

## Oden or Durant?

Kevin Pritchard, Blazer brass  
plan to scrutinize top prospects  
— See SPORTS, B8

## An Ace place

Guests check in for cultural  
exchange on Southwest Stark  
— See PORTLAND LIFE, B1

## Upper left bank

Our Northwest guide  
penetrates beyond Pearl  
— See SPECIAL SECTION



# Portland Tribune

TUESDAY, MAY 29, 2007

OWNED BY PAMPLIN MEDIA GROUP

PUBLISHED TUESDAY &amp; FRIDAY



## MY VIEW ● Season brings road construction all over Oregon

# State lifeline gets an overhaul

By Matt Garrett

**M**emorial Day marked the kickoff of one of the busiest construction seasons in Oregon's history.

Work on the Oregon Transportation Investment Act III State Bridge Delivery Program has shifted into high gear, with 63 bridges under construction and another 55 entering construction later this year.

Already, 56 bridges have been repaired or replaced and opened to traffic since the bridge revitalization program started in 2003.

Across the state, you'll see

Oregon Department of Transportation workers and Oregon contractors working hard to repair, replace and modernize vital highway corridors and highway bridges. Travelers on Interstate 5 alone will pass through 19 active work zones between Portland and Medford.

I can't overstate how important this work is for Oregonians. Our highway system is the lifeline that keeps our state moving forward. Our economic competitiveness depends on our ability to move people, goods and services more efficiently in our growing economy.

Our commitment to motorists is "Better roads ahead," and I'm happy to say we're see-

ing the truth in that statement every day.

No travelers, especially people on vacation, want to be slowed down on the way to their destination. That's why we've taken steps, wherever possible, to schedule work at night or during off-peak hours.

We've also coordinated projects so that truckers, commuters and visitors get where they are going as smoothly and safely as possible.

Still, it's possible that you may face delays. To minimize that inconvenience, ODOT has two great resources for up-to-date information about construction and traffic wherever you're traveling in Oregon. Be

prepared before you hit the road by visiting [www.tripcheck.com](http://www.tripcheck.com) or calling 511.

And, when you see our construction teams, remember that they are working to make Oregon's roads and bridges safer for you. So please, slow down in construction work zones.

Visit our Web site at [www.oregon.gov/ODOT/COMM/video\\_podcasts.shtml](http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/COMM/video_podcasts.shtml) for a video message from me about the 2007 construction season and how you can be prepared.

From everyone at ODOT, please travel safely.

*Matt Garrett is the director of the Oregon Department of Transportation.*