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The Portland Observer

HAPPY

BIRTHDAY

Mayor Vera Katz Appoints 'Strike Force' To Fight Automobile Theft

Mayor Vera Katz announced the ap- said Katz pointment of an Automobile Theft Strike Force to "help get a handle on Strike Force is consistent with my the skyrocketing incidence of local philosophy of community policing," car theft"

compiled by the Portland Police Bu- tors, this group will have the capabil- Chaired by Ron Bonner of Allstate reau, as of May 22, 1993:

Autothefts: 2434

Autothefts: 3397

Year-To-Date increase 1992 compared to 1993: +39%

we have to try some new approaches, devices. we have to get more people working together to focus energy on this probner," said Katz.

"That is why I have appointed this Strike Force consisting of regional law enforcement officials, prosecutors, the auto insurance industry, auto

Citing a 39% year-to-date in- them to recommend improvements to groups in reducing the rate of stolen crease in automobile theft, Portland our approach on fighting this crime," automobiles.

said Katz. "By involving members According to autotheft statistics from both the public and private secity to create and implement new deter- Insurance Company and Deputy Chief 1992 Year-To-Date Reported rents against automobile theft."

Katz said that among other pro-1993 year-To-Date Reported posals, the Strike Force will be evaluating solutions implemented by cities Lieutenant Mark Paresi, Portland Ponationwide including the use of Ve- lice Bureau; Jo'ey Gardelius, Multhicle identification Number (VIN) nomah County district Attorney's "Our current rate of autothefts etchings on windows, special reflec- Office; Jerry Gould, Farmers Insurtranslates into one auto being stolen tive decals which would prohibit the ance Group; Bill Atkins, North Paevery hour of every day, this is intol- use of the vehicle between certain cific Insurance; Detective Ron Budge, erable. Clearly, we have to do better, hours, and other anti-theft tracking

The Strike Force will focus its efforts on three areas: education lem and we have to use our existing and prevention programs; tougher resources in a more effective man- city and county codes and state sanctions; and, options to increase the investigation, prosecution and conviction of auto thieves. The Strike Force's overall goal is to create a Bureau; Scott Thompson, AAA of series of short and long term proposals Oregon; Val Wiethorn, State Farm; advocacy groups and community which will involve the private and and Detective Joe Zink, Portland Pocrime prevention specialists and told public sectors along with community lice Bureau.

The Mayor has asked members of "Creating a community-based the Strike Force, which is already meeting on a bi-weekly basis, to provide her with their initial recommendations by August

The Strike Force is being Co-Chuck Karl from the Portland Police Bureau

Members of the Strike Force are Multnomah County Sheriff's Office; Captain Jack Cunningham, Gresham Police Department; Tom Hauser, Metropolitan Life; Jordis Jensen, N/ NE Neighborhood Crime Prevention; Dave McCarson, Allstate Insurance; Captain Dan Noelle, Portland Police Bureau; Gene Rappe, Safeco; Garv Redell, National Insurance Crime

Free Vision Screenings Available For Infants And Children

The Pacific University Family Vision Centers provide free vision screening for infants six months and older and children of all ages. "Vision screenings are particularly beneficial for infants and young children by identifying vision and eye health problems that may effect development of learning skills such as

reading and writing," says Paul Kohl, O.D., Chief of the Infant and Pediatric Vision Service at the Pacific University College of Optometry."

Eye doctors recommend that children receive vision screenings and vision examinations annually in order to assure proper development of

learning skills and good academic performance. Problems with eye coordination and focusing in children may initially be identified by the parent or teacher as a drop in school grades.

Screenings that take about 20 minutes to complete and do not cause discomfort.

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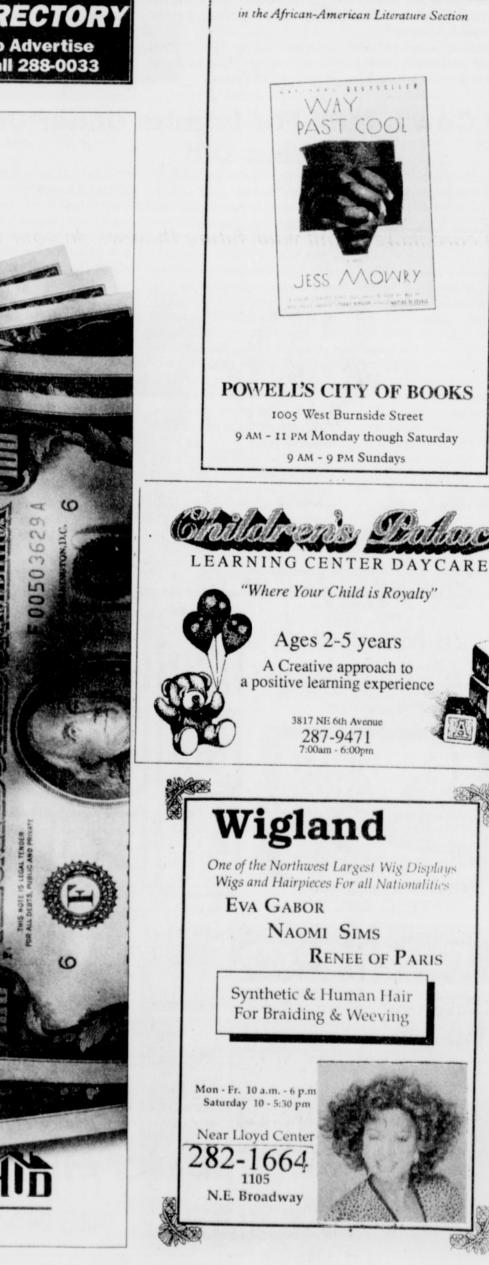
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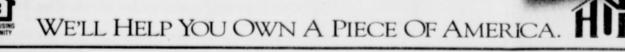
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