

## Join The Mourning Project

We'll gather in mourning at 7 p.m. on Feb. 5 and on the first Thursday of each month at the Japanese-American Memorial Plaza at Waterfront Park in Portland, Ore., for a half-hour candlelight ceremony. Please join us.

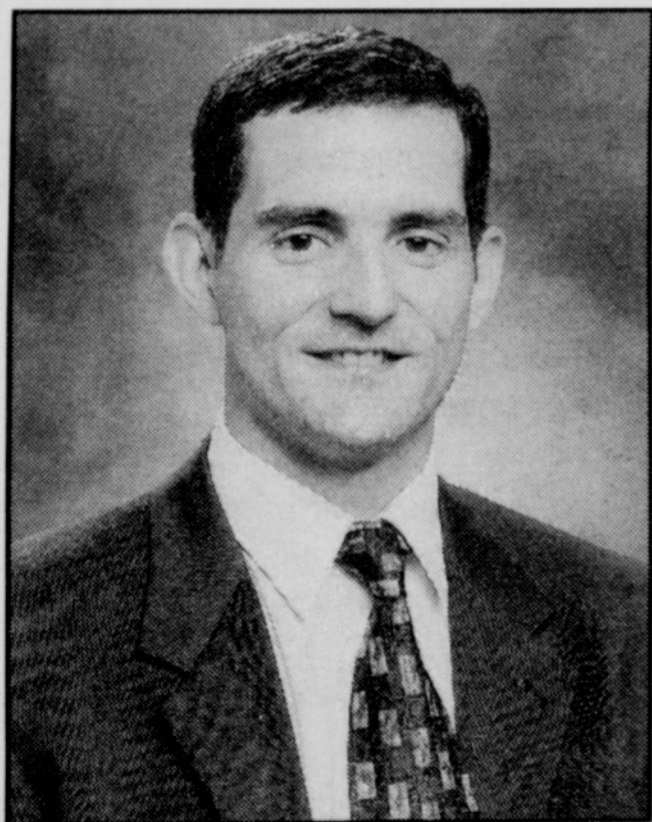
We gather to honor and to grieve for all the dead of war, for all those who died on 9/11 and since then in Afghanistan and Iraq. None of them, soldiers or civilians, willing or not, could escape the demands and forces that destroyed them.

We cannot put aside the burden of these lost lives by assigning guilt and innocence. They are gone and we failed to stop their slaughter. But we can try to bring comfort to the bereaved and to ourselves so that we may find the strength to continue to seek peace and continue to demand an end to the killing.

For more details, call 503-344-5084, e-mail [info@TheMourningProject.org](mailto:info@TheMourningProject.org), or visit [www.TheMourningProject.org](http://www.TheMourningProject.org).

## Kenney Handles Indian Legal Matters at Portland Law Firm

Kell, Alterman, & Runstein, L.L.P., has announced that Brett V. Kenney has joined the firm. His practice will focus



Brett V. Kenney

## Farm Loans Available for Women and Minorities

PORTLAND, Ore. – The USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) recently announced that loan funds are available to help qualified women and minorities buy and operate family-sized farms and ranches.

FSA reserves a portion of its loan and loan guarantee funds each year to assist socially disadvantaged applicants.

"Both targeted and non-targeted loan funds can be used to help members of socially disadvantaged groups buy and operate farms," said Larry Frey, FSA's Oregon state executive director.

Frey said that socially disadvantaged groups are those whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of their identity as members of the group without regard to their individual qualities. For the purposes of FSA's loan programs,

socially disadvantaged groups are American Indians, Alaska Natives, African Americans, Hispanics, Asian Americans/Pacific Islanders, and women.

"There are growing concerns over the future of agriculture," Frey said. "Having access to available targeted and non-targeted funds will help assure that women and minorities have an opportunity to own and operate farms and ranches."

FSA's loans and loan guarantee funds are available to individuals and entities that are primarily and directly engaged in farming and ranching on family-sized operations. Farm ownership loan funds are available to help qualified individuals purchase a farm or ranch.

To qualify, the applicant must have participated in the business operation of a farm or ranch for at least three

years. For those applicants who have at least one year of experience in managing or operating a farm or ranch, operating loan funds are available to help with the purchase of livestock, machinery, and equipment, as well as annual production expenses.

So far in FY2004, FSA has made 33 loans and loan guarantees to women and minorities in Oregon, totaling more than \$1.3 million.

People who would like to learn more about FSA's programs of assistance to women and minorities are urged to contact their nearest USDA service center. The centers are listed in telephone directories under "United States Government, Department of Agriculture." Further information also is available on the Oregon state FSA Web site – [www.fsa.usda/or/](http://www.fsa.usda/or/).

## Youth Volunteers Dive In for a Cleaner Estuary

NEWPORT, Ore. – Oregon Coast Aquarium youth volunteers recently collected nearly 50 pounds of trash along the Yaquina Bay estuary trail. The youngsters' haul included a tire, numerous plastic and glass bottles, plastic bags, pieces of rope, and lots of Styrofoam. In addition to the usual debris, they also collected leather

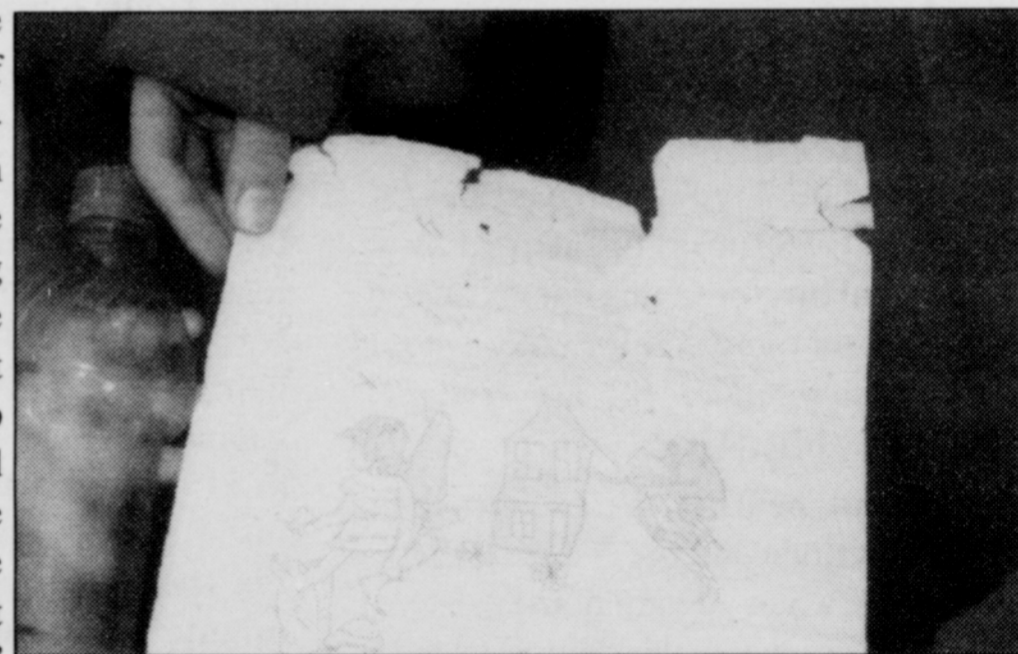
gloves, a blanket, an unused packet of ranch dressing, and a Reebok shoe (size 12, right foot), in case you're missing it!

"As an institution dedicated to marine conservation, we feel it is important to raise public awareness of the numerous ecosystems beneath the surface of the water that are being destroyed by marine debris. For most people, cleanup starts on the land and ends at the water's edge. We need to change that way of thinking," Elaine McCracken, Youth Programs coordinator for the Oregon Coast Aquarium, said. "Supporting the efforts of these young environmentally conscious volunteers helps us bring this message to our visitors."

Not everything the youth volunteers picked up was trash. They also found a message in a plastic bottle. The message was from Amanda, an 11- or 12-year-old girl visiting Oregon. It read:

"Hi, I'm Amanda. I like the mall. I'm 11 years old turning 12 on Sept. 5. I'm in Oregon right now. I've moved so much times I don't know where I was

born. Why don't you call this number or send something and tell me what state you're in, how old you are, and other things about you."



There also were several drawings of fairies and a house below the message.

To join the Youth Volunteer Program, contact McCracken at 541-867-3474, ext. 5312.

For more information about the aquarium, visit [www.aquarium.org](http://www.aquarium.org) or call 541-867-3474. Its marine education specialists have developed a curriculum of 32 classes and programs for schools with students from preschool through the 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Self-guiding school materials also are available. Additional educational activities and downloadable lessons can be found at [www.aquarium.org/education/](http://www.aquarium.org/education/).