

**Vote Looms On Parks, Open Spaces**

Metro Councilor Ed Washington says Measure 26-26 is good for North/Northeast Portland.



See Metro, inside.

Join In Celebrating Our

**25th**  
ANNIVERSARY

**Stoudamire Awaits Draft**

University of Arizona standout Damon Stoudamire visits his hometown.



See Sports, Page B2.

**The Portland Observer**

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**THE WEEK IN REVIEW**

**"War On The Poor"**

Rep. Margaret Carter, D-Portland, has scheduled a "War on the Poor" forum for Thursday, May 4 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the King Neighborhood Facility. "Much of this legislative session amounts to a war on the poor," Carter said. "I'm going to let people know what's going on. Advocates for the poor will be available to discuss the legislative developments and the impacts on public assistance and health care for those at or near the poverty level.

**State Workers Fill Cupboards**

Oregon state employees donated 391,000 pounds of food and \$166,800 in cash contributions in a recent drive to help the Oregon Food Bank and its network of hunger-relief agencies. The collections are enough to feed 52,108 people or 3,257 households for five days.

**Community Energy Project Gets Grant**

The Community Energy Project, 422 N.E. Alberta, has been awarded a \$2,000 grant for its weatherization program from the PacificCare Foundation. Project director Bob Chaples said the money will help keep the organization stocked up on supplies. Project volunteers install weather-proofing materials like storm windows and doorsweeps all year long.

**Tyson Signs \$200 Million Deal**

Five days after finishing his prison term, boxer Mike Tyson signed exclusive agreements valued at up to \$200 million with MGM Grand Hotel and Casino and Showtime and Viacom pay-per-view. The deal is expected to spawn some of the richest fights in history for the former heavyweight champion.

**Clinton May Veto Welfare Bill**

President Clinton has threatened to veto a House passed Republican welfare reform bill. Critics have charged that the bill is not really a reform measure but a series of drastic cuts in benefits for poor women and their children. The legislation is expected to be modified in the Senate. But the president has vowed to veto any bill which harms children.

**South Africa Anniversary**

South Africans are marking the one-year anniversary of their first all-races democratic election. While hope and optimism has not diminished since first-time voters began casting their ballots on April 26, 1994, social reform is slow in coming. Ibrahim Gassama, a professor at the University of Oregon, who helped monitor the elections, says the people of the country are very patient and are working to make their lives better.

**Photos Wanted**

The historical preservation committee of the Kenton Action Plan in the Kenton neighborhood is asking for old pictures of streets, buildings, scenes and events in north Portland. "We want to share our history," said committee chair Alta Mitchoff. Copies of the pictures would be made and the originals returned. To help, call 289-6693.

**New NAACP Chair Embarks On Tour**



State NAACP representatives Evonne Martinez of Salem (left) and ShaRee Rhone of Portland (right) join newly elected national NAACP chair Myrlie Evers-Williams of Bend at a reception in Salem hosted by Gov. John Kitzhaber. See additional photos, page B5.

BY PROMISE KING

**I**s the financially embattled National Association of Colored People asking folks to give them this day, their daily bread and to forgive them of the temptations of their past leaders?

Whether people will listen to this age-old prayer may be the biggest challenge facing the agency's new chair, Myrlie Evers-Williams of Bend.

Evers-Williams has embarked on a nationwide fund-raising tour.

Her mission is to restore the credibility of the nation's oldest civil rights group, badly bashed due to incessant allegations of

money squandering from its past leaders. Consequently its major donors are thinking twice whether to put their money in NAACP confines.

Evers-Williams told the Portland Observer in an exclusive interview last week that she would assure folks during the drive that her leadership will restore accountability and faith to the organization.

She said the tour would take her away from home for a long time, with the nearest stop being a fundraising event in Seattle.

Reliable sources reveal that every dollar raised by the agency will be used to stop Republican Party erosion of past civil right gains, which include affirmative action.

It was not clear how much the NAACP

needs for this campaign, but already the civil rights movement is knee-deep in debt with about \$4 million needed to pay its creditors.

Evers-Williams' tour may be the best hope to heal the deep gash in the agency's purse. Evers-Williams takes over from William F. Gibson who was charged with squandering the organization's money.

She recently had eye surgery, but said she is well and ready for the challenge.

"The reception has been good and there is a lot of support for us," she said.

Evers-Williams was in Salem as a guest of Oregon Gov. John Kitzhaber.

She was elected as the first woman to head the organization last February.

**Walk Saturday For March Of Dimes**



WalkAmerica celebrates its 25th anniversary Saturday as Portland participates in the annual walk to raise donations to fight birth defects and infant mortality. Last year's walk (above) brought more than 4,000 walkers to the streets of Portland. The Portland Observer is sponsoring King Elementary Honor Students in the event.

**25TH ANNIVERSARY OF WALKAMERICA**

**T**he 25th anniversary of WalkAmerica takes place downtown in Portland Saturday in at Tom McCall Waterfront Park.

Thirteen additional sites in northern Oregon and southwest Washington will also take part in the nationwide event as part of the March of Dimes' Lewis and Clark chapter.

More than 4,000 walkers are expected to

step out during the event, throughout the chapter, raising an estimated \$350,000.

Last year's WalkAmerica helped support 23 local programs that strive to improve health care services for at-risk pregnant women and infants.

In addition, researchers at the Oregon Health Sciences University received more than \$260,000 in March of Dimes' research

grants last year.

In 1970, residents in Columbus, Ohio and San Antonio, Texas took part in the first historic steps on the road for healthier babies, introducing an event that has become an annual tradition for millions of Americans all across the United States.

In that first year, \$1 million was raised to fight birth defects and infant mortality.

**Kaiser To Close Hospital**

**K**aiser Permanente will begin a gradual closure of its in-patient hospital services at Bess Kaiser on North Greeley Ave.

Kaiser management announced at a press conference on Tuesday that it has reached agreements with Providence Health System and Oregon Health Sciences University to provide hospital services for its Kaiser members. It says negotiations are still on between Kaiser and Clark United Providers.

Under the agreements, Kaiser Permanente members will be able to receive hospital care at Providence's St. Vincent Medical Center early next year.

"We view these arrangements as a major advancement in the working relationship between health care providers in this community" said Barbara A. West, vice-president of Kaiser's regional medical services.

**Nation Mourns For Oklahoma Dead**

**A** most unbearable mourning has followed last week's horrifying terrorist bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City.

Sunday was a day of national mourning, declared by President Clinton, who tried to console the nation.

"Our words seem small beside the loss you have endured," Clinton told more than 20,000 people gathered at the Oklahoma State Fair Arena. "You have lost too much, but you have not lost everything. And you have certainly not lost America, for we will stand with you for as many tomorrows as it takes."

Relatives of those who died in the blast or who were still missing clutched flowers and stuffed bears that were given to them as they filed into the arena.

Clinton spoke of "the innocent children, only in that building because their parents were trying to be good parents as well as good workers. Citizens in the building, going about their daily business. And many there who served the rest of us, who worked to help the elderly and disabled, who worked to support our farmers and our veterans, who worked to enforce our laws and protect us. Let us say clearly, they served us well, and we are grateful."

The Rev. Billy Graham offered comfort from the scriptures.

"Times like this will do one of two things. It will either make us hard and bitter and angry at God, or it will make us tender and open and help us to reach out and trust in faith. And I think that's what the people in Oklahoma are doing.

"The Bible says in Psalms 147:3, "He heals the broken heart, he binds up the wounds." And so with this service today we stand together to say, 'Let the healing begin.'"

Oklahoma Gov. Frank A. Keating, a Republican, said the explosion was senseless barbarism never before witnessed in the history of the country.

"The tragedy of April 19 shocked America. An unspeakable evil sickened the world," Keating said.