

Local seniors giving back

Long-time residents are giving their time and skills to make our community better.



See Metro, page B1.



Power of sound: Now two decades on the music charts, UB40 has a new album for listening enjoyment. See Entertainment, page B2.

Kids fill tennis courts



See Sports, page B3.

The Portland Observer 25¢

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

Robert Mitchum dies

Actor Robert Mitchum, the sleepy-eyed, barrel-chested star of more than 125 films, died in his sleep early Tuesday at his home in Santa Barbara, Calif., his agent Jack Gilardi said. Mitchum was 79. Mitchum's films credit include "Ryan's Daughter," "The Friends of Eddie Coyle," "The Big Sleep" and the original "Cape Fear" in 1962. Mitchum also appeared in the 1991 remake of "Cape Fear."

Thousands demonstrate in Hong Kong

Up to 10,000 Hong Kong activists marched Tuesday to demand the new Chinese-picked leaders restore democracy in the first test of the right to protest since China took back the territory from Britain. The march passed without incident, and China's foreign minister was quoted as pledging not to deploy troops and armor against Hong Kong residents, apparently to offset images of the 1989 crackdown on activists in Beijing's Tiananmen Square.

Volcano puts Mexico City on alert

Tens of thousands of people are on emergency alert Tuesday after a giant volcano near Mexico City belched red-hot rocks and giant clouds of ash in its biggest eruption in 72 years. Clouds of ash and acid gases showered down on much of Mexico City late Monday from the snow-capped 17,890-foot Popocatepetl volcano, forcing a temporary closure of the international airport.

Vast US food waste found

The U.S. Agriculture Department said Tuesday Americans routinely toss away uneaten vegetables, day-old bread and other pantry items, wasting one-fourth of the nation's total food supply. A new study said that if just 5 percent of the wasted food that is nutritious and safe was recovered from restaurants, grocery stores and pantry shelves, it could feed an estimated 4 million poor and homeless U.S. citizens.

New report on Ramsey note

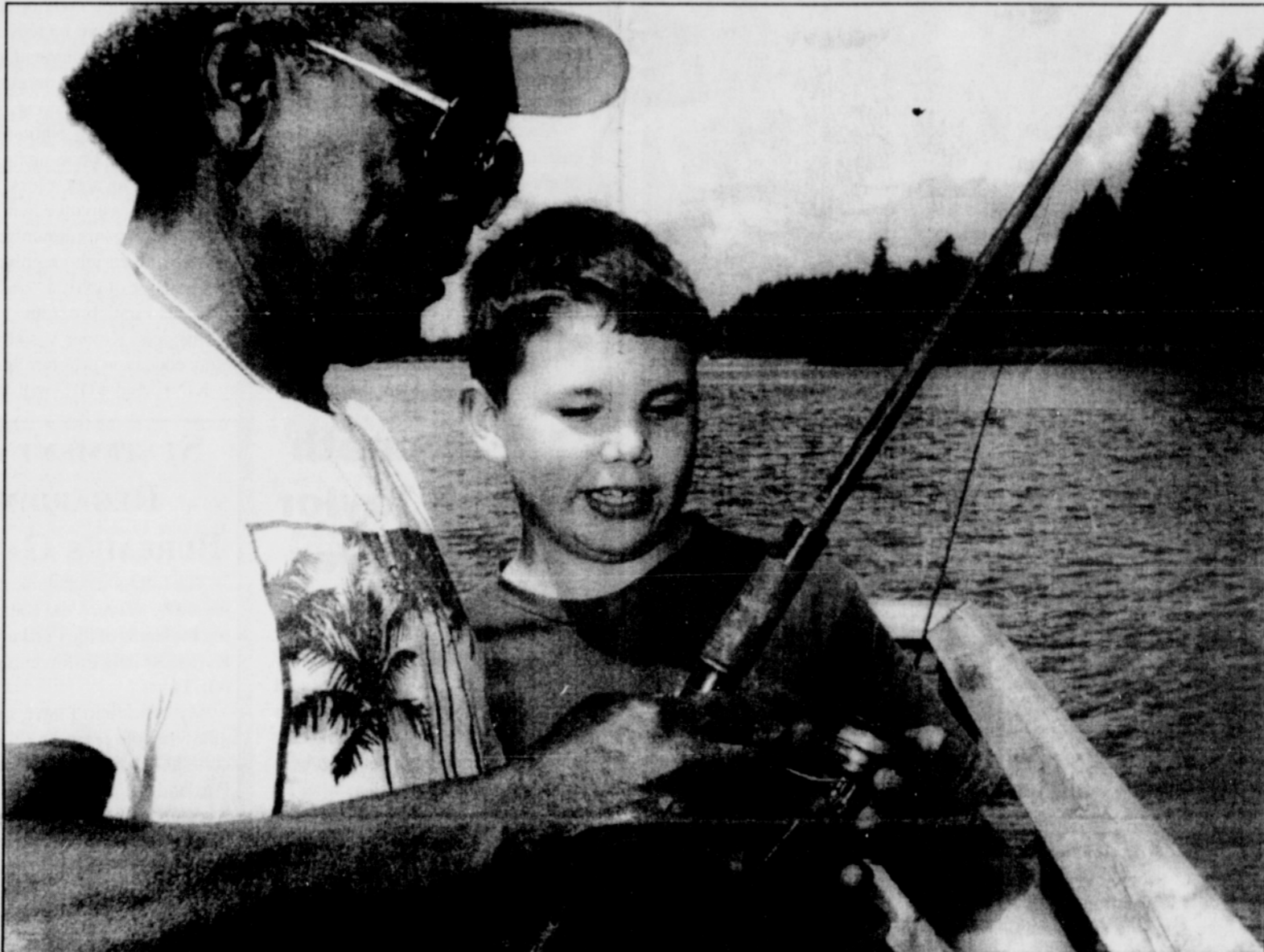
A newspaper reported Tuesday that a handwriting sample from the mother of slain child beauty pageant winner JonBenet Ramsey allegedly came from the same notebook as one used to write the ransom note. The Rocky Mountain News said a sample of Patsy Ramsey's handwriting that was given to police by her husband on the day of the murder was later determined to have come from the same legal pad used for the ransom note.

UFO buffs land in Roswell

Thousands of UFO buffs, researchers and alien-watchers are gathering in Roswell, N.M., Tuesday for an extravaganza marking the 50th anniversary of the most famous of all alleged alien landings on Earth. Organizers say between 60,000 and 100,000 people will arrive over the next six days to swap stories of alien encounters.

BUSINESS.....A2
EDUCATION.....A3
EDITORIAL.....A4
HOMES&GARDENS...A5
METRO.....B1
ARTS & ENT.....B2
SPORTS.....B3
RELIGION.....B4
CLASSIFIEDS.....B5

Hooking up for a good time



Nearly 200 people, young and old alike, put their lines in the water and crossed their fingers for good fishin' at the annual Fishing Derby at Roselyn Lake.

The multi-generational event, sponsored by the Urban League of Portland's Multicultural Senior Center of North and Northeast Portland, was designed to bring young people together for a fun day with elders.

The activities included fishing, games, music and a picnic lunch.

Bus transportation was provided from the senior center on Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd to the lake about 40 minutes from Portland.

Several organizations had a hand in helping sponsor Friday's fishing fun, including Living Color, Lyden Farms, Neil Kelly Remodeling, Williams Street Market, U.S. Air Force Reserve, and U.S. Naval Reserve.

Individual contributors included John Brazeau, Michael Steinbach and James Harvey.

Robert Brooks (left) of Portland, gives pointers to Leonard Leveque, 8, at Portland Urban League multicultural, multi-generational fishing derby at Roselyn Lake.

(Photo by Nell Hellpern)

New era in Welfare

The welfare offices look the same, but the job their staffs are doing certainly isn't. Counselors who once simply calculated benefits are now calculating how to move the poorest Americans into the work force.

This sea change in American welfare policy, begun in the early 1990s, culminated last August with President Clinton's signature on a law ending the nation's six-decade guarantee of help for the neediest families.

On Tuesday, the law takes full effect, and states will have to be ready. In general, the new regime includes a time limit for welfare payments but help with a resume, punishment for skipping work but child care with a job.

"I think we're going to be more like career counselors," said Rochelle Halperin, a caseworker in Phoenix, Ariz., for five years. "In the past, we focused on education and skills training and help with any other barriers. Now, she needs to be out there working."

Halperin's office and three others in Arizona officially become "empowerment centers" on Tuesday, where applicants will be greeted by bulletin boards of job listings.

"When people walk into our offices, they'll understand this is no longer an entitlement. We're here to help you get a job," said Bruce Liggett, who is helping to implement Arizona's program.

Thanks in part to the economy, the number of people on welfare already has dropped dramatically. About 4 million families were on assistance in March, down 20 percent from the 1994 peak.

With unprecedented authority to design their plans, states' approaches do not radically differ. Most hold onto the premise of traditional welfare: a check to help poor families.

Looking for a July 4th bang



There's plenty of room to browse for fireworks as damp skies had many people staying home from the July 4th stands this year, according to the sellers at this Vancouver fireworks stand.

(Photo by Mark Washington)

Betty Shabazz given a tribute

Betty Shabazz's family, her friends, dignitaries and thousands of admirers remembered her Sunday as a woman of strength, vibrancy and perseverance in a final tribute at the Riverside Church.

Shabazz, the widow of slain civil rights leader Malcolm X, died Monday at the age of 63 from burns she suffered in a fire allegedly set by her troubled grandson.

Among the 2,500 people who crowded the Gothic-style church in the Morningside Heights area of Manhattan were New York State Gov. George Pataki and four New York City mayors, including the current officeholder, Rudy Giuliani.

Also attending were Myrlie Evers-Williams, the widow of slain human rights leader Medgar Evers and chairman of the NAACP; Dr. Coretta Scott King, the widow of assassinated civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.; poet Maya Angelou, a close friend of Shabazz; and California Rep. Maxine Waters. The most tearful and poignant moments

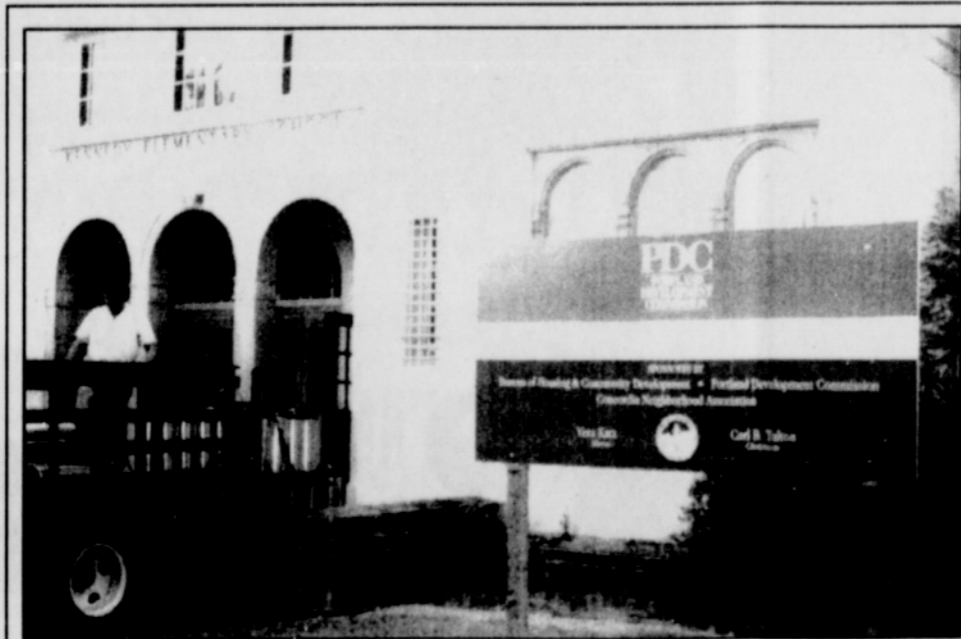
came when Shabazz's six daughters, led by the eldest, Attallah, spoke of their mother.

Choking back tears, her voice cracking with emotion, Attallah spoke of trying to conjure up "not just the dynamic Betty Shabazz, not just the triumphant Dr. Betty Shabazz, but to find ... something as pure and as simple as mommy."

"She lived as the wife of Malcolm X because she was his woman. His pulse was with her until she made the transition," Attallah said. "She's with her dance partner now ... serenading," she added.

Alexis Herman, U.S. Secretary of Labor and a friend of Shabazz, delivered a message from President and Mrs. Clinton saying the nation "has lost a true heroine ... (who) has given us so much strength and beauty."

The eulogy was given by actors Ossie Davis and his wife, Ruby Dee. "Go well, Sister Betty, as Malcolm steps from the shadows to greet his beloved Betty and whispers in your ear, 'Well done, Betty,'" Davis said, looking at a 3-by-5-foot color photo of Shabazz at the altar.



Progress at Kennedy School: The McMenamins Kennedy School Redevelopment takes time out for an open house. The Portland-based McMenamins restaurant, brewing and entertainment company hosted a neighborhood party last week, as efforts move forward to restore the northeast Portland landmark into a brew pub, movie house and recreation center.

(Photo by Charles Washington)