

# Portland becoming refugee hub



**PORTLAND (AP)** — Refugees arriving in Portland are making the city one of the nation's ethnic melting pots, with one of the highest ratios of new arrivals in the United States.

About one of every 22 Portland residents arrived as a refugee, including many from Southeast Asia and Russia, said Ron Spindel, Oregon's refugee coordinator.

Many immigrants who arrived in Oregon during the 1970s from Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia later attracted family and friends from those areas.

An early wave of Russians and East Europeans came to Oregon on sponsorship from a Russian-speaking community in Woodburn. Many of them moved to Portland.

There also are Hispanic and Arabic newcomers. Most refugees find work and become self-reliant quickly, officials say, but the transition carries a price.

Multnomah County spends \$1.5 million each year for language interpreters and another \$2.8 million in the federal funds for refugee health care.

Under the Refugee Early Employment Project, the federal government pays the county \$207 per month for each refugee to cover primary dental and health care. The coverage lasts for the first eight months after each refugee's arrival.

The county's library system spends 1 percent of its budget on books in the languages of the new arrivals, mostly Hmong, Arabic and Russian dialects, and French and Spanish, said deputy library director Jeanne Goodrich.

But she said the new immigrants also want English and native language materials.

"The Russians are tremendously literate," she said. "Works in their own language help bring them into the library."

Officials say nearly 33,000 refugees have come to Oregon since 1975. Oregon is the 29th largest state in population, but it ranks 11th in the number of refugees who settle there.

## Oregon's jobless rate unchanged

**SALEM (AP)** — Oregon's unemployment rate was unchanged at 7.2 percent in January, the state Employment Division reported Tuesday.

The jobless rate last month stayed the same for the third month in a row and was down just slightly from the 7.3 percent rate in January 1992.

The agency said most of the layoffs last month reflected normal seasonal trends. But a continuing bleak spot was the state's timber industry.

Another 1,300 wood products jobs were lost last month. That put timber industry employment at a record low of 51,500 jobs after "four years of almost non-stop job losses," the agency said.

The Employment Division said retail trade employment decreased slightly less than expected last month and overall had a good holiday season, recording a job increase of more than 1 percent.

About 124,000 Oregonians were out of work last month, but that figure has stabilized during the past nine months, the division said.

"It does appear that job growth in Oregon has regained enough momentum to keep pace with the continuing in-migration" of population, the division said.

The national jobless rate was 7.3 percent last month. Oregon employment was 1.39 million in January.

## Springfield won't ban gambling within city

**SPRINGFIELD (AP)** — At the urging of a packed house of tavern owners, card dealers and gamblers, the Springfield City Council has backed away from efforts to ban gambling in the city.

The council last Monday night to study ways to keep tabs on city-sanctioned card and dice games and possibly tax the games to fund police oversight of gambling.

The move came after scores of gambling proponents crowded into the council meeting for the third week to say they would support such measures to avoid a ban.

Springfield Mayor Bill Morrisette proposed the ban on gambling in his "state of the city" speech five weeks ago. Gambling is allowed in 16 bars and taverns.

At the time, Morrisette said reports of illegal games, marked cards and house banks should be investigated, but he believed regulation of the industry would be too costly.

However, the mayor began considering other options after his speech prompted an outcry from dealers who earn profits off the games, and bar and tavern owners who make hundreds of dollars a night in food and beverage sales to gamblers.

## Smoking goes under fire

**SALEM (AP)** — Increasing state cigarette tax and banning candy cigarettes are among the measures on an anti-smoking Tuesday by a coalition of health organizations.

Sen. Grattan Kerans, D-Eugene, said at a news conference it's time for a renewed push to further discourage smoking and to protect workers and children from its effects.

"We got to about the 30-yard line last session," Kerans said. The anti-smoking lobby's principal success in the 1991 Legislature was making cigarette vending machines less accessible to minors.

This year, Kerans said, lawmakers need to go further and make it tough for retailers who illegally sell cigarettes to the public.

One measure in the package would license retailers that sell tobacco, a proposal that was passed by the Senate in 1991 but died in the House.

Under the measure, sellers could be punished if they broke

the law against selling to minors. Sanctions would include a license suspension for a third offense.

"We license other drug dealers, such as distillers and brewers," Kerans said. "We need to license dealers who sell this death-dealing drug."

The coalition of health groups, including the American Lung Association and American Cancer Society, is supporting the proposals under the name Oregon Health Groups on Smoking or Health. The group goes by the acronym OHGOSH.

Brian DeLashmatt, a spokesman for the coalition, said one out of three Oregonians dies of a smoking-related disease.

The coalition calls for a 25-cent per-pack increase in the state cigarette tax, which now is 28 cents.

The added revenue would fund health care for uninsured Oregonians and smoking prevention programs, many especially aimed at children.

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 Members of OFCGJ, \$3, Nonmembers, \$8

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**MEETINGS**

**Unwanted Sexual Behavior Task Force** will meet today from 12:30 to 2 p.m. in EMU Cedar rooms A and B. For more information, call 346-3210.

**OSPIRG Pesticides Action Campaign** will meet tonight at 6 in EMU Cedar Room C. For more information, call 346-4377.

**Campus Girl Scouts** will meet tonight from 7 to 9 in Room 155 Education. For more information, call 485-5911.

**Students for Choice Reproductive Freedom Lobby Day Committee** will meet tonight at 7 in Room 155 Education. For more information, call 346-0649.

**Japanese Student Organization** will meet today from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. in EMU Cedar Room E. For more information, call 687-1682.

**RELIGION**

**Newman Center** will have a student mass followed by a social tonight at 9 at the Newman Center, 18th Avenue and Emerald Street. For more information, call 343-7021.

**United Methodist Campus Fellowship** will meet for discussion and worship tonight at 7 at the Wesley Foundation, 1236 Kincaid St. For more information, call 346-4694.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**OSPIRG pesticides action table** will be at the EMU Terrace today from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, call 346-4377.

**OSPIRG credit card survey** results are now available in EMU Suite 1 from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. For more information, call 346-4377.

**Tax workshop** with faculty assistance on U.S. non-resident tax forms for international students will be available tonight from 7 to 9 in Room 100 Willamette. For more information, call 346-3206.

**Outdoor Program** will show "Yosemite Climbing" as its Wednesday noon video today at 12:30 p.m. in the Outdoor Program room. For more information, call 346-4365.

**Deadline for submitting Et Als to the Emerald front desk.** EMU Suite 300, is noon the day before publication. The news editor does not have a time machine. Et Als run the day of the event unless the event takes place before noon.

**Notices of events with a donation or admission charge will not be accepted.** Campus events and those scheduled nearest the publication date will be given priority. The Emerald reserves the right to edit for grammar and style. Et Als run on a space-available basis.