

Christmas In April

Steve Harrop leads a team of volunteers in fixing up homes for elderly and low income residents.



See Housing, page A5.

Join In Celebrating Our

25th
ANNIVERSARY

From Hoops To Track

On the heels of a successful basketball season, Eddie Lincoln helps propel Benson to a win over Grant in track.



See Sports, page B2.

The Portland *er* 25¢

Mrs. Frances Schoen-Newspaper, R. University of Oregon Libr Eugene, Oregon 97403

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

Bombing Reveals Anti-Arab Hate

The headlines that first mistakenly linked the Oklahoma City bombing to Muslim terrorism perpetuate unfair stereotypes, according to David Frank, a University of Oregon rhetoric professor. Frank said Westerners have a history of unfairly lumping all Muslims and Arabs as violent terrorists.

Rangel Wants Shabazz Case Dropped

Rep. Charles Rangel of New York has asked Attorney General Janet Reno to consider dropping charges against the daughter of Malcolm X - Qubillah Shabazz. Shabazz has been accused of trying to kill Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan. But her supporters say the case amounts to entrapment.

Carter Criticized Over Nigeria

A Nigerian pro-democracy group, National Conscience, has berated former U.S. President Jimmy Carter for suggesting that there might be a case for extending military rule in that country beyond January 1996. TransAfrica, an African-American lobbying group, has begun a campaign to isolate the Nigerian regime. It has suggested that the international community impose an oil embargo against Nigeria, a leading petroleum producer.

Powell Still Ponders Run

Gulf War veteran Gen. Colin Powell recently added speculation to whether he will run for president. The former Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman said, "I've checked the Constitution very carefully and you do not have to belong to a political party to run for president." Powell has not said whether he is a Democrat or a Republican and has generally been unclear on how he stands on the major issues.

Rights Violators Plead Guilty

Three Livingston, Texas white teenagers have plead guilty to conspiring to deprive two blacks of their federally protected civil rights and causing them bodily injury. They face up to five years in prison and a maximum \$250,000 fine.

"GOP Contact" Pain Revealed

As Republicans in the U.S. House of Representatives celebrate success of their agenda known as the "Contract With America," an analysis of some of the legislation suggests that African Americans, especially the poor, will be hurt by the changes. The study by the National Black News Survey found that cuts in social programs could "plunge hundreds of thousands of low-income blacks into poverty.

Radio/TV Tax Credit Repealed

Congress has continued their assault on affirmative action by approving a bill repealing a tax incentive program designed to increase the number of minorities who own television and radio stations.



Bess Kaiser Hospital on Greeley Avenue.

(Photo by Chuck Washington)

Kaiser: Community Counts Losses

BY PROMISE KING

The deal is done. Bess Kaiser Hospital, nestled in the hilly scapes of north Portland since 1945, is packing up its inpatient beds leaving its immediate community in pain, fear and frustration.

Community leaders are angry that the hospital management ignored their pleas to refrain its actions.

The Unity Committee, comprised of leaders from the Coalition of Black Men, Albina Ministerial Alliance, Black United Front and others, is deeply concerned about the closure plans.

The committee expressed its frustration at a community meeting April 4 at the King Neighborhood Facility.

It expressed deep fears about the potential displacement of workers and the loss of jobs to many who reside in north and northeast Portland.

The committee suggested that Kaiser-Permanente complete the modifications to the existing hospital to bring it up to current earthquake and safety codes.

"We feel that Kaiser can do more to support the community and city that has supported Kaiser for many years" the committee stated.

It asked Kaiser to build a new hospital in the community if repairs to the old facility were not feasible.

The committee rejected as "unacceptable" Kaiser's plan to contract for bed space and emergency services at other hospitals.

Kaiser had indicated that it would cost millions of dollars to make the hospital building earthquake proof.

The medical provider also contended that by winding up its current hospital operations, it could save \$200 million annually and in turn pass on those savings to employer groups by offering lower health care premiums.

But what mattered to the community leaders was the social and financial loss of losing the hospital.

"No amount spent on this community is wasted. It's a worthwhile investment," said Maceo Pettis of the Coalition of Black Men.

The leaders have scheduled a meeting with Kaiser officials in an effort to iron out their differences.

"We need them to provide us with answers and possible solutions," Pacey said.

Barbara West, Kaiser's vice president and regional medical services administrator, told reporters last week that the health organization would make efforts to find new jobs for many of the 1,300 part-time and full-time employees impacted by the closure.

She did not give specific commitments

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Ceasefire To Get Guns Off Streets

BY PROMISE KING

Worried by shootings and senseless killings through firearms, Ceasefire Oregon is mounting another campaign to get guns off the streets.

The local grassroots organization initiated a gun control program last year which resulted in about 700 firearms being collected and melted.

Over \$35,000 dollars was paid to the holders of the weapons in gift certificates.

"The local law enforcement authority, political officials and the medical and education communities were of tremendous help," said Jean Morton, chair of the organization.

The program, held at different sites throughout the city, allows firearms to be surrendered with "no questions asked" in exchange for a \$50 gift certificate.

This year's gun turn-in is endorsed by Gov. John Kitzhaber and Portland Police Chief Charles Moose.

Collections are scheduled on May 13 and May 20 at Eastport Plaza, 4000



Jean Morton, chairperson for Ceasefire Oregon.

S.E. 82 Ave. and the Mt. Olivet Church, 8501 N. Chautauqua Blvd.

According to Morton, Ceasefire also wants to educate the public about firearms and public safety.

"By taking some guns out of circulation, we're hoping to reduce young

people's access to guns and their interest in carrying them," the organization chair stressed.

Ceasefire's educational outreach includes working with children in the public schools to educate them about gun violence and non-violent conflict resolution.

It also plans to expand its operation into the Tualatin area.

But the organization needs more donations.

"The more money we have the more guns that will be taken off the street," Morton said.

The group relies on support from the community to ensure the success of its various programs.

"A firearm in the home is far more likely to be used in suicide, murder or a fatal accident than to kill a criminal," the organization argued.

Ceasefire Oregon is an affiliate of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon and is non-partisan and non-political.

The organization can be reached at 0245 S.W. Bancroft, Suite B, Portland OR 97201. (503) 221-1054.

Walk To Showcase Neighborhood Pride

BY CHARLES A. MOOSE

I'm encouraging fellow Portlanders to join the northeast Portland community in celebrating the third annual Walk for Humanity on Saturday.

Hosted by Habitat for Humanity, the walk is a northeast Portland community pride event and pledge walk fundraiser for neighborhood nonprofit organizations.

In November 1993, my wife, Sandy and I moved to northeast Portland. We came because we wanted to be part of the solution to make this community safer and more livable. We soon realized that we were not alone. Northeast Portland is brimming with an array of citizens and community groups dedicated to improving people's lives.

All it takes is a stroll through our neighborhood to see the difference these groups are making. On one block, a church group pounds nails on a home for a low-income family built by Habitat for Humanity. On the next block, "green-thumbers" from Friends of Trees plant trees to line the streets. At House of Umoja, gang-affected youth find a safe haven from the streets and get education and counseling, while down the street at the new Community Cycling Center children learn bicycle repair and earn used bikes. New restaurants, cafes and small businesses dot the major streets, providing food, drink and services to all. Walking through this neighborhood, one can't help but sense the spirit of involvement and renewal.

I invite you to take such a stroll with me on Saturday at the Walk for Humanity.

The walk gives us all an opportunity to see first-hand the completed homes and the planted trees and to meet the young cyclists and the youth trying to change their lives. Walking side-by-side through the streets of northeast Portland, we will celebrate how far this community has come and recommit to the challenges that lie ahead.

More importantly, you will have the opportunity to lend a hand (or in this case a foot!) to the efforts of northeast nonprofit organizations. By walking and raising pledges you can help provide the funds that will build more homes, plant more trees and save at-risk youth. At a time when public funds for these services are disappearing, private nonprofits must step in and fill the void. As the need for these organizations increases, so does our obligation to support them.

I am reminded each morning why all of us are engaged in this effort to revitalize northeast Portland. Before going to work, I share some time with the young children waiting for the school bus in front of my house.

As they share their worries and hopes with me, someone who they barely know, I am reminded of the old African proverb: It takes a whole village to raise a child. The future of these children is in the hands of the entire community. It is in the spirit that we must work together to build a better life.

The story of a girl I'll call Christine illustrates how many people can work together to influence the life of a child. Christine, her mom and her four brothers and sisters live in a cramped, rodent-infest and drug-ridden apartment complex. Christine's older brother is in jail on drug charges.

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