

higher volunteer rate than Portland among large cities.

It wasn't always that way, says Steven Johnson, who teaches classes on community engagement at Portland State University. Johnson has data on citizen activists who worked on local political issues, and until about 1980 Portlanders were pretty much the same as people elsewhere.

Then, groups of Portlanders came together to fight neighborhood battles. Eastside residents sued to stop the proposed Mount Hood Freeway. Others protested when urban renewal demolished what was the south edge of downtown. North Portland neighbors banded together to influence urban

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## Drug disposal advice often down the toilet

■ Groups, agencies at cross-purposes on take-back plans

By STEVE LAW  
The Tribune

Alyson Hunting recently injured her back after falling down some steps, and a doctor at Kaiser Permanente's emergency room prescribed oxycodone.

It's a potent narcotic, and Hunting didn't like the side effects. She soon stopped using it, but was shocked to read this instruction in the pamphlet Kaiser issued with the pills: "If this medicine is no longer needed, dispose of the unused tablets by flushing them down the toilet."

"It just blew me away," Hunting says. "This is something that should not be put in anybody's water supply."

Hunting is well aware of community programs that encourage residents to bring back unused prescription drugs, to keep them out of our rivers, where

"It just blew me away. This is something that should not be put in anybody's water supply."  
— Alyson Hunting

treated sewage winds up. There are several drop boxes in the Portland area for people to bring surplus medicines — all located in police stations because some of the targeted drugs are controlled substances that might fall into the wrong hands.

There are people who will "beg, borrow and steal to get this stuff," Hunting says, but she has no intention of flushing it down her toilet.

On this issue, it appears that regulators, government agencies, police, pharmacies and environmentalists are working at cross-purposes, and giving contradictory messages to the public.

Increasingly, Portland-area police and crime prevention groups are teaming with water and sewer authorities and

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TRIBUNE PHOTO: CHRISTOPHER ONSTOTT

Portland Police Sgt. Catherine Kent sorts through prescription drugs brought by residents to the lock box at the North Precinct. The drugs will be incinerated to keep contaminants out of the water supply.

ThisWeek Online

Local stories that you read about first at [www.portlandtribune.com](http://www.portlandtribune.com)

■ NEWS — Police look into 'inappropriate touching' of Skyline students — Portland Police are investigating reports of "inappropriate touching" by a male student on a Skyline K-8 School bus. (Posted Wednesday, Feb. 8). Search: Skyline.

■ ENTERTAINMENT — 2012 Volkswagen Beetle review — Redesigned retro icon is sportier looking and driving. (Posted Friday, Feb. 3) Search: Beetle.

■ SPORTS — PIL swim teams head to district meets — Grant, Cleveland among the top squads. (Posted Wednesday, Feb. 8) Search: PIL.

# Volunteers: Help woven into civic fabric

■ From page 1

renewal poverty boards that advised the federal government on allocating urban renewal funds.

Rather than fight back, the city government, led by then-Mayor Neil Goldschmidt among others, embraced the civic activism, Johnson says. Neighborhood associations were formed to encourage citizens to advise government on what to do. In some cases, the city took up the very causes that began with the objections of volunteer activists.

A spirit of activism and citizens taking responsibility took root here, Johnson says, that is unlike anywhere else in the country. One of his favorite examples is the City Repair Project, which began with volunteers painting a Southeast Portland intersection (without permits) to slow traffic and turn it into an occasional public square. At first, Johnson says, the city objected. Now, there are 200 City Repair projects and many are funded and permitted by the city itself.

In other cities, Johnson says, volunteerism is church-based, but not here. Political activism has morphed into different types of volunteering, but they all have in common the idea that citizens take responsibility for their city.

"Portland is this bubble of a very different kind of activism," he says. "If everybody's doing it, then you tend to do it. When you move in here, it's almost like you're told a story by the Welcome Wagon. This is what we do in Portland. Government is open. You do it yourself."

In 2000, Harvard University professor Robert Putnam published "Bowling Alone," which talked about how many Americans were becoming increasingly isolated from one another. But there's a contradictory Portland piece to that story, according to Johnson, who says Putnam emailed him in 2002 something to the effect of, "Oh my God, we're trying to figure out what happened in Portland."

Putnam's data showed that while the rest of the country had been seeing a steep drop-off in citizen volunteer involvement through the '70s, '80s and '90s, Portland's civic engagement rates had been climbing. A chapter in Putnam's follow-up book, "Better Together," focuses on the Portland anomaly.

## An extra leap

Carrie Hoops, executive director of the Nonprofit Association of Oregon, moved to Portland three years ago after 20 years working for nonprofits in Chicago. She says she was immediately struck by how much more civically involved most people were. And she agrees with Johnson that Portland's history of volunteerism is connected to its history of political activism.

"If you don't feel you have a lot of input in terms of city government, how does that make you feel in terms of a sense of responsibility in creating a good quality of life, and contributing to the quality of life?" Hoops asks. "It may take an extra leap for people to make that connection."

Victoria Eggleston, co-president of the Northwest Oregon Volunteer Administrators Association, says professionalism has a lot to do with Portland's sustained level of volunteerism. Her organization trains certified volunteer administrators, and according to national data, there are more of those in the Portland area per capita than in any other city in the country. In fact, only Texas has more total certified volunteer administrators than Oregon.

Eggleston says there is a science to retaining volunteers: make it easy for them to get involved and help them feel their time is valued. For example, she says that anyone calling in to an organization about possibly volunteering must get a return call within 48 hours.

Local organizations such as Hands On Greater Portland have seen the value of trained administrators, Eggleston says. "We make it easy for people to



TRIBUNE PHOTOS: CHRISTOPHER ONSTOTT

Volunteers with Portland Parks & Recreation provide the equivalent of 218 full-time employees each year — while some cities discourage volunteers in their parks.

volunteer," she says. "All of these other cities and metro areas are trying to get people involved because they see the value in it and they go through all these hoops and all these incentives and it doesn't work because when people hit the ground they don't have a good experience."

## Entrepreneurial volunteers

Google "volunteer Portland" and Hands On Greater Portland pops up first.

Hands On, which specializes in matching willing volunteers with needy organizations for one-time opportunities, connected 25,700 volunteers with more than 400 nonprofits last year, and that number has been steadily increasing, according to Executive Director Andy Nelson.

Nelson suspects that what distinguishes Portland is what he calls "entrepreneurial volunteers," people who have specific interests and start their own nonprofit or gather neighborhood volunteers around those interests.

He points to organizations such as the Portland Rebuilding Center, which developed a store where people can donate house parts to be sustainably re-used, and the Community Cycling Center in North Portland, which takes donated bikes that volunteers rebuild and give away or sell, as distinctive Portland endeavors.

Southeast Portland resident Mark Verna doesn't necessarily think of himself as an entrepreneur, but he's exactly the type of Portlander Nelson has in mind.

The 47-year-old flooring company estimator doesn't even think of himself as classic volunteer material.

"This is the most group oriented I've ever been in my life," he says. "I usually did my own thing."

Verna's own thing is soccer. He plays and coaches.

Five years ago he took a call asking if he could take three Somali Bantu immigrant boys on the neighborhood team of ten-year-olds he coached, which included his own son. He said yes.

Next came a call asking him to help out for an afternoon neighborhood soccer event at Powell Park. He arrived and found 75 kids running around in "total chaos." So he pitched in.

In time, Verna found himself driving the Somali kids to practices and games, then recruiting other parents to do the same. The children lived at Kateri Apartments near Cleveland High School, along with hundreds of other immigrant and low-income families.



Mark Verna encourages Kyle Guerra to come back for the next soccer camp at Concordia University. Verna has started a nonprofit to match immigrant kids with local soccer clubs.

## Volunteer rate for U.S. cities

RANK	CITY	2010 RATE
1	Minneapolis-St. Paul	37.1%
2	Portland	36.2
3	Salt Lake City	34.1
4	Seattle	33.9
5	Rochester (NY)	33.8
16	San Francisco	29.7
46	Los Angeles	21.5
50	New York	17.2
51	Miami	15.2

## Number of Portland volunteers

2008	2009	2010
653,000	653,000	585,000

## Volunteer hours per resident (annual)

	2008	2009	2010
U.S.	34.2	34.2	33.9
Portland	44.7	53.5	31.6

Source: Corporation for National Community Service

Verna and the other parents became more involved in the lives of the kids, watching the boys on long tournament weekends, in some cases becoming trusted by the children's parents in a way no one else outside their immigrant group had been.

The Somali kids, it turned out, were excellent soccer players, so Verna helped place them on high-level classic teams. And he started thinking about all the other housing projects and tight-knit immigrant neighborhoods in Portland full of immigrant kids who might be able to user soccer as their entrée to the wider world of the city.

The need, Verna says, was for an organization to connect those kids to the city's numerous neighborhood and classic teams. So three months ago he formed his own nonprofit, 4 World United Soccer Alliance, to connect children with teams and provide donated equipment and volunteer drivers so they can get to practices and games.

Verna envisions a small staff of paid administrators for the nonprofit that could start with him. But for now, he's coaching four nights a week during the summer and running those weekly soccer outings at Powell Park, for which Hands On Greater Portland sends him 10 to 15 volunteers to practice with

the kids or watch younger siblings play on the nearby swing sets.

## Part of the civic fabric

While Portland embraces neighborhood volunteers, some cities discourage them. Isabel Wade, who founded the nonprofit Neighborhood Parks Council in San Francisco, was astounded last year when she came to see how Portland Parks & Recreation deals with its volunteers.

Wade attended a gathering where parks and recreation staff and volunteers were sitting at tables together, exchanging ideas.

"Everybody knew each other and was part of the team," Wade says, adding that you won't see that in San Francisco.

Wade has been fighting to get the San Francisco parks department to allow volunteers into parks. More than 15,000 volunteers help Portland Parks & Recreation maintain neighborhood parks and coach youth teams each year. In San Francisco, the city government discourages that scale of civic involvement, Wade says.

Historically, Wade says, parks employees and their unions have worried that volunteers helping maintain parks would cost them jobs. Now, she says, budget cutbacks mean there isn't enough paid staff to maintain the parks, and there isn't a group of parks volunteers to help out or rally support for parks budgets and bond measures.

"There really are different cultures in these cities," Wade says.

Leach Botanical Garden and Crystal Springs Rhododendron Gardens were built by volun-

teers and are still maintained by them, says Steve Pixley, volunteer coordinator for Portland Parks & Recreation.

According to Pixley, his job — parks volunteer coordinator — doesn't exist in other West Coast cities.

Portland Parks & Recreation calculates that its volunteers contribute the equivalent of 218 full-time employees. Lost jobs have been a topic of conversation, Pixley says, but not a major one. Some of those paid positions are, like his, overseeing hordes of volunteers. For example, the 800 volunteer coaches require 12 paid, part-time gym managers and two full-time program managers.

Nathan Dietz, associate director of research and evaluation for the Corporation for National & Community Service, says that Portland has ranked second only to Minneapolis for years, but that 2010 data shows a dramatic dip on the number of volunteer hours here, from an average of 53.5 hours in 2009 to 31.6 hours in 2010.

Dietz says he can't explain the drop, which may be a statistical aberration or may represent a reaction to a big increase in Portland volunteerism that took place in 2009.

PSU's Johnson doesn't think Portland's commitment to volunteering is going away any time soon. It's become part of the city's fabric, he says, and it attracts new residents who want to be involved.

"Your social network is going to ride you through rough times better than your job," Johnson says. "People in Portland understand that."

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# Reports call for independence in future redistricting process

City Club's proposal hopes to find traction in the Legislature

By STEVE LAW  
The Tribune

State lawmakers redrew Oregon political boundaries last year without a major partisan blowup.

Don't expect it to happen again. So say Common Cause Oregon and a Portland City Club committee that's been studying redistricting for the past year. Both government-reform-minded groups issued reports this week calling for major changes in the way Oregon redraws political boundaries after each Census.

"Partisanship, real or perceived, is inherent in redistricting when it is under the control of a partisan legislature," the City Club committee concludes.

Instead, the committee calls for Oregon to join six other states that use independent commissions to redraw maps after the U.S. Census revises population figures every decade. The City Club committee is hoping the Legislature can be persuaded to put the idea of an independent commission before voters as a constitutional amendment.

Legislative leaders would choose the first four members of the independent commission, and those four would select another five members. None of the members could be officeholders, and they'd have to agree not to seek elected office for the next five years.

The full City Club votes on its committee's recommendations on Feb. 17.

Common Cause argues that an independent redistricting commission may be the best solution, but it focuses on ways to improve the process no matter who is in charge.

Perhaps its main recommendation is to provide the public with the vot-



Multnomah County Election worker Maureen Eisenbeis checks a ballot as the votes are removed from secrecy envelopes in 2004. Election workers check each ballot, making sure voters' choices are clearly marked.

TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO: KYLE GREEN

**"Partisanship, real or perceived, is inherent in redistricting when it is under the control of a partisan legislature."**  
— City Club report

er registration data that is always used — but rarely acknowledged or shared with the public — when legislators redraw House, Senate and congressional district lines. Common Cause refers to that as a "wink and a nod" approach.

Common Cause argues that the public can more easily respond to subtle and not-so-subtle attempts to redraw political boundaries for partisan gain if the voter registration data is easily available, and not just held by those with the money to pay for specialized software.

**Reflecting diversity**

One reason Common Cause and the City Club committee released the reports this week was to get the discussion going while the Oregon Legislature is meeting in Salem. Though neither group expects any redistricting bills to pass during the one-month session, both groups say now is the time to start planning changes to avoid problems in 2021, the next time redistricting will occur.

Since 1961 in Oregon, the Legislature gets the first crack at drawing the new House and Senate boundaries, and if both chambers can't agree on the new maps, or the governor won't concur, the job goes to

the secretary of state. For congressional districts, appeals go to the Oregon Supreme Court.

As the City Club report notes, last year was the first time in a century when the Legislature completed a redistricting plan without the intervention of the secretary of state or the courts.

Common Cause, to complement the work of the City Club, argues for several technical changes, including requiring at least 10 hearings around the state. The group also proposes to change the system whereby prison populations are deemed residents of the district where the prison sits, rather than where the inmates lived before. Common Cause argues that it distorts a community's population when drawing districts where prisons are located.

If the Legislature doesn't act, other political operatives may.

During the past few years, Republican initiative activists have proposed ballot measures that would hand the redistricting process over to a panel of judges, rather than let the Legislature remain in charge.

Common Cause argues that a panel of judges is unlikely to represent the diversity of Oregon.

# Smith's cash dash is stuck

The start of the 2012 Oregon legislative session couldn't come fast enough for Portland mayoral candidates Eileen Brady and Charlie Hales. Both have raised far less money than state Rep. Jefferson Smith this year.

By the beginning of this week, Smith had reported raising nearly \$129,000 in 2012 compared to about \$80,000 by Brady and a little more than \$39,000 by Hales.

But Oregon House rules prevent Smith from raising campaign funds during the session, which is scheduled to end early next month.

Brady is still the overall fundraising leader, however. The New Seasons co-founder passed the \$551,000 mark this week.

Hales, a former city commissioner, is second at almost \$316,000. Smith is third — where he will remain for at least a few more weeks — at slightly less than \$296,000.

**Pressing for the paper industry**

A Portland Tribune story about the shrinking Northwest paper industry inspired Working Families Party policy adviser Barbara Dudley to do something about it.

Dudley, who also is an adjunct professor at Portland State University, helped bring labor leaders and environmentalists together to craft solutions. One outcome is House Bill 4142, a bill before the Oregon Legislature this session that has won bipartisan support.

The bill, which had its first hearing Wednesday, would grant a preference for government purchases of recycled paper made in Oregon, as long as it doesn't exceed the cost of other supplies by more than 10 percent.

China has been bidding up the price of recycled paper. As a result, much of the paper collected at the curbside in the United States is being shipped to China. That has deprived some Northwest mills of the

raw material they use to make paper.

Dudley says the bill has the support of labor, the recycling industry, environmentalists and management. The one exception, she says, is Georgia Pacific, owned by the Koch brothers, and its lobbyist Mark Nelson.

**Truth gets hazed**

Like the classic Japanese film "Rashomon," there are many versions of the truth regarding what happened nearly a month ago in the boys' locker room at Grant High School.

As demonstrated by the case of the Feb. 1 fraudulent interview subject broadcast on KGW (8), who claimed to be an

uncle to one of the victims, public interest in the scandal is rampant. Willamette

Week first reported the story Monday about the TV interview with a person pretending to be a relative of a hazing victim.

Portland Public Schools officials confirmed this week that families of the two hazing victims contacted the school district and said the KGW interview was false. The district made that information available to KGW, which agreed to pull the story from its website, but apparently was reluctant to issue a correction or an apology.

Officials said details in the woman's story were not only untrue, she also "provided graphic details of things that didn't happen."

Even within the Grant community, the truth has diverged into wild rumors. Students and teachers are beginning to separate fact from fiction, using the situation as a springboard for discussion.

Many ask: Why has the media continued to call it hazing? First, no one but the boys in the locker room knows exactly what happened that day, or the circumstances surrounding it.

Terms have been tossed about in the media, but it's all hearsay. Police sex crime detectives are investigating alleged incidents that "go beyond simple hazing."



# Portland students on rise, state's drop

New enrollment data from Oregon Department of Education confirms that Portland Public Schools is the state's second largest growing district in 2011-12, next to Medford's school district.

The Wednesday report, which follows preliminary data

from October, shows a gain of 472 students (1.03 percent) for PPS.

Medford public schools grew by 1.14 percent.

Statewide enrollment, however, continues its five-year decrease; this year, the loss was 382 students (0.07 percent).

The number of low-income, special education and English Language Learners continues to rise across the board.

The largest PPS class is kindergartners, with 4,037 students. The class sizes shrink through ninth grade, at 3,081 students, then pick up again.

The latest racial demographics for PPS: 56 percent white, 15.5 percent Hispanic, 12 percent black, 8 percent Asian, 1 percent American Indian/Alaskan Native, 0.96 percent Pacific Islander, and 6 percent multi-racial.

— Jennifer Anderson

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**COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS** **HOLLYWOOD THEATRE**

# Fairness must drive TriMet budget plan

No matter which route TriMet takes toward a balanced budget for its next fiscal year, it risks ending up at an undesirable destination.

As the transit agency attempts to close a \$17 million budget gap, its major choices are limited: It can cut service, raise fares or do a little of both. Regardless of which alternatives are

## OUR OPINION

chosen, TriMet will hurt ridership, and potentially place an additional burden on the working poor who are most sensitive to fare hikes and most dependent on frequent transit service.

Given the tricky ground they must navigate, we believe TriMet's General Manager Neil McFarlane and other administrators are doing a commendable job of defining possible ways to balance a budget that's been hammered already by four years of economic difficulties.

McFarlane this week unveiled his proposals for a budget that must be adopted prior to July 1. His recom-

mendations contain ideas that we reluctantly endorse, including:

- Elimination of the Free Rail Zone in downtown Portland.

This zone, formerly known as Fareless Square, is an innovation that helped define Portland a few decades ago, and we will be sorry to see to go. However, the fare-free zone isn't what it used to be — it no longer includes free bus service. Plus, the opening of the eastside Portland Streetcar line forces TriMet's hand on the issue of east-west equity. How can free rides be justified downtown, if they are not allowed east of the river?

We agree with McFarlane that conventioners in Portland should be provided free passes to get around town for a few days, but for everyone else, it's time to bring equity back into the system. Unfortunately, that means no more free rides downtown — but this change also is projected to produce additional revenue for TriMet as people are forced to buy tickets throughout the city center.

- Abolishing the three-zone system for one-time fares.

The zoned tickets are another vestige of a time when downtown Portland was the primary destination for transit users. The idea was to charge people for the distance traveled, and the zones were measured from the center of town, akin to circles on a dartboard.

Nowadays, train and bus riders travel across town as well as toward it, and the zone system no longer makes sense. Beyond that, TriMet will increase revenue if it eliminates the zone system and charges a flat \$2.50 per ride, as McFarlane recommends.

Our concern with this suggestion is the impact on low-income riders who are buying single tickets to travel short distances. Their costs will jump 19 percent — from \$2.10 to \$2.50 each way. To help these low-income riders, we'd like to see a more aggressive effort to encourage employers to make pre-tax transit passes available to their workers. Plus, TriMet should explore providing discounted passes to people who are collecting unemployment insurance. After all, the sooner they get back to work using transit,

the quicker that TriMet's payroll tax revenue will rebound.

- Making various cuts to both bus and MAX service.

This is where nearly everyone's mass transit ox gets slightly gored. If you are a regular MAX rider, you'll see trains arriving less frequently during non-rush hours (the gaps will be 20 minutes instead of 15 to 18 minutes). For bus riders, the cutbacks are spread throughout the system and will touch 42 bus lines with reduced trips, eliminated weekend service, modified routes or some combination of the those three things.

TriMet will hear a lot of complaints about these service cutbacks — as it will for its changes in fares. But given the agency's financial situation and the uncertainties it faces with health care costs, labor contracts and federal funding, McFarlane's recommendations are a good starting point. His ideas must spark a wider community discussion about fares, fairness and the future of transportation in a region that's staked its reputation on moving people in different ways.

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## TWO VIEWS ● Independent group must keep city bureaus in line

# Give voters a say on utility commission

By Dave Johnson

Portland's city government lacks meaningful checks and balances for running the utility bureaus. Today, each utility bureau is led by a city commissioner who makes spending and project choices by him or herself with only rare and superficial review and oversight by the other members of the City Council.

Whether it is using water customer payments to remodel the Rose Festival building or paying \$800 to each policeman for a finger pin prick "fitness exam," the commissioner in charge of a bureau can do pretty much anything he or she wants without public assessment of the value of the plan.

The Independent Utility Commission being considered by the city's Charter Review Commission would establish an independent group of five people, backed by a professional staff, to provide diligent, public oversight of the spending and rate making for the water and sewer utilities. Budget decisions and tradeoffs would move from behind closed doors to public meetings. All spending and rate proposals would need to be approved by the utility commission.

Portland water and sewer utilities are large bureaus, spending roughly \$600 million each year. The lack of checks and balances for these bureaus has led to three major problems:

- First, utility rates that are among

the highest in the nation. For sewer and stormwater alone, a typical Portland customer pays \$420 more a year for service than a similar customer in Denver or Salt Lake City.

- Second, growing abuses of rate revenue by the city council that were identified in a City Auditor's report ("Spending utility ratepayer money: Not always linked to services, decision process inconsistent," March 2011). Because the City Council can raise utility rates without limit, it is very tempting to siphon off rate revenue for other city projects. In response to a pending lawsuit, the city of Portland has estimated that \$50 million in questionable spending is in dispute.

- Finally, citizens have low confidence in the fairness of utility rates and the efficiency of the utility bureaus.

The checks and balances are missing because of a flaw in our structure of government, not because of poor performance by our current city commissioners. Each city commissioner is so busy running their own bureaus that none of them have the time or staff to provide consistent oversight of the water and sewer bureaus.

The only way to establish checks and balances is to reform the weaknesses in our existing structure of utility governance.

The proposed Independent Utility Commission charter amendment is a small change that can fix Portland's ineffective system for utility governance. The amendment is about reframing util-



TRIBUNE PHOTO: CHRISTOPHER ONSTOTT

A variety of sedums plants cover the residential ecoroof of the Harpoon House. Some people have concerns that funds from city utility bureaus are being used for projects that have nothing to do with delivering services.

ity governance to promote transparency, effectiveness, good judgment and long-term thinking.

The five commission members would be selected by the City Auditor and approved by the City Council to serve three-year terms. The utility commission will be funded solely by water and sewer rate payers, with the cost capped at a tiny fraction of utility rate revenue (approximately 10 cents per month for a typical rate payer).

Changing our government means taking risks and facing unknowns. Portland prides itself on being a progressive city. We have a wonderful history of bold action such as the creation of Bull Run, Waterfront Park, and urban growth boundaries. We cannot continue this progressive legacy if we stick our head in the sand and ignore major problems with our current form of utility governance.

The utility commission charter amendment includes a rare "sunset" clause to minimize the risk of this

change. After five years of operation, the residents of Portland must reappraise the Independent Utility Commission for it to continue. This clause was specifically put into the amendment to give Portland voters time to evaluate the utility commission and confirm that it is a significant improvement in government before the change is permanently placed in the city charter.

I strongly encourage Charter Review Commission members to refer the utility commission proposal on to Portland voters. I ask that the Charter Commission not bow to pressure from narrow special interest groups to kill the proposal.

Please let all the residents of Portland have the opportunity to be heard on this important issue in city governance.

Dave Johnson is a 32-year resident of Portland and a former member of the Portland Utility Review Board. He is the person who requested that the Charter Review Commission consider an amendment to address utility governance problems.

# Utility commission chills public process

By Mike Houck, Travis Williams, Bob Sallinger and Ron Carley

Portland's Charter Review Commission is on the verge of referring an amendment to the city charter that would create an unelected utility commission with the power to establish fees and recommend budgets and rates for the Bureau of Environmental Services and the Water Bureau.

The utility commission's decisions could be overturned solely by an unanimous vote of the City Council. While well-intentioned, we believe the proposed amendment would reduce accountability, transparency, public participation and protection of the public trust in the budget-making process.

Our political system is not perfect, but the most powerful mechanism that citizens have to address concerns is the ability to participate in the public decision-making process and to hold politicians directly accountable for their decisions. The

proposed amendment to the city charter would dramatically increase the distance between citizens and key decision points in the budget-making process.

Why do we oppose the commission's proposal? It is anti-democratic. An unelected body would make budget decisions, an action every Portlander should expect to come from their elected mayor and city council, all of whom are accountable to the electorate.

An Independent Utility Commission would add extra layers of complexity to an already complex budget process. An Independent Utility Commission would not remove the politics from the budget-making process. Rather, it would make political decisions far less transparent than the status quo.

Utility commission members would be appointed by the city auditor — the least visible, least understood and least accessible of the city's elected positions. The commission appointment process is ripe for a coup by well-connected special interests.

Most important from an environmental perspective, it would chill innovative sus-

tainability strategies such as the city's "grey to green" initiative, which achieves multiple benefits and cuts costs for stormwater management.

Many cutting-edge green stormwater strategies for which Portland is recognized nationally and internationally are in place today only because City Council and bureau managers had the courage to move beyond traditional, engineered grey infrastructure approaches to managing stormwater.

This proposal would stifle the visionary political leadership needed to improve the economy and environment. It also could prevent some elected officials from trying new, innovative environmental initiatives.

An Independent Utility Commission would increase inequity in our communities. The commission would be a significantly more complex, inaccessible and prolonged budgeting process that would further disenfranchise underserved communities.

The single greatest irony of this process is that, while purportedly a populist proposal, it would—intentionally or

not—benefit the Water Users Coalition, a group of industrial scale water users that has chosen to sue the city, while remaining mostly anonymous. This "Trojan Horse" will be positioned to manipulate the appointment and activities of the commission, resulting in negative environmental and social impacts.

The best way to deal with concerns about current sewer, stormwater and water rates and budget decisions is not to abandon the democratic process but rather to broaden public engagement and understanding of the programs in question. The creation of an unelected, appointed Independent Utility Commission would not prevent bad decisions or eliminate politics from the decision-making process. What it would do is reduce the public's ability to participate and hold decision-makers accountable.

Bob Sallinger is conservation director of Audubon Society of Portland. Travis Williams is executive director of Willamette Riverkeeper. Ron Carley is executive director of Coalition for a Livable Future. Mike Houck is executive director of Urban Greenspaces Institute.

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The Portland Tribune welcomes essays on topics of public interest. Submissions should be no longer than 600 words and may be edited. Letters should be no longer than 250 words. Both submissions should include your name, home address and telephone number for verification purposes. Please send submissions via e-mail: [tribletters@portlandtribune.com](mailto:tribletters@portlandtribune.com). You may fax them to 503-546-0727 or send them to "Letters to the Editor," Portland Tribune, 6605 S.E. Lake Road, Portland, OR 97222.

'Genius' grant doesn't measure city's livability

READERS' LETTERS

Portland's genius probably won't see a MacArthur grant, because Portland's genius is a collective genius that makes the city a place others can only envy

Let's keep the Portland Spirit alive. After all, it's been said that "growth for the sake of growth is the ideology of the cancer cell."

Douglas W. Kinnaird Beaverton

Add to local MacArthur nominees

Thank you for Peter Korn's fine article on the way MacArthur Fellows are selected

This is one form of wealth redistribution that is commendable and is a hallmark of many in the U.S. who establish or contribute to foundations and citizenship enhancement programs

To your list of worthies I would add Tony Hopson, Duncan Campbell and Larry Colton in recognition of the work they are doing to enhance public education and personal development opportunities for kids

Gus Miller Southwest Portland

Art doesn't build a thriving city

Cities do not exist only to "identify and cultivate talent" (Portland grows into a capital of conscience, Jan. 12). Sorry, no they don't.

So you like the arts, good for you. However, the bottom line is that your art isn't necessary. A doctor is necessary to do heart surgery to save a life, but your art isn't necessary.

After 20 years of working and living here, I moved to rural Kitsap County, across Puget Sound from Seattle. Frequent visits to the city — an easy ferry ride away — were initially exciting, but the noise, the crowding, the traffic and the downtown canyons between sky-scraping buildings became oppressive.

A year ago, I returned to the Portland area and couldn't be happier. I can cite many reasons: the MAX, buses and bike-friendly roads made it possible to live without a car; the Oregon Symphony, Portland Opera, Chamber Music NW offer first-class music

Best of all, the people of Portland are friendly and obviously enjoy living here.

So let's not decry the dearth of MacArthur grants. They don't measure livability. Let's celebrate, instead, the collective genius of Portland, that prospective grantees may have chosen a way of life over fame and fortune, that Portland is a spawning ground for geniuses who go on to attain fame and



TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO: CHRISTOPHER ONSTOTT

No Portland resident has ever been awarded a MacArthur "genius grant." Now, how could that be in a city which prides itself on its surplus of creative people? Letter writers weigh in on the controversial issue.

a way that keeps us healthy, but your art isn't necessary.

Wake up, smell the coffee. Glad you do art, glad you enjoy your art — but it isn't necessary and the world doesn't need you

Michael C. Wagoner Hillsboro

Portland trails behind Seattle

I look around at stuff Portland needs to do better, and "producing MacArthur winners" is nowhere on the list

But we have a long way to go to catch up. A couple of years back, both PSU and UW embarked on new campaigns to build their endowments.

Meanwhile, Portland still has a thriving arts scene, with or without landmark architectural marvels or official "genius" recognition.

Douglas Kelso Northeast Portland

Portland excellence lifts community

One additional but significant thought: Though it does necessarily require developing a razor sharp edge, true excellence does serve and lift the community in unique ways

Jeff Jahn North Portland

Portland builds consensus on process

It isn't the lack of a major

university or arts school or the absence of a major presence of jazz culture in Portland.

A look back at prior years demonstrates no particular trend in using categories as part of selection process

This from the MacArthur Foundation website: "The people we seek to support express many other important qualities: ability to transcend traditional boundaries, willingness to take risks, persistence in the face of personal and conceptual obstacles, capacity to synthesize disparate ideas and approaches."

That doesn't scream Portland, although one might wonder why Portland-area candidates haven't made the list.

Thus, maybe the real issue is the absence of qualified nominators. The foundation uses a nomination process utilizing external nominators — "Nominators are identified for their expertise and familiarity with exceptionally creative people in their respective areas of focus."

The quote from Carl Abbott might just state the obvious: "Portland is a city that builds consensus," he says. "Seattle is

a city that fosters innovation. There are movers and shakers in Seattle. Portland is all about process."

Larry Norton Northwest Portland

Grants support local projects

It should be pointed out that Gallery Homeland was awarded a Regional Arts and Culture Council grant this year and that RACC's Projects Grants are well worth anyone's time to apply to

Of course, all of us in the arts would like to see more funds being funneled our friends' and lovers' ways. To help with this, we should all keep asking for money from places like RACC, Oregon Cultural Heritage Commission, Oregon Arts Commission, and the like, as well as being involved in these organizations, sitting on panels, attending open meetings, etc.

Mack McFarland Curator, Pacific Northwest College of Art North Portland

Portland Tribune Puzzles

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Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

- Buehrle, Carroll, Castro, Cook, Drew, Fielder, Francis, Millwood, Papelbon, Penny, Pierre, Posada, Rollins, Varitek, Wood

HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels. Differences: 1. Bird is moved. 2. Rock is missing. 3. Flyes are different as well. 4. House is moved. 5. Camera is different. 6. Fence is not as wide.

CROSSWORD by Eugene Shaffer

- ACROSS: 1 Oil, 5 Spring mo., 8 Hotel employee, 12 21-Down builder, 13 Witness, 14 Black, in verse, 15 - Minor, 16 De-pressed, 17 Carvey or Delany, 18 Thwart, 20 Primary, 22 Donna Summer hit, 26 Suitor, 29 Tibetan beast, 30 Table scrap, 31 Weap-ony, 32 Lustrous black, 33 Fit of peevish-ness, 34 "Golly!", 35 Wok, e.g., 36 Lariat, 37 No longer drinking, 40 KFC additive, 41 Latest information, 45 "The Naked Maja" painter, 47 Kimono sash, 49 Apollo 11's goal, 50 Once, once, 51 Greek consonants, 52 Opposed to, 53 Illicit stimulant, 54 Storm center, 55 Require, DOWN: 1 Respon-sibility, 2 Harbor, 3 Uncom-plicated, 4 Soft, pliant leather, 5 Plus, 6 Pod occupant, 7 Beef, e.g., 8 TV, news-papers, etc., 9 Leaves in the lurch for, 10 Lithium- battery, 11 "CSI" evidence, 19 Hostel, 21 See 12-Across, 23 Laughing critter, 24 Rainbow, 25 Director Pre-minger, 26 Palm starch, 27 Small songbird, 28 February birthstone, 32 Mandible, 33 Sleep-inducing visitor, 35 Apiece, 36 Prune, 38 Moor, 39 False front, 42 Top-notch, 43 Cary, 44 Oklaho-ma city, 45 Jewel, 46 Raw rock, 48 Purchase

Grid for crossword puzzle with numbers 1-55.

STICKELERS by Terry Stickels

Below is a scrambled quote from legendary basketball coach John Wooden. See how long it takes you to put the words in the right order.

"To to failing fail preparing prepare is." Answer: "Failing to prepare is preparing to fail." — John Wooden

CRYPTOQUIP

SX DQNDWCKZ HDDPVKE QHI LACKLONL IP SVDQ. AQHE EQNX SHCO SN SCZQE III ANOO GN GOHKW IEHENSNKEL. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals M

challenger THE INTERNATIONAL CROSSNUMBER GAME

Challenge puzzle with directions, a grid, and a solution key.

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# Drugs: Agencies follow feds' directives

From page 1

environmental regulators to urge residents to return unused prescription drugs. Kaiser and other pharmacies, following the lead of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, are urging people to put some medicines in the toilet instead.

Kaiser Permanente is obliged to follow FDA requirements, and the federal agency says surplus prescription narcotics must be flushed down the toilet, says Kaiser's Portland spokesman, Dave Northfield.

"Our pharmaceutical people are not that excited about including that direction, but they figured well, if the feds want us to do it, we'd better do it," Northfield says. "You don't want to mess around with these federal regulators, especially with regard to narcotics."

But the FDA's position on the issue has been evolving, and some say local pharmacies' instructions to patients aren't keeping pace.

"Until two years ago, they (the FDA) were saying that flushing is the only alternative," says Maggie Conley, household hazardous waste coordinator for the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality.

But the FDA has been revisiting the issue as more parts of the country organize drug takeback programs, and as research shows that pharmaceuticals are contaminating our rivers and the fish that live there.

"A year ago, we might have had a couple drop box locations around the state," Conley says. "Now there are at least 20, and we hope to have more."

## Choice in disposal

On its website, the FDA maintains a select list of medicines "recommended for disposal by flushing," including oxycodone, morphine, methadone, percodan and other drugs. And on its Web page titled "Disposal of Unused Medicines," the FDA maintains there's no scientific evidence showing harmful effects on humans from disposing of drugs in the toilet. In addition, it says most medicines get into the sewer system after people consume them and trace amounts are expelled in their feces or urine.

But the FDA's advice is getting more nuanced, to account for environmental concerns. Its website now reads: "There is a small number of medicines that may be especially harmful and, in some cases, fatal in a single dose if they are used by someone other than the person the medicine was prescribed for. For this reason, a few medicines have specific disposal instructions that indicate they should be flushed down the sink or toilet when they are no longer needed and when they cannot be disposed of through a drug takeback program."

Some say Kaiser and other area pharmacies ought to be emphasizing the latter clause about drug takeback programs.

It sounds like their prescription handouts are out of date, Conley says.

Sewage treatment experts say the best way to handle pharmaceuticals in the water supply is to stop them at the source, before they enter the system.

"Wastewater treatment can't remove all this stuff," says Dean Marriott, director of Portland's Bureau of Environmental Services. "It's ending up in the Columbia River. We're finding it in the fish tissue when we do sampling."

"We're doing everything we can to discourage people from

## Find out more

- **Oregon drop-off sites for prescription drugs and over-the-counter medicines:** [deq.state.or.us/lq/sw/hhw/DrugTakeBackSites.pdf](http://deq.state.or.us/lq/sw/hhw/DrugTakeBackSites.pdf)
- **Medicines the FDA suggests be flushed down the toilet:** [fda.gov/Drugs/ResourcesForYou/Consumers/BuyingUsingMedicineSafely/EnsuringSafeUseofMedicine/SafeDisposalofMedicines/ucm186187.htm#MEDICINES](http://fda.gov/Drugs/ResourcesForYou/Consumers/BuyingUsingMedicineSafely/EnsuringSafeUseofMedicine/SafeDisposalofMedicines/ucm186187.htm#MEDICINES)

flushing it," Marriott says.

So what's a person to do who gets these written instructions to toss their unused prescriptions in the toilet?

Thomas Burns, director of pharmacy programs for the Oregon Health Authority, says there's no Oregon laws governing the disposal of prescription drugs. Regulation of pharmacies is handled by the state, Burns says.

"The FDA recommendations are just that, recommendations," he explains. "The FDA guidance is just that, guidance."

## Tossed in the burner

In Portland, people may take prescription drugs and over-the-counter medicines to drop boxes

at Portland police precincts downtown, East Portland and North Portland, as well as the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office in East Portland.

Police departments in Beaverton, Fairview, Hillsboro and Tigard also have lock boxes.

No questions are asked when people bring in the medicines, and people aren't asked to leave their names.

"The boxes are full all the time," says Portland Police spokesman Robert King. "We empty them once or twice a week."

Police bring the medicines to Marion County's Waste-To-Energy Facility in Brooks, also known as the garbage burner, where they're incinerated.

## "Wastewater treatment can't remove all this stuff."

—Dean Marriott, director of Portland's Bureau of Environmental Services

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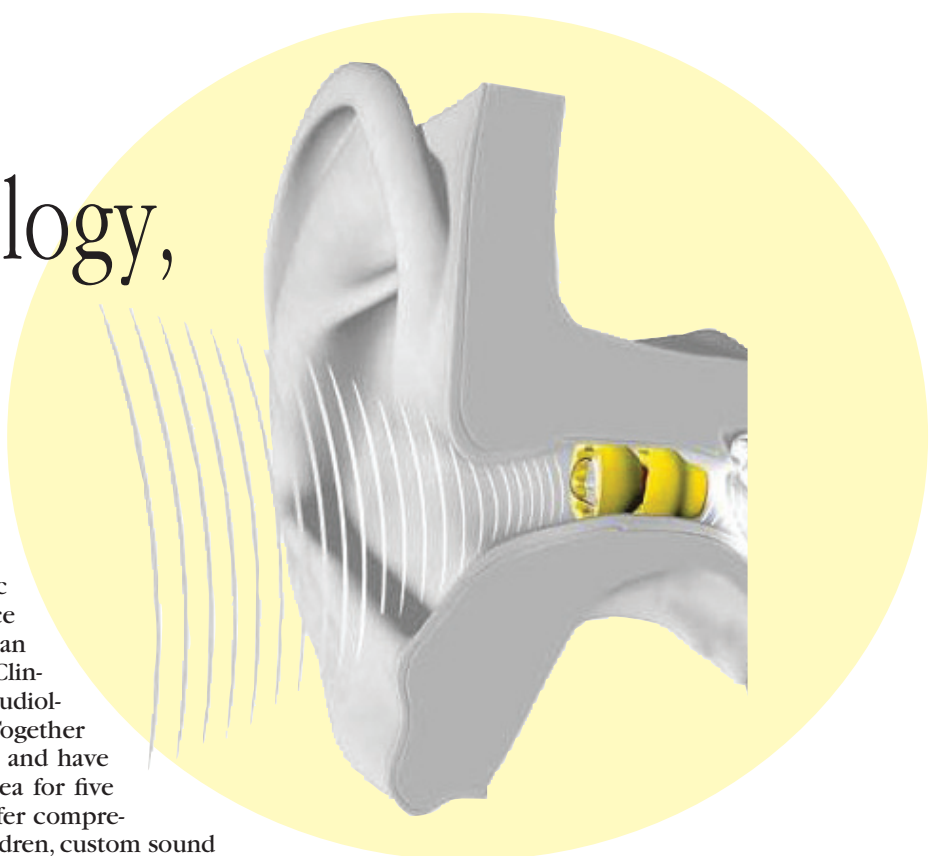
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By Alisa B. Weinzimer & Allison E. Bradley  
 Doctors of Audiology

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# TriMet: Fareless Square cut could boost revenue

From page 1

have to cut \$12 million, McFarlane said.

TriMet board members are considering a plan to close the funding gap through service reductions, changes to union employees' health insurance payments, a fare increase, elimination of fare zones and dropping downtown Portland's Free Rail Zone (which used to be known as Fareless Square).

The agency will take public comment on the proposals for the next couple of months and make a final decision on its plan by June.

TriMet needs to cut a big chunk from its \$400 million operating budget to make up for weak payroll tax proceeds, reduced federal funding and the costs of a labor arbitration deal.

The agency also plans to slice about \$400,000 from its annual contribution to the Portland Streetcar operating budget, which is less than 10 percent of what TriMet provides each year. It would not eliminate the agency's contribution to the expansion of the streetcar line to the east side of Portland.

Rick Gustafson, Portland Streetcar Inc.'s executive director, said the reduction would probably require some "service reductions" that would be decided during the city's budget process.

"We sympathize with the problems they (TriMet) have," Gustafson said. "We've absorbed reductions from previous years and certainly anticipated reductions this year."

McFarlane said last week that the proposals were "targeted to long-term financial stability."

"This isn't a year-by-year proposal," he said. "This is the first of 20 years that we've got to pay attention to."

Eliminating Fareless Square could boost the agency's budget by \$2.7 million from fares largely paid by Lloyd District residents.

McFarlane's proposal includes a laundry list of tweaks

to the agency's operations that would boost revenue or save money in the short term, including:

- \$9 million earned by restructuring the agency's fare system, eliminating discounted tickets for traveling short distances within zones, eliminating round-trips on a single ticket, and encouraging riders to buy day passes instead of individual tickets.

- \$4.4 million saved by reducing service on some bus lines, including eliminating weekend service for the 22, 32 and 73 bus lines, increasing wait times for the MAX during non-peak hours and having Red Line trains terminate in downtown Portland instead of Beaverton.

During three of the past four years, TriMet has cut its budget by nearly \$60 million, reduced services, eliminated nearly 200 jobs, frozen some hiring for management positions and increased fares.

The new proposal cuts into more than four dozen bus routes and MAX train frequency to save money. Those cuts, however,

were made with an eye toward preserving some services without hurting people who use the buses or trains, McFarlane said.

The hope is that riders still can accomplish their necessary trips, though they may need to wait longer or make an additional transfer.

"That's the theme of the service changes — we're trying to keep the same service," McFarlane said. "It still allows the trip to occur."

"We come into this budget year with no low-hanging fruit," he added. "After this recession, we've taken a lot of cuts. If there was a very easy cut, we've done it."

"We knew this was not going to be easy. We had some painful decisions no matter what way we went."

TriMet Budget Committee Chairwoman Cynthia Chilton told the board that many of the decisions were "very painful" and would hurt people who already are struggling because of the bad economy.

"Some of these decisions are balancing the budget on the backs of the riders," said Chilton, who called the ATU labor situation "the real problem."

Board Vice Chairwoman Tiffany Sweitzer said the proposals may change after the scheduled public hearings. "We may be back with something different," she said.

Board member Lynn Lehrbach was opposed to any further service reductions if TriMet increased fares. "Fare increases and services reductions is an oxymoron," Lehrbach said.

Although the TriMet board did not take public testimony, disability advocates delivered a letter protesting proposed fare increases for the LIFT program that serves the handicapped. The letter from Portland Disability Advocates said the proposed increase to \$3 a ride would be more than many disabled people who depend on it can afford. PDA Chairman Michael Levine said the proposed increase would violate the Americans with Disabilities Act that requires transit trips for the handicapped to be affordable.

John Charles of the Cascade Policy Institute was disappointed the board did not discuss two coming MAX projects, the Port-



A TriMet rider waits to board a Red Line MAX train at the Pioneer Courthouse Square stop.

TRIBUNE PHOTO: NICK FOCHTMAN

land-to-Milwaukie and Portland-to-Vancouver connections. He said the money TriMet is spending on them should be spent preventing bus line cuts. "Just stop the insanity," Charles said.

McFarlane said the proposal is far from the last word on the matter. The agency will re-evaluate its tax revenue projec-

tions in March and make adjustments to the plan, he said.

McFarlane defended the MAX projects as providing efficient transportation in high-density corridors, however. He

said it costs TriMet \$1.60 for each MAX ride compared to almost \$3 for each bus ride.

Forest Grove News-Times reporter Christian Gaston contributed to this news story.

**"TriMet's financial stability depends on a stable labor agreement."**

— Neil McFarlane, TriMet general manager

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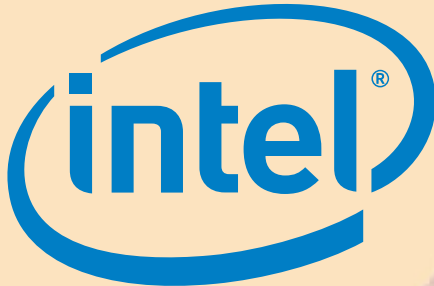


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# Climber's legacy captured in Hood photos



COURTESY OF TOWNSLEY FAMILY  
Experienced mountain climber and Mazama member Jared Townsley died early Monday morning in a fall on Mount Hood.

*Family mourns, but revels in Tigard man's mountain challenge*

By CHRISTINA LENT  
Pamplin Media Group

Jared Townsley's majestic view of Mount Hood at sunrise Monday morning is captured in photographs from a camera he carried the day he died.

The 30 images reflect the beauty of the outdoors the 32-year-old Tigard man loved to explore. They mark the second of his monthly Mount Hood climbs.

As Townsley's family grieves the man they referred to as "J," the snapshots of his last day have become a cherished memento.

"He took beautiful photographs of that sunrise — they are incredible shots," said Josh Townsley, Jared's younger brother, who had given him a camera to take on the climb, which ended tragically with a severe fall from a cliff.

Before moving to Oregon in 1994, Jared developed a love of the outdoors growing up in Carson City, Nev., where his family said he would go up and down any hill he could find.

"He was an amazing climber with lungs like a billy goat," said Gregg Townsley, Jared's father.

About a decade ago, Jared began scaling mountains and became a skilled climber. He had reached the summit of Hood at least a dozen times, including a half-dozen solo climbs, his father said. The 1998 Beaverton High School

graduate was a member of the Mazamas, completed the group's Basic Climbing Education Program and served as a teacher's assistant with the program.

He also reached the summits of Mount Rainier, Jefferson and Adams, among others. Josh accompanied him on several of those climbs, and two years ago, the brothers started a tradition of hiking the 30.2-mile Wildwood Trail in Forest Park the day after Thanksgiving.

Recently, the devoted father began sharing that passion with his 8-year-old daughter Sophia. "He was so excited about his daughter going on her first 5-mile hike with him," Gregg Townsley recalled.

Jared Townsley and his wife, Charlotte, were active in the Portland language immer-

sion school Sophia and 6-year-old son Creighton attend. Jared Townsley offered to lead several climbing adventures as auction items at a recent Northwest Chinese Academy dinner fundraiser.

On Friday, three days before he died, Jared shot video of his children performing in a Chinese New Year program at the Beaverton City Library.

"He was an amazing father and husband — he put Charlotte and the kids before everything," Josh Townsley said. "He was very genuine and caring and one of the most loving people I've ever met."

#### Grateful for mountain crews

Growing up, Jared Townsley emerged as a computer whiz. "He had a lot of talent," his father said.

During his senior year at Beaverton High School, Jared began taking college courses at Portland Community College and secured an entry-level customer service job with Integrity Online, a national Internet provider used by libraries, schools and churches to filter out offensive sites.

"He cracked the program to show that someone could get through the protections, and the company promoted him to a network administrator right out of high school," Josh recalled.

At 18, Jared began a promising career as a network engineer and a go-to guy for people experiencing computer problems. Most recently, he worked from his Tigard home for F5

Networks, a provider of application delivery networking.

It was through his technology connections that he met his wife, who shared his interest in computers. They were married in 2003 and were devoted to one another, said Jared's older sister, Rachel Stramel.

"When I first met Charlotte, I realized that J simply lit up around her," she said. "He loved her deeply from the beginning of their relationship."

As Jared Townsley's family begins planning a memorial service to celebrate his life, his loved ones say they are grateful for the swift response of the Mountain Wave Search and Rescue and Portland Mountain Rescue and Rescue teams, who located his body below an area of cliffs at about the 9,200-foot elevation Tuesday morning.

When Jared failed to return to Timberline Lodge after an overnight climb Monday morning by 11, the Clackamas County teams responded to the mountain, working overnight to scour known trouble spots on Mount Hood to find him.

"At 3 in the morning, it was pitch black, and they called me over to the incident command vehicle to show me two yellow gummy bears they found about 25 yards apart," said Josh Townsley. "They wanted to know if those were something he would snack on. They weren't, but it shows how determined they are to find people up there. We are so grateful."

A service is planned for Saturday, Feb. 18.

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The Oregonian



## Reynolds principal focus of investigation

School district places Jeff Gilbert on leave after license expires

By CALVIN HALL  
Pamplin Media Group

Before the lapse of Reynolds High School Principal Jeff Gilbert's administrative license last week, he learned there would be investigations into his conduct as

administrator, the Reynolds School District reported.

Gilbert was placed on unpaid leave Tuesday, Jan. 31, following the expiration of his emergency administrator's license, which was granted in July 2011 from the state Teachers Standards and Practices Commission.

Gilbert received a letter from the district's attorney on Jan. 20 informing him of the pending investigations, said Andrea Watson, district spokeswoman. She said the district is not able to discuss specific details of the investigations.

The Reynolds School Board will meet with the district's attorney at an executive session Thursday, Feb. 9, at the Reynolds Professional Development Center, 2408 S.W. Halsey St., before its regular work session at 7 p.m. The executive session is closed to the public.

The school board said in an official statement that it "is very aware of public and staff concerns about the status of Principal Gilbert's license and other issues that seem to be rumored. We are mindful of all these concerns and are addressing them through the efforts of district counsel.

"We hope to bring these matters to closure in a reasonable period of time accounting for due process and complete investigatory efforts," the statement reads. "In the meantime, this is a confidential personnel matter and we will not discuss any specifics."

The school board read its official statement during its regular meeting Wednesday at Fairview City Hall.

In order to get his license renewed every three years, Gilbert is required by the state to complete six semester hours (or nine quarter hours) of coursework toward the Continuing Administrator License, which focuses on school-district level leadership, through an approved program.

Gilbert received an emergency six-month extension from the Teachers Standards and Practices Commission in July 2011 in order to complete the courses.

Gilbert applied for a second emergency extension, which required a letter of support from the district.

The district did not send the letter in light of the pending investigations. Because Gilbert's application was incomplete without the letter, the extension was not granted.

Gilbert has served as principal at Reynolds High School since 2008.

It's no secret that 2011 was a turbulent year for the stock market and an uncertain one for the economy. What can we learn from recent trends? During this event hosted by Chuck Price and Travis Price, guest speakers will analyze what the indicators are telling us and share their ideas on what may be in store for the new year.

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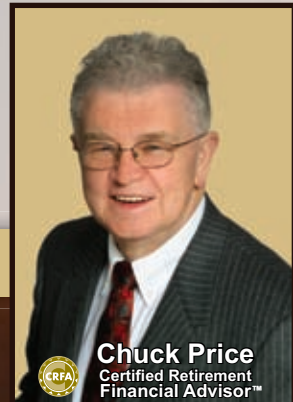
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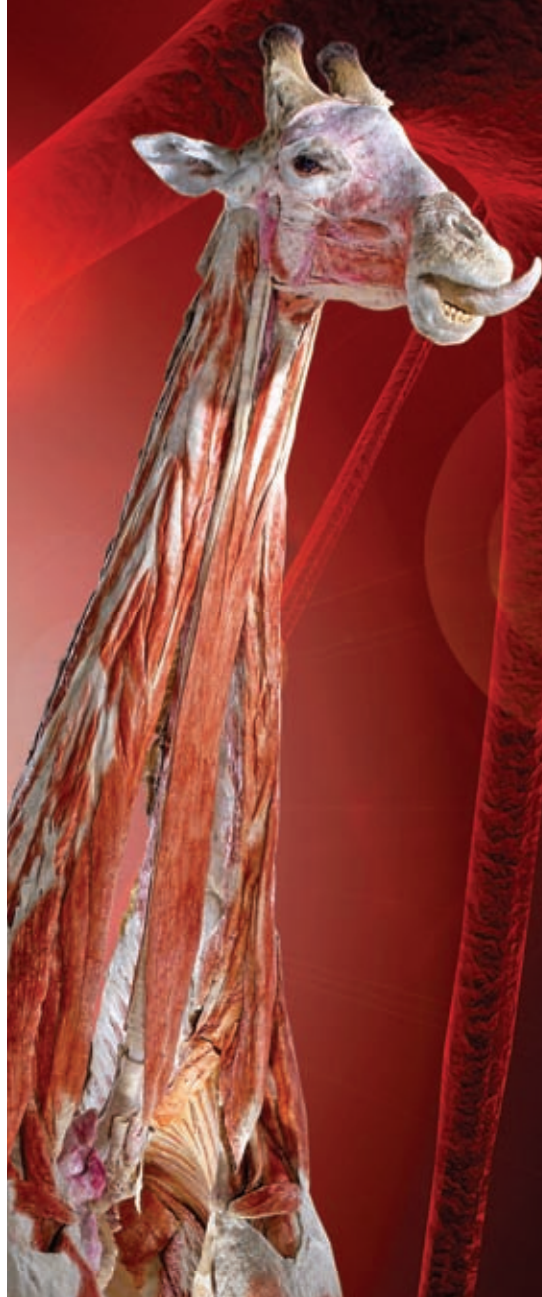
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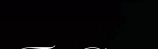
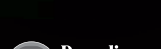
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# Portland! Life

SECTION B

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2012

PORTLAND JAZZ FESTIVAL

## ALL THAT JAZZ

**T**eacher and musician Thara Memory can add “Portland Jazz Master” to his lengthy resume.

The Portland Jazz Festival, which runs Feb. 17 to 26, will bestow the title on Memory, a key figure in the development of superstar Esperanza Spalding and others during his 40-some years in the local jazz scene.

Spalding, a Grammy Award winner for Best New Artist in 2011, calls Memory a “beacon of inspiration.”

Memory performs a special program as a tribute to Miles Davis, “Artfully Miles,” at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 17, at the Winningstad Theatre, on the opening night of the jazz fest. It’ll spotlight Davis’ collaboration with Gil Evans from the albums “Porgy and Bess” and “Sketches of Spain.” About 20 jazz and classical artists and student musicians will join the trumpet player Memory in the performance.

Memory is humbled to be named “Portland Jazz Master.” He was named the Jazz Society of Oregon’s Musician of the Year in 2006 and then inducted

into the Oregon Music Hall of Fame the next year.

“This is a very high honor and I have never had anything of this magnitude happen to me,” he says.

Memory, who moved to Portland in 1970, has taught at Portland State, Portland Community College, Marylhurst University, Wilson High School and Arts and Communication Magnet Academy in Beaverton.

■ With a fusion theme, the jazz fest has an impressive lineup, with the likes of Roy Haynes, Bill Frisell, Dee Dee Bridgewater, Branford Marsalis and Dan Balmer playing with The Jazz Passengers.

One of the highlights will be a bevy of performers taking the stage 9:30 p.m. Feb. 25 at the Crystal Ballroom for the “PDX Afrobeat Breakdown.”

Famed guitarist Charlie Hunter opens with his solo jam, followed by performances by Scott Pemberton, special guest Ben Darwish’s Commotion and Jubba. The program will explore and break down the Afrobeat discipline as a major influence in jazz music.

See JAZZ / Page 2



ROY HAYNES

©2012 CAROL FRIEDMAN

The ninth annual Portland Jazz Festival, set for Feb. 17 to 26 at several of the city’s top venues, has a theme of fusion this year.

Portland’s ‘beacon of inspiration’ adds a master’s touch to growing annual fest



BILL FRISELL

©2012 JIMMY KATZ



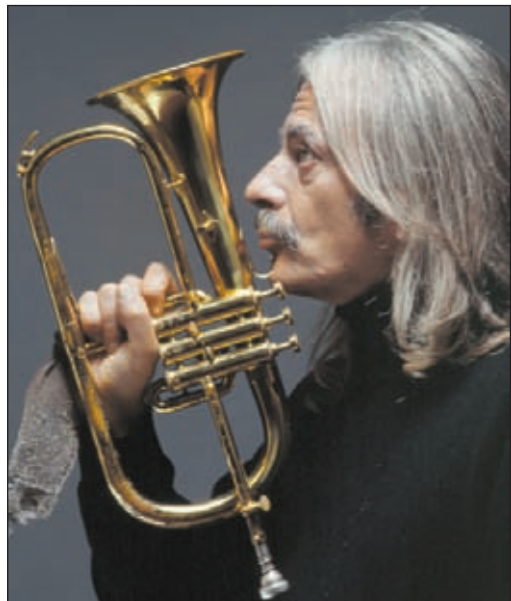
CHARLIE HUNTER

©2012 GREG AIELLO



THARA MEMORY

©2012 ALFREDO LETTENMAIER



ENRICO RAVA

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### THE SHORT LIST

#### MUSIC

##### Nancy Curtin/Tom Grant

The quartet of vocalist Curtin and pianist/vocalist Grant, joined by bass player Dennis Caiazza and drummer Jeff Frankel, put out some Brazilian jazz in a return engagement.

7:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 11, Wilf’s Restaurant, 800 N.W. Sixth Ave., 503-223-0070

##### “A Natalie Cole Valentine”

The famed singer joins the Oregon Symphony for Valentine’s Day. The symphony opens with Gershwin’s “Overture to Girl Crazy,” Raskin’s “Laura,” Bernstein’s “Times Square” from “On the Town” and Rodgers and Hart’s “My Funny Valentine.” Cole will announce her program from the stage.

7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 14, Arlene Schmitzer Concert Hall, 1037 S.W. Broadway, 503-228-7343, \$30-\$150

##### Buck 65

Nothing brings to mind the mean sounds of hip hop like Nova Scotia. Well, maybe not, but Canadian folk-hop artist Buck 65 knows his turntable tricks and is one entertaining MC. He’ll be here with The Coup and Busdriver.

9 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 16, Wonder

Ballroom, 128 N.E. Russell St., wonderballroom.com, \$18-\$20

#### STAGE

##### “Orphans”

Offshoot Theatre Co. puts on Lyle Kessler’s award-winning drama about the love of orphaned brothers, attachment and our need for other people. It’s the company’s first production; director Robert Gaynor and actors Kyle Delemarter and Jonathan Godsey are longtime members of Imago Theatre, and Bruce Chesse is the artistic director of the Oregon Puppet Theatre.

7:30 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays, 2:30 p.m. Sundays, Feb. 10-26, The Hostess, 538 S.E. Ash St., 503-224-8499, \$15

##### “The Tell-Tale Heart”

Edgar Allen Poe’s horror story is put on by Tears of Joy Puppet Theatre, adapted by David Treptow. It blends actors, masks and life-sized puppets.

8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Feb. 10-11, Winningstad Theatre, 1111 S.W. Broadway, tojt.org

##### “Triad”

The Brody Theater showcases improv trios, where three of Port-



COURTESY OF JOAN MARCUS

Fred Meyer Broadway Across America brings “Beauty and the Beast” to the Keller Auditorium, Feb. 14-19.

land’s most experienced improvisers team up to create all the characters, scenes and stories in a full-length performance.

7:30 and 9:30 p.m. Saturdays, Feb. 11-March 3, The Brody Theater, 616 N.W. Broadway, 503-224-2227, \$8-\$10

##### “Twelfth Night”

Portland Actors Conservatory continues its season of identity with the William Shakespeare play, di-

rected by Michael Fisher-Welsh and about Viola, who loses her brother at sea but gains an ardent admirer.

7:30 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays, 2 p.m. Sundays, Feb. 15-March 4, Firehouse Theatre, 1436 S.W. Montgomery St., actorsconservatory.com, up to \$25

##### “Beauty and the Beast”

The smash Broadway musical comes to Portland with its classic love story and hits such as “Be Our Guest” and the title song.

7:30 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, Feb. 14-17, 2 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 18, 1 and 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 19, Keller Auditorium, 222 S.W. Clay St., 503-241-1802, starting at \$26

#### MISC.

##### “Edge of Vision”

The photography exhibit features the work of 20 international contemporary photographers, who base their practice in some form of abstraction, from highly conceptual to more documentary approaches.

11 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesdays-Sundays, through March 18, Hoffman Gallery of Contemporary Art/Lewis & Clark College, 0615, S.W. Palatine Hill Road, 503-768-7687

##### Portland Golf Show

More than 120 vendors will present their products in the 19th annual event, with prizes galore. It’s endorsed and supported by the Oregon Golf Association.

11 a.m. Friday, Feb. 10, 9 a.m. Saturday-Sunday, Feb. 11-12, Oregon Convention Center, 777 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., portlandgolfshow.com, \$10, \$9 seniors

##### Polar Plunge

Thousands of brave participants will take the plunge into the Columbia River to benefit Special Olympics Oregon, with each plunger raising a minimum of \$50. Between Feb. 3 and 18, five Oregon cities will hold similar events.

Brrr!

11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 11, Broughton Beach, Northeast 33rd Avenue/Marine Drive, plungeoregon.com

##### Worst Day of the Year Ride

Organizers are trying to set a new standard with more than 4,000 riders on the 18-mile odyssey around Portland; in addition, there’s a 45-mile trek to Hillsboro. It’s a benefit for the Community Cycling Center.

8 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 12, Lucky Labrador, 915 S.E. Hawthorne Blvd., worstdayride.com

# LiveMusic!

By **ROB CULLIVAN**  
Pamplin Media Group

## FEB. 9, 17

### Songs in the key of Wonder

At this point, no superlative could be applied to Stevie Wonder that hasn't already been applied. Bobby Broom's **Deep Blue Organ Trio's** "Wonderful!" was the most played jazz title in North America last summer, and pays tribute to Motown's greatest musician with versions of nine Wonder songs. Meanwhile, Wonder band members Tyrone Hendrix, drummer, and Nate Watts, bassist, will be joined by **Patrick Lamb** and his band, along with **Liv Warfield, Jarrod Lawson, Saeeda Wright** and **Paul Creighton**, to perform the second of two tributes in little more than a week to Mr. Fingertips, at Jimmy Mak's.

**Bobby Broom and the Deep Blue Organ Trio**, 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 9, Jimmy Mak's, 221 N.W. 10th Ave. \$12 general admission, \$15 reserved; **The Patrick Lamb Band**, 7:30 and 10 p.m. Friday, Feb. 17. \$20 general admission, \$25 reserved. Info: 503-295-6542, jimnymaks.com.

## FEB. 10

### Inebriated supplications

One of Portland's finer Americana outfits, **Drunken Prayer**, is marking the release of its sophomore album "Into the Missionfield" this week. It's a tasty stack of 11 country-bluesy-rockin' tunes flavored with just enough grits to make it tough and enough syrup to make the songs go down easy. Led by Morgan Christopher Geer, who sports a baritone-tenor that suits the material well, the band even strays into Beatle-like territory on such songs as "Always Sad" (slyly name-checking Elmore James to boot for you blues hipsters). **Drunken Prayer** employs keys, guitars, horns and percussion to polished effect, and garners appearances from players who've jammed with The Breeders, Beck, Bright Eyes, Elliott Smith, Supersuckers, Kristen Hersh and I Can Lick Any



The hits of Stevie Wonder take center stage when Bobby Broom's **Deep Blue Organ Trio** plays at Jimmy Mak's, Feb. 9. COURTESY OF ORIGIN RECORDS

Sonofabitch In The House. Should be a helluva party. **Drunken Prayer, The Ukeldies, Matt Brown**, 9 p.m. Friday, Feb. 10, **Secret Society Ballroom**, 116 N.E. Russell St. \$8, \$15 buys a CD. Info: 503-493-3600, secret.society.net.

## FEB. 11

### Arterial rockage

The fifth annual **Cover Your Hearts Show** will once again benefit Ethos Music, which offers music education on a sliding scale to children. Organized by indie-pop-shoegazers **Charmparticles**, **Cover Your Hearts** features various performers performing 1980s love songs, from the gracious to the grotesque. This year's lineup includes **Derby, Jaycob van Auken, Dr. Theopolis, On the Stairs, Violet Isle, Mike Lewis**, and **Lael Alderman's** new Project, **We are not Shadows**. These brave performers have tackled tunes by REO Speedwagon and Night Ranger, so don't tell me you love me, if you want to know what love is, get down to the show before there's a total eclipse of the heart. **Cover Your Hearts Benefit**, 8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 11, **Wonder Ballroom**, 128 N.E. Russell Street. \$15 to \$35. Info: 503-284-8686, wonderballroom.com.

### Feline all right

**Lisa Marsicek**, aka **Miz Kitty**, may be familiar to readers for fiddling around with Flat Mountain Girls and the Sassafrilla Jug Band. When she's not stringing audiences along, she resurrects vaudeville every second Saturday of each month with her warm-hearted zany shows and has organized a "Sweethearts of Portland Spectacular" to celebrate February, the month of luv, baby. Perfor-

mances this Saturday include 1920s and 1930s jazz from the **Jenny Finn Orchestra**, acrobatics by **Brittany Walsh**, Irish dancing by **Maldon Mehan**, feminine string-strumming by **Ukeladies**, saxophone-and-keyboard-flavored crooning by **Retta Christie Trio** and comedy and song by **Bo Peep**. **Sweethearts of Portland Spectacular**, 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 11, **Mission Theater**, 1624 N.W. Glisan St. \$12. 21 and older. Info: 503-223-4527 mizkittysparlour.com.

## FEB. 14

### Blacks 'n' blues

A funny thing happened on the way to the PBS blues documentary — young African-Americans pretty much stopped playing the music their forefathers and foremothers created. Fortunately for blues-lovers, however, Austin's **Gary Clark Jr.**, 26, never got the memo that this ever-adaptable music had been taken over by white guys in Hawaiian shirts singing "Mustang Sally" and decided to play the guitar — actually attack the guitar — and sing. He owes as much to ZZ Top as he does to Buddy Guy and Jimi Hendrix, but Clark has created his own voice, which evinces urban cool and country funk. Injecting soul, hip-hop, classic rock and jam elements into his music has helped him reach his chronological peers, while older hipsters who dig Eric Clapton, Alvin Lee or even Carlos Santana will find plenty of reason to bring their Valentine's dates down for the show. **Gary Clark Jr., White Dress**, 9 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 14, **Doug Fir Lounge**, 830 E. Burnside St. \$15. Info: 503-231-WOOD, dougfir.com.

# Bits&Pieces

By **JASON VONDERSMITH**  
The Tribune

## Diggin' the big beast

The big beast Grave Digger, a highlight in the Monster Jam event Feb. 11 and 12 at the Rose Garden and celebrating its 30th anniversary, burns about five gallons of methanol/alcohol per minute.

So, with a 22-gallon tank, a good portion of the time is spent refueling the 1,500-horsepower mega-truck.

A lot of people don't understand the performance capabilities of the monster trucks, says Carl Van Horn, one of eight drivers piloting Grave Digger trucks around the country. They can get 20 feet off the ground.

Time was that the monster trucks were known for only smashing other vehicles. They still do, except after smashing one, they leap over the others.

"Oh yes, it's definitely an adrenaline rush," Van Horn says. And, as he points out, the safety precautions are nothing short of NASCAR-like — with seat and head containment, including a HANS device for preventing the head from moving forward, and onboard fire systems.

Van Horn still gets a kick out of driving monster trucks.

"You're sitting up as high as a semi, with 1,500 horsepower and can jump 20 feet in the air — or more now," he says. "You have rear and front steer, another element to the driving, because you have to get the timing right on the rear steer."

Van Horn crashed in St. Louis, taking out the front end and ruining a tire. "I jumped crossways, a way the truck is not designed to jump," he says, "and landed in front of a different obstacle. I knew I was done."

Of course, the Grave Digger fans cheered wildly. Running over stuff, flying through the air, roaring engines, simply parading around and even wrecking are part of the show. "We have the best of the best



The famous Grave Digger monster truck makes an appearance at the Rose Garden, Feb. 11-12, piloted by Carl Van Horn. There are eight Grave Digger trucks performing throughout the country.

fans who have been supporting us for 30 years," he says.

Eight monster trucks will be on hand at the Rose Garden for racing and freestyle competitions in the shows, 2 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 11, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 12. Tickets start at \$20 and are available by telephone at 1-877-789-7673 and online at comcasttix.com.

## It's quite a ticket

Van Halen will be playing at the Tacoma Dome on May 5, with quite the special guest for the classic rockers, Kool and the Gang. Van Halen's new album, "A Different Kind of Truth," was released this week, the group's first original studio album with singer David Lee Roth since "1984."

Tickets are available at Ticketmaster outlets and by calling 1-800-745-3000.

## Celebrity landscaper

Ahman Hassan, whose show "Yard Crashers" on the DIY Network is wildly popular, will attend the Yard, Garden and Patio Show, Feb. 17 to 19 at the Oregon Convention Center.

He'll appear twice daily, noon and 4 p.m. Feb. 17 and 18, and noon and 3 p.m. Feb. 19.

## Ballet classes

The Portland Ballet is offering its Summer Intensive 2012 with special guest teachers Josie Moseley and Mary Hunt,

July 2 to 28. Aspiring ballet dancers, ages 11 to 18, can audition at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, March 4 at The Portland Ballet, 6250 S.W. Capitol Highway.

For info, go to theportlandballet.org.

Daily classes in the intensive include ballet technique, pointe, partnering, modern, jazz, stretch and core, and a lecture series and performance workshop.

## Sing it, kids

Aaron Smith will be holding auditions for One World Chorus, for children ages 8 to 12.

They are: 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 14, Tabor Space, 5441 S.E. Belmont St.; 4 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 15, Lakewood Center for the Arts, 368 S. State St., Lake Oswego.

For info, go to oneworldchorus.org.

## Money man

Author David Wolman explores the monetary future with his new release "The End of Money: Counterfeiters, Preachers, Techies, Dreamers — And the Coming Cashless Society," by Da Capo Press. It'll be out Feb. 14, and Wolman will appear at Powell's City of Books on Burnside at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 21.

Wolman, who lives in Portland, writes for various magazines and he authored "A Left-Hand Turn Around the World" and "Righting the Mother Tongue" previously.

For info, go to david-wolman.com.

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# Jazz: Bill Frisell debuts at fest

From page 1

"This marathon program is unprecedented in the festival's history," says Don Lucoff, jazz fest managing director, "whereby three local bands are sharing the stage with a headline artist."

Pemberton is one of Portland's renowned guitarists. Darwish's Commotion is a 10-piece group that focuses on danceability and concept shows. Jujuba is an 11-piece Afrobeat ensemble that mixes funk and Nigerian juju with a driving rhythm and horn section.

Frisell makes his debut at the jazz festival, with quite an extensive program planned — per his reputation, playing with different bands for the music of pedal steel guitarist Wesley Webb "Speedy" West, guitarist/fiddle player Jimmy Bryant and Beatles' guitarist/vocalist John Lennon — all at the Crystal Ballroom, 9:30 p.m. Feb. 24. Then, on Feb. 25 at the Newmark Theatre, Frisell and his internationally recognized 858 Quartet take the

stage. For a U.S. festival, this is pretty good stuff.

Here are the highlights of the Portland Jazz Festival lineup:

- 7:30 p.m. Feb. 17, Winningstad: Thara Memory
- 7:30 p.m. Feb. 18, Winningstad: Enrico Rava's Tribe
- 7 p.m. Feb. 19, Winningstad: The Jazz Passengers
- 7:30 p.m. Feb. 21, Mission Theater: Mardi Gras at the Mission
- 7:30 p.m. Feb. 22, Schnitzer: Garth Fagan Dance
- 7 p.m. Feb. 23, Newmark: Dee Dee Bridgewater
- 7 p.m. Feb. 24, Newmark: Roy Haynes
- 9:30 p.m. Feb. 24, Crystal: Bill Frisell
- 3 p.m. Feb. 25, Crystal: Vijay Iyer, Prasanna, Nitin Mitta
- 7 p.m. Feb. 25, Newmark: Bill Frisell and 858 Quartet
- 9:30 p.m. Feb. 25, Crystal: Charlie Hunter and Portland Jam Band Marathon
- 3 p.m. Feb. 26, Newmark: Bradford Marsalis, Joey Calderazzo Duo

Individual tickets range from \$22 to \$48 and are available at

the Portland Jazz Festival box office, 133 S.W. Second Ave. (Suite 420), by telephone at 503-228-5299 and online at cascadetickets.com. More info can be found at pdxjazz.com.

Among the highlights: Bridgewater returns to the jazz festival to celebrate "Lady Day" in a tribute concert to Billie Holiday. Her album "Eleanora Fagan (1915-1959): To Billie with Love From Dee Dee" was the 2010 Grammy Award winner for Best Jazz Vocal album.

The Grammy Award winner for Lifetime Achievement, the 86-year-old drummer Haynes performs as a leader for the first time in Portland. He has played with John Coltrane, Charlie Parker, Lester Young and Thelonious Monk among others.

White Bird Dance is presenting Garth Fagan's "Griot New York." A recorded score of Wynton Marsalis' "Citi-Movement" provides the soundtrack for the piece.

Local musician Balmer gets the opportunity to play with The Jazz Passengers, a past collaborator with Deborah Harry, Elvis Costello and others.

— Jason Vondersmith

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40°	39°	38°	38°	40°	50°
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**The show may be over but it's still generating headlines.**  
**The 2012 Portland International Auto Show opened Thursday, January 26 and completed a successful run on January 29th at the Oregon Convention Center.**



# Lucky winner drives away in a new Honda Accord LX sedan.



Mark Edstrom (left) receives the keys to his new Honda Accord LX from Bob Lanphere Jr., president of Lanphere Enterprises. Photo by Nick Fochtman.

**One of the many star attractions at this year's show was a new car giveaway.**

On the last day of the show, four lucky winners (one was drawn each day of the event) lined up and randomly selected

**"This is the first new car I've ever owned. I've only had a used car before. The closest I've ever come was a new motorcycle."**

- Mark Edstrom

keys. Only one, Mark Edstrom of Tualitin, was lucky enough to open the door to the car signifying it's now his to drive and enjoy! Each runner-up was presented with a consolation prize containing gear and several restaurant

gift certificates. The new car giveaway was presented by the Metro Portland New Car Dealers Association and sponsored by Pamplin Media Group.

**Congratulations Mark and thank you to the thousands of readers who entered the contest during the show at the Pamplin Media Group booth.**

## Auto industry and consumer confidence in cars and trucks rebound

Increases in attendance and manufacturer participation both attest to a steadily improving picture for the auto industry.

Anyone looking for signs of economic recovery need look no further. Auto Show numbers tell the story, starting with the cars. This year there were more choices than ever on display - over 35 manufacturers participated, displaying their

**"It was a home run for us. It was really, really busy."**

- Jeff Fishback  
Auto Show Director

latest offerings in engaging and entertaining ways.

Improving economic conditions, easing credit restrictions, and an explosion in the number of innovative

and fuel efficient cars, trucks, and cycles combined to set the stage.

### Pride in Partnership

Pamplin Media Group is proud to partner with the Metro Portland New Car Dealers Association as presenting sponsor of the Portland International Auto Show.

We look forward to working with the association in the future and to providing our readers with more great content like this years Official Program, Souvenir Magazine, Auto Style plus Green Wheels sections.





# Eggers: Dennis Erickson 'proud' of his career

From page 8

downhill. I've never had that happen to me like that."

Arizona State lost its last four regular-season games — by 1, 10, 4 and 9 points — to finish 6-6. On Dec. 22, eight days after Todd Graham was named as coach, the lame-duck Erickson suffered through a 56-24 embarrassment at the hands of Boise State in the Las Vegas Bowl.

"I'm not exactly sure what happened at the end," Erickson says. "We were playing really good defense, but that kind of fell apart. We had some injuries that caught up with us, but that's an excuse."

"When we were 6-2, I was the greatest coach in the world. I don't think I changed all that much over a month."

Ah, but the situation did. Erickson critics, grumbling since his second season in Tempe,

came out in full force. With the money involved in big-time football, athletic director Lisa Love felt she had no alternative but to replace the coach.

Surprisingly, Erickson was never able to recruit a big-time quarterback to Arizona State, someone to lead the team through rough waters. His best player, middle linebacker Vontaze Burfict, was a knucklehead.

I won't pretend to know what happened, but I do know that Erickson has been a terrific coach through three decades that saw him experience three losing college seasons in 18 years before arriving in Tempe.

The job he did in his four years at Oregon State — leading the Beavers to a No. 4 national ranking, an 11-1 record and a Fiesta Bowl thrashing of Notre Dame the second season — leaves him an unforgettable name in Beaver lore.

Erickson believes the Devils

were on the threshold of winning big.

"We upgraded the talent level there, no question about that," he says.

Schools should be a little less quick to pull the trigger on coaches, Erickson says.

"Programs that are patient through the years are the ones that are solid," he says. "Virginia Tech wasn't very good for four or five years under Frank Beamer. Same thing with Greg Schiano at Rutgers. That's why Oregon State will always be successful. They've stayed with Mike Riley though he's had a down year or two, they're building consistency within that program, and I think they're going to have an awfully good team next year."

"You have to have people in the administration with patience, but that's part of the game. Bottom line at ASU, though, is we didn't win enough games for the people

making that decision."

This could be the end of the line for Erickson, who turns 65 on March 24.

"When you're pushing 65," he says with a laugh, "there aren't a lot of people knocking your door down."

Erickson isn't interested in the NFL. Been there; done that. He was a near-miss with the Seattle Seahawks, going 31-33 in the 1990s, then 9-23 in two dismal seasons with the San Francisco 49ers after leaving Oregon State in 2002.

Will he coach again at the college level?

"I don't know," he says. "I'd like to. Maybe there will be an opportunity out there. But I won't coach next year."

If it's over, it's been a heck of a ride.

His record as a college head coach is 179-96-1. He won a pair of national championships at Miami and was a three-time Pac-10 coach of the year. He

turned around programs at Idaho, Washington State and Oregon State and sent a lot of players to the NFL.

"I'm proud of my career," he says. "We helped a lot of young guys over the years, thousands of them."

When ex-Seahawk Cortez Kennedy was interviewed last weekend about his upcoming induction into the Pro Football Hall of Fame, Erickson's name was one of the first he mentioned.

"Things like that are what it's all about," he says. "Seeing players after they leave football, and most of them are successful — that's why you're a coach."

Now Erickson is without a job, fired for the first time as a college coach. Still living in Phoenix — he'll head to his summer home in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, in April — he has been trying to help his assistant coaches get jobs. Noel

Mazzone and Steve Broussard got on with Jim Mora at UCLA, Jamie Christian was hired at Houston, and Greg Burns went to Purdue.

"I go to the gym three or four days a week, trying to stay in shape," he says. "I've played a little bit of golf, but the more I play, the worse I get. I'd better quit playing."

Erickson will spend time this summer in the Seattle area, where his mother, Mary, and three sisters reside. He says he'd like to attend a game in Corvallis this fall.

"I'm proud of what I did at Oregon State and what Mike is doing there now," he says. "I have a great feeling for that place, and always will."

I'm guessing there is one more college coaching stint in Erickson. I hope it's a place where he can be successful. Otherwise, Dr. Eggers prescribes golf for the coach. Bad golf, and plenty of it.

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## OnCampus

**Fencing:** Becca Ward, a Duke senior from Cedar Mill, helped the No. 10 Blue Devils upset defending NCAA champion and third-ranked Notre Dame 14-13 last week.



WARD

Ward, an Olympic medalist and two-time NCAA women's sabre champ, improved to 21-0 this season.

**Football:** Last week's letter-of-intent signees included Franklin High receiver Damian Woods (NCAA D-II University of Sioux Falls), Jesuit guard Austin Griffin (Big Sky Conference Eastern Washington), Central Catholic defensive back Tye Collier (D-II Western Oregon) and Central Catholic running back Hayward Demison and defensive end Mick Hartwig (both with NAIA Southern Oregon).

Portland State will play five of its 11 regular-season games at Jeld-Wen Field in 2012. The Vikings open Sept. 1 with a nonleague game against

NAIA power Carroll College. After road games against North Dakota on Sept. 8 and Washington on Sept. 15, PSU will open its eight-game Big Sky slate at home Sept. 22 versus league newcomer Southern Utah. Other home games are Oct. 6 with Idaho State, Nov. 3 against Northern Colorado and Nov. 17 versus Eastern Washington. The Vics play at Montana State on Nov. 10 but won't face Montana, Sacramento State or Weber State because of the conference's expansion to 13 teams.

**Basketball:** Portland State has a bead on spots in the Big Sky tournament. The top six teams qualify. The PSU women are sixth at 5-5 with six league games to go, and the Viking men are tied for fifth at 5-6 with five conference games remaining. The women play host to 8-1 Idaho State at 2 p.m. Saturday at Stott Center.

The Portland Pilots men's team is 3-8 and in seventh place in the West Coast Conference going into an 8 p.m. game tonight at Chiles Center versus Loyola Marymount (8-3). The Pilot women are 1-9. In the WCC, all nine teams advance to the conference tournaments.

The Lewis & Clark women, ranked ninth in NCAA Division III, have a

home game at 6 p.m. Saturday with Pacific Lutheran. The Pioneers are second in the Northwest Conference at 10-2, two games behind No. 3 George Fox. ... The L&C men (6-6, sixth in the NWC) play the Lutes at 8 p.m. ... The top four men's and women's team qualify for the NWC playoffs, Feb. 23 and 25.

In the Cascade Collegiate Conference, Warner Pacific continues to be near the top in both the men's and women's standings with four games to go. ... The women have won six in a row and are 11-3 in a CCC race for first that includes 10th-ranked Corban (12-2), No. 15 Eastern Oregon (11-4) and College of Idaho (11-4). The Knights, who rank 27th in the coaches poll, play host to Northwest Christian on Friday and Corban on Saturday, both at 5:30 p.m. ... The 12th-ranked Warner Pacific men dropped a key road game 86-74 at No. 8 Northwest University (Kirkland, Wash.) last week. The WPC men are 11-3 in league, trailing only Northwest (13-2) and second-ranked Oregon Tech (12-2). They will play Northwest Christian and Corban at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, also at Warner Pacific.

In Pac-12 men's play, Oregon (7-4) gets first-place Washington (9-2) at

Matthew Knight Arena at 8 tonight, while Oregon State (5-6) plays host to Washington State (4-7) at 7 tonight. On Saturday, WSU is at Oregon at 3 p.m., and on UW visits OSU at 3 p.m. Sunday.

The Oregon State women are 6-5 going into road games at 7 tonight versus WSU and 12:30 p.m. Saturday with UW. The Oregon women are 5-6 heading into games at 7 tonight at the Huskies and 8 p.m. Saturday at the Cougars.

**Soccer:** Cleveland High's Zach Striar, an all-state midfielder/forward, was one of five prep players who signed a letter-of-intent last week with Oregon State. Midfielder/forward Keenan Depinna, who helped Jesuit win the 6A title in 2010 and reach the finals in 2011, also signed

with the Beavers.

**Track and field:** Concordia's NyEma Sims broke her indoor 60-meter school record, clocking 7.42 seconds to win at the Vandal Invitational last week at Nampa, Idaho.

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# PORTLAND ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

Celebrating individual performances and team contributions made by Portland high school and college students

## ERYN JONES

Portland State University | Basketball

Jones, a 5-8 senior guard, totaled 28 points and 11 assists as the Vikings beat Weber State 76-63 and Northern Arizona 73-59. She was 10 of 16 from the field and 6 of 11 on 3-pointers. The Big Sky Conference player of the year for 2010-11 has been playing with a hyperextension bone contusion since Dec. 28. "Eryn played with a little less pain in her knee last weekend," coach Sherri Murrell says. "She looked like her old self from last year, scoring and dishing out assists. She has a great feel for the game."



## KHYAN RAYNER

Jesuit High School | Basketball

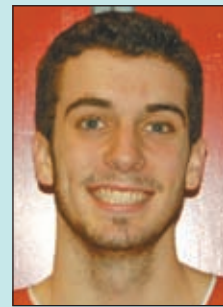
Rayner, a 5-10 junior guard, recorded a game-high 20 points as the No. 1-ranked Crusaders beat Beaverton 67-48. "I came out strong and was getting to the free-throw line early and got a couple 'and-ones' as well," Rayner says. "When my shots are falling like that, it's hard not to have a game like I did." Rayner says he expects Jesuit to make another strong run at a fourth consecutive Class 6A crown. "We all believe that if we play hard like we are capable of then we should expect nothing less than another state title," he says.



## TANNER ADRIAN

David Douglas High School | Basketball

The 6-4 senior co-captain and wing scored 18 points in a 66-56 victory over Mt. Hood Conference rival Barlow last week. Adrian was 7 of 8 from the field, including 4 of 4 from behind the arc for the Scots. He also pulled down six rebounds and dished out three assists. Adrian is student body president and a key figure on the court. "He's a glue guy for us," David Douglas coach Chad Reeves says, "always in the right place at the right time, and he's a great teammate, all about team first. A very intelligent basketball player."



## BLAKE THORNTON

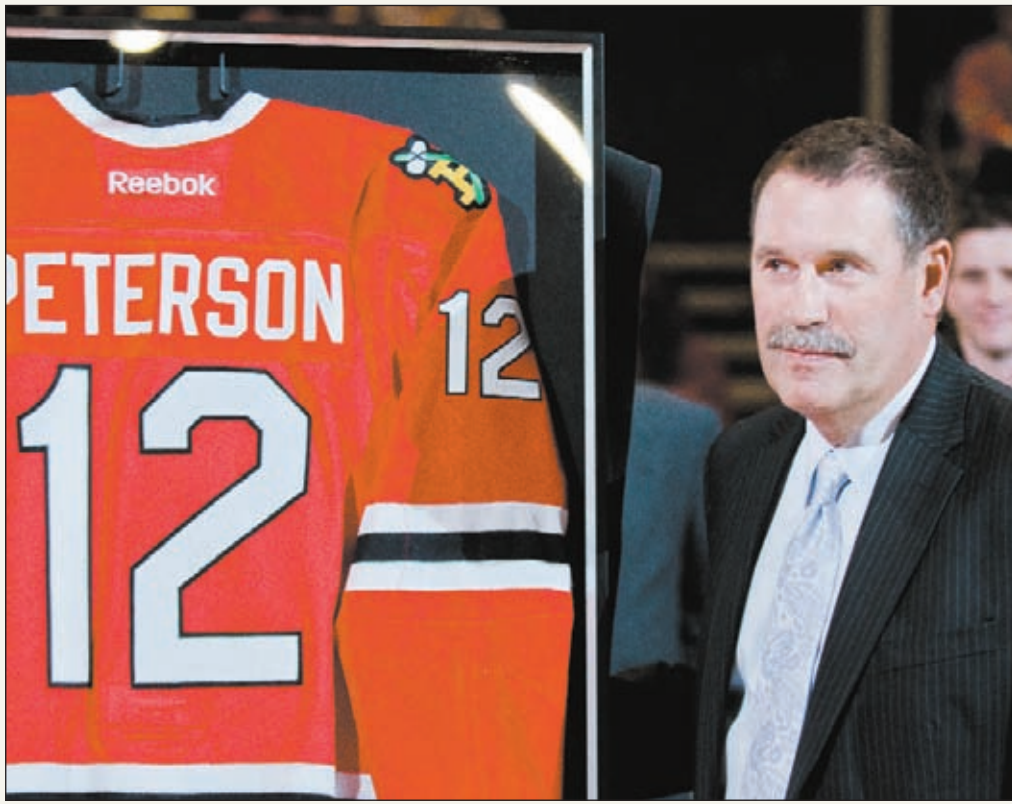
Lincoln High School | Basketball

The 5-11 senior guard scored a season-high 24 points and made the decisive 3-pointer at the buzzer as the visiting Cardinals stopped PIL rival Grant 69-68. Thornton received the inbound pass with 2.1 seconds left. "It was set up for Alex (Sattley) to come off a screen for a layup," he says. "I saw no one was open, so I popped out to get the ball, pumped-faked and hit the shot. I think they (the Generals) were just trying to clog the paint, so when I popped out behind the 3-point line, they didn't expect it."



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**Brent Peterson, former Portland Winterhawks coach and player, received a framed jersey as part of the festivities last week during his induction into the team's Hall of Fame.**

### Winterhawks

**Next:** The Hawks need a win Friday night at Tri-City to cut into the Americans' lead in the Western Hockey League U.S. Division. ... Portland is 12-12-1-1 on the road this season, while Tri-City is 21-3-0-1 at home. ... Tri-City owns a 5-1-0-0 record against Portland this season, with four meetings remaining. The Hawks scored their first win over the Ams the last time the teams met, winning 5-1 at the Rose Garden on Jan. 16. ... The Hawks go from Kennewick to Kent, Wash., where they will play the Seattle Thunderbirds on Saturday night. Then Portland plays host to Tri-City at 7 p.m. Wednesday at Memorial Coliseum.

Portland has 19 regular-season games remaining, having posted a 35-15-2-1 record (73 points) through the first 53 games.

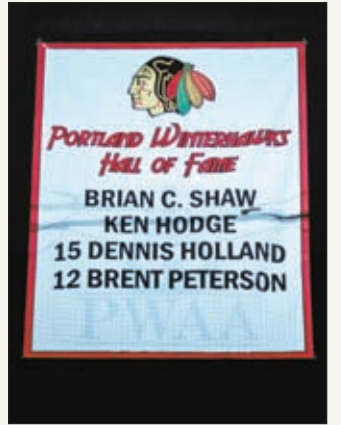
Last season, the Hawks led the Western Conference with 103 points and a 50-19-0-3 record. In 2009-10, Portland began its resurgence in the WHL, after several foundering years, and went 44-

25-2-1 (91 points) to earn the No. 5 West playoff seed.

The Winterhawks stretched their franchise record for consecutive home wins to 19 on Friday, before falling 3-2 to Vancouver on Saturday on a goal with 29.5 seconds left. Portland avenged that defeat with a 5-4 win over the Giants on Monday. Sven Bartschi's three goals in the second period paced the Hawks.

Friday was a big night in another way for the Portland franchise. Before the Hawks skated to a 7-3 win over Everett, the club inducted its fourth member to the Winterhawks Hall of Fame — former coach and player Brent Peterson.

Peterson, who lives in Nashville and is a consultant for the NHL Predators, was the Hawks' original captain in 1976. He coached the team to the 1998 Memorial Cup. Hockey items autographed by former Winterhawks such as Marian Hossa, Brenden Morrow, Scott Nichol and Jason LaBarbera were sold by silent auction during the



TRIBUNE PHOTO: NICK FOCHTMAN

The banner of Portland Winterhawks Hall of Fame members goes up last week at Memorial Coliseum with the addition of Brent Peterson, original captain and former coach.

game, raising \$6,900 for the Peterson Foundation for Parkinson's. Peterson, who turns 54 on Wednesday, learned in 2004 that he has Parkinson's.

## UO: RB Marshall has speed Ducks like

From page 8

"I love being able to protect the quarterback. I just like the one-on-one aspect of the game, and at left tackle you're out there on an island. Your quarterback's safety is hanging in the balance between you blocking the guy and you not. I just live for that."

Long, 6-7 and about 305 pounds, is good enough that Oregon coach Chip Kelly says he "will have an opportunity to come in and play right away."

Long joins the Ducks with one year of eligibility, but he might

appeal for another year. For now, though, Long is focused on coming to Eugene this summer and making as much of an impact as he can.

"I'm just working my tail off to try to compete with the guys who are already there," he says. "The other stuff is pie in the sky."

Central Catholic High defensive lineman Alex Balducci grew up liking both Oregon and Oregon State. After Oregon showed early interest in him, Balducci knew he wanted to be a Duck.

"They've always had an interest in me from a young age," Balducci says. "They were one of the first schools to offer me. That kind of went a long way, and it just seemed right for me and my family."

During his senior year with the Rams, Balducci had 68 tackles, seven sacks and two forced fumbles.

"Alex is a big, tough, physical kid," Kelly says.

Balducci says he needs to continue working on physical aspects such as speed and size. But he believes he could be in the

Ducks' defensive line rotation as early as next season.

"I figure I could be great as long as I work hard and do everything right," Balducci says.

With star running back LaMichael James declaring for the NFL draft after his junior season, the Ducks needed to add depth at running back. Enter Byron Marshall, a 5-10, 195-pounder out of San Jose.

As a senior at Valley Christian High, Marshall rushed for 914 yards and nine touchdowns, averaging 9.4 yards per carry.

"Byron was our top running back prospect all along," Kelly says. "He's one of the fastest kids in the country, really a kid who is dynamic with the ball in his hands."

Marshall says he does not believe he has earned the right to have any goals with the Ducks, other than to get on the field.

"I don't want to redshirt," he says. "I'm talented enough and hardworking enough to go in there and earn a spot. But I've got to go in there and as I do earn my spot, my goals will go from there."

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# Sports Tribune

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PortlandTribune

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2012



TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO: L.E. BASKOW  
Ahmad Rashad, Emmy award-winning sportscaster who starred in football for the University of Oregon and Minnesota Vikings, returns to host the Oregon Sports Awards for the sixth year in a row Sunday at Nike in Beaverton.

## Sports awards in 19 categories

It's a collection of stars, a night to collect memories and an occasion that honors the most memorable in Oregon sports in 2011.

It's the 60th annual Oregon Sports Awards.

The ESPY-like stage show takes place Sunday at the Tiger Woods Center on the Nike campus in Beaverton.

Emmy award-winning sportscaster Ahmad Rashad, former University of Oregon and NFL star, returns to host the show for the sixth consecutive year.

He'll be joined by celebrity award presenters and dignitaries, including Trail Blazers broadcasting legend Bill Schonely, who returns as the show ambassador.

Doors open at 5 p.m. for the red-carpet entrance and preshow reception.

The show, which is expected to run for just under two hours, begins at 7 p.m. After the show, a reception will feature coffee and desserts.

Awards will be presented in 19 categories:

- Ad Rutschman Small-College Athletes of the Year (male and female)
- Slats Gill Sportsperson of the Year
- Terry Porter Make It Better Award, presented by the Portland Trail Blazers
- Nike-Steve Prefontaine Prep Distance Runner of the Year
- Les Schwab Friend of Sport
- Johnny Carpenter Prep Athletes of the Year (male and female for Class 6A-5A and for Class 4A-3A-2A-1A)
- Lou Burge Special Olympics Athlete of the Year
- Game-Changer Award
- George Pasero Teams of the Year
- Ultimate Fan Award, presented by the Portland Timbers
- Harry Glickman Professional Athletes of the Year (male and female)
- DNA Award
- Bill Hayward Amateur Athletes of the Year (male and female)

Tickets are \$50. Contact Chelsea Corrado of SportsOne at 503-721-7477, ext. 24, or ccorrado@goSportsOne.com.

The Oregon Sports Awards and its predecessor, the Hayward Banquet of Champions, have been recognizing top athletes, teams, coaches, administrators and achievements since 1948.

After the Hayward Banquet was discontinued, the Oregon Sports Awards was organized to follow in its footsteps, beginning in 2001, with Nike, the Portland Tribune and SportsOne, a Beaverton sports marketing and entertainment agency, serving as key sponsors and event managers.

Major sponsors this year, in addition to Nike, the Tribune and SportsOne, are Jeld-Wen Windows & Doors, the Portland Timbers, the Portland Trail Blazers and the Portland Winterhawks.

Other show partners are 750 AM The Game, The Fan 1080 AM, Columbia River Insurance, Mattech and Associates, the Nines, Peter Jacobsen Sports, Oregon Sports Authority, Safeway, the U.S. Navy, Dia-geo North America, Multnomah Athletic Club, Ninkasi Brewing, Pine-meadow Golf, Cathy and Jim Rudd, Tournament Golf Foundation and Zenner's Sausage.

For more information about the Oregon Sports Awards, the show and a list of this year's finalists, go to oregonsportsawards.com.



Trail Blazers forward Gerald Wallace gets sandwiched by the pick of Oklahoma City's Serge Ibaka (left) and the cutting to the basket of Thunder star Kevin Durant during Monday's OKC overtime victory at the Rose Garden.

## Gerald Wallace 'more connected' playing at home On again, off again



Last season, Trail Blazers forward Gerald Wallace (right) played defense on Dallas Mavericks such as guard Jason Terry, while averaging 15.2 points, 9.2 rebounds and 2.8 assists in six first-round playoff games for Portland.

The Trail Blazers' screwy season has been well-chronicled.

Entering Wednesday night's Rose Garden date with Houston, Portland was a robust 11-2 at home and an enigmatic 3-9 on the road.

Poster guy for the Blazers' 180-degree turn away from the friendly confines is Gerald Wallace. In 11 games on the road, Portland's starting small forward is averaging 8.1 points and 7.6 rebounds. Wallace's road shooting percentages are unsightly — .337 from the field, .136 from 3-point range and .517 from the free-throw line.

In the first 13 home games, Wallace was averaging 15.7 points and 5.9 rebounds, while shooting .564 from the field, .306 on 3-pointers and .780 at the line.

Wallace's average playing time is virtually identical — 34.5 minutes on the road, 34.4 minutes at home through Monday's overtime loss to Oklahoma City.

Why the incredible dis-

### Gerald Wallace NBA career stats

	HOME	AWAY
MPG	31.6	30.0
Points	15.0	11.8
Rebounds	6.5	6.1
Assists	2.1	1.9
FG%	.487	.461
3-pt %	.316	.313
FT %	.722	.708

parity in performance? Wallace isn't sure.

The 10-year NBA veteran says he doesn't think he has been a home warrior/road weakling throughout his career. The stats bear him out, to some extent (see graphic).

His theory about this season has to do with style of play.

"We play different as a team at home than on the road," he says. "I feel more connected at home. Sometimes I get lost on the road. I don't understand my position or place. It's different."

"We play two styles of ball. At home, we're more

See BLAZERS/ Page 5

Story by  
Kerry Eggers  
Photos by  
Christopher Onstott

### Kerry Eggers



ON SPORTS

## Is this the end of the line for Erickson?

The coaching business is a little different than when Dennis Erickson broke in back in 1969 as a graduate assistant at Montana State, where he'd been a star quarterback.

"Coaching is a fast-food world," says Erickson, relieved of his duties in December after five seasons at the helm at Arizona State. "Everybody wants something now."

It's a reflection of today's society. Patience is seen as a sign of weakness.

Erickson thinks he got a raw deal from the Sun Devils.

"Of course I do," he says with a bit of a chuckle. "You always feel that way if you're the guy involved. I don't have any control over that. All you can do is do what we did."

"The (ASU) program is in good shape. But when you go into a downspin, that's what they remember. They don't look at the overall picture."

I'm not saying Erickson didn't deserve to be let go after going 31-31 with the Sun Devils, including a disappointing 6-7 record last season after a 6-2 start.

After a 10-3 first season in 2007 — the Devils started 8-0 — Erickson's teams were 21-28, with four non-winning years in a row.

There was plenty of optimism in the Valley of the Sun going into last fall with a veteran, talented nucleus of players. ASU's 5-1 start included wins over Missouri and Southern Cal. The only league defeat was 41-27 at Oregon, a game in which the Devils trailed 21-17 at the half.

"The first half of the season, we were as good as anybody in our league except probably the Ducks, and we had a chance to beat them up there," Erickson says. "Then we lost at UCLA (29-28 on Nov. 5), and it started

### More online

Read more at [www.portlandtribune.com](http://www.portlandtribune.com)  
blah blah blahblitty

See EGGERS / Page 6

## OSU signees eager to be with Beavers

Fresno's Brown makes it his goal to rush for 2,000 yards as freshman

By KERRY EGGERS  
The Tribune

Oregon State has added 25 players with its recruiting class of 2012.

A few of them will grayshirt, enrolling in school for winter term 2013.

Meet four letter-of-intent signees who will not:

■ Chris Brown rushed for 5,017 yards and 65 touchdowns in three varsity seasons at San Joaquin Memorial in Fresno, gaining 1,947 yards with 28 TDs (seven in one game) as a senior last fall.

When he recently tweeted that his goal was to rush for 2,000 yards for the Beavers this fall, he wasn't trying to blow smoke.

"My goal (as a senior) in high school was 2,000 yards," he says. "I figured I might as well make that my goal in college."

But could he do it as a freshman? "If I put my mind to it, yeah," he says. Ranked by Rivals.com as the No. 21



COURTESY OF BRENT VANDERVEEN  
Quarterback signee Brent VanderVeen from Arroyo Grande, Calif., thinks he could play basketball, too, at Oregon State, but he will hang up the gym shorts and his baseball jersey to work on football.

running back in the nation, Brown drew 16 scholarship offers from major schools, including Oregon and Miami. He took official visits to Arizona and Oregon State

See OSU / Page 5

## New Ducks envision having early impact

Tackle took Long route to offense; Rams' Balducci liked interest UO showed

By STEPHEN ALEXANDER  
The Tribune

A week ago, the Oregon Ducks ushered in another strong recruiting class. Coming off a Rose Bowl win, the Ducks had little problem luring top recruits to Eugene. Of the 21 Oregon signees, one was a two-star recruit, 10 were three-star recruits, nine were four-star recruits and one was a five-star recruit, according to Scout.com.

Here is a look at three other players who could make an impact for the Ducks in the years to come:

■ Kyle Long still wonders how he ended up on offense. As the son of NFL Hall of Fame defensive end Howie Long and the brother of St. Louis Rams defensive end Chris Long, Kyle Long began his career at Saddleback College (Mission Viejo, Calif.) as a defensive end in 2010. He soon realized how much better he liked offense, though.

"I don't really know how I ended up



COURTESY OF KYLE LONG  
Oregon letter-of-intent signee Kyle Long has NFL defensive pedigree but loves to protect the quarterback.

being a left tackle," Long says. "But growing up around my dad and my brother, you kind of get sick of the defensive mindset and you want to play for the other team. It's kind of a little rivalry with me and my older brother."

See UD / Page 7