

Trailblazer Hero's
Trailblazer's Make A
difference For "Mother's
Against Gang Violence".



See Metro, inside.

**Singer, Songwriter,
Actress Tamia,**
making her way.
Her talents seem to be
putting a "move on
everyone's heart".



See Entertainment, page B2.

LOVE HIM OR HATE HIM!
POPEYES
CHICKEN & BISCUITS
See Popeye's
Coupon's
Inside!

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The Portland Observer

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

Botha Angry Over Trial Postponement

Former President P.W. Botha angrily denounced the postponement of his trial saying it denied him a chance to respond to allegations that he authorized the killings of black activists. The trial was postponed to June 1 to give prosecutors time to collect and deliver documents to defense lawyers that indicate a council Botha headed approved the slayings and torture of blacks. Botha and his lawyers objected to the delay. Botha, 82, could be imprisoned for two years and fined an unspecified amount if convicted of contempt for ignoring a subpoena to appear before South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation commission, which is investigating apartheid-era atrocities.

Clinton Marks Bombing Anniversary

President Clinton observed the third anniversary of the bombing of the federal building in Oklahoma City by saluting the "courage and resilience" of the city and its inhabitants. "Once again, our thoughts are with the families of the 168 people whose lives were tragically lost," Clinton said in a written statement from Santiago, where he was attending a Western Hemisphere summit. "Three years ago, the people of Oklahoma City suffered the worst act of terrorism in our country's history," Clinton said. "It was an attack not just on the people, a city, a state, a nation, but on what we stand for, how we govern ourselves and the values we live by. The courage and the resilience of Oklahoma City has shown us the full meaning of community."

Pol Pot forced to take poison, royalist general says BANGKOK

Cambodia's top royalist military commander said that former Khmer Rouge leader Pol Pot had been forced to take poison to prevent his being brought before an international tribunal where he might have implicated other Khmer Rouge figures for involvement in crimes against humanity. "The Khmer Rouge told me 10 days before Pol Pot's death that they would give him this poison. I knew before that he would die," Nhek Bun Chhay, who is believed to have good contacts with the Khmer Rouge, told Kyodo News by telephone. Pol Pot, who was responsible for the deaths of as many as two million people during his 1975-1979 reign.

Many People Can't Recognize Stroke

Many Americans don't recognize the signs of a stroke in time to get themselves or others potentially lifesaving treatment now available to thwart America's third-leading killer, a new survey found. The only approved stroke-fighting drug must be given within three hours after a stroke starts. But only 57 percent of respondents in the survey - to be published in *Journal of the American Medical Association* - knew even one warning sign of stroke, the researchers said. The warning signs of a stroke are a sudden severe headache; unexplained dizziness, unsteadiness or a fall; loss of vision, especially in one eye; difficulty speaking or comprehending; and numbness on one side of the body.

Paul McCartney Pays Tribute to Wife

Paul McCartney paid eloquent tribute to his late wife, Linda, detailing her final moments before she succumbed to breast cancer and vowing that she "was, and still is, the love of my life." McCartney also released six pictures of his 56-year-old wife taken by their daughter Mary in the days before her death.

Portland Raises Living Wage Rate For City Contractors' Employees

By NEIL HEILPERN

Minimum wage doesn't cut it for companies doing business with Portland city hall, which has just upped the ante for its "living wage" requirements.

Commissioners unanimously agreed last Wednesday to raise the minimum pay which contractors must pay workers on city projects -- from \$7.00 per hour to \$7.50, with another raise to \$8.00 after July 1, 1999.

Representatives of The Living Wage Campaign, a coalition of 35 labor, community and religious groups, applauded the action as a step in the right direction, but told the council there are some issues which still need to be addressed.

"We want them to expand the ordinance

"We are all one society which needs to lift families out of poverty."

to include more businesses which get substantial economic assistance from the city, such as tax abatements, grants and loans," said Jamie Partridge, living wage campaign chair and member of the National Association of Letter Carriers. "We think they should all be included in the living wage ordinance."

Jean Eilers, of the AFL-CIO, told commissioners the ordinance needed union friendly language that would confirm that "workers have a say in establishing their living standards."

Leslie Kochan, of the Coalition for a Livable Future, urged the council to include an "opt-out" of the ordinance if covered employees negotiate different terms through a union contract.

She also said that when the city changes contractors, it should require the new contractor to retain workers employed by the former contractor for a minimum of 90 days if the contract is for the same work.

Kochan also called for annual inflation



The Living Wage Campaign, a coalition of 35 labor, rallied outside Portland City Hall 4/15/98 before council voted on wage hike for contractors' employees.

adjustments to be written into the living wage ordinance and addition of provisions for sick leave and uncompensated days off.

Commissioner Erik Sten noted the "booming city economy which also

brings higher prices and makes it hard for the working poor to afford it here." He called for a resolution of health care questions.

Madelyn Wessel, deputy city attorney,

replied that complex state and federal mandates have created confusion about permissible union-friendly language, possible requirements for contractors' worker health care packages and issues pertaining to temporary employees from agencies.

She also noted that last year's Oregon legislative session allows qualitative factors in bidding processes, rather than reliance only on a low-bid process which keeps wages low.

Stating that he favored union-friendly language, Commissioner Jim Francesconi said, "putting language into the ordinance that we can't enforce is another barrier we have to work through."

"Let's take a moment to celebrate the higher wages which will help us attract higher quality contractors, with less turnover and additional costs to the city," he added. Mayor Vera Katz promised an ongoing dialogue and study of the issues for possible additional amendments in the future.

When Katz asked about the ordinance's effect on minority and women-owned businesses, Wessel said these groups were "more vulnerable, struggling to keep their heads above water."

"It is more critical for these companies that do work for more than just the city," she added, "especially if they don't get enough revenue from the city" to justify the higher wage.

"Numerous people of color have told me it is worth pursuing," said Francesconi.

James Posey, from the Coalition of Black Men, testified that "minority contractors are put in between a rock and a hard place," trying to compete with larger established companies.

During a short rally outside city hall prior to the hearing, Cecil Prescod of the New Party, said janitors, parking lot attendants and others need the living wage.

"We are all one society which needs to lift families out of poverty."

Garlington Center Seeks Community Recognition and Support

Dear Community Partner:

Garlington Center needs your help! This agency has served the people of North/Northeast Portland for the past 18 years by providing quality services that have expanded over the years to meet the community's emerging needs. Our ability to continue providing those varied and integrated services, in fact our very existence is being seriously threatened.

We the Board of Directors of the Garlington Center are shocked and dismayed by the decisions regarding funding that recently have been made by the County and the State that put this organization and the community it serves in jeopardy. This Board and the current administration have been responsible, forthcoming and competent and have acted with integrity throughout the difficult and trying ordeal of the last several months that has involved unexpected financial difficulties and significant staff turnover. We have made every effort to develop realistic strategies for the continuing stabilization of our agency.

We have been diligent in working to maintain and improve the array of services with which we serve the North/Northeast Portland community.

And we have responded cooperatively and in good faith to both the suggestions and demands that County and State officials have placed on our organization.

The current difficulties that



Garlington Center

(Photo M. Washington)

Garlington Center face were exacerbated to a great extent by a number of staff resignations. That situation has been resolved. Productivity has increased beyond previous levels. Staff are settled, content and working cooperatively to ensure the continuing provision of high quality services, as you are welcome to see for yourself any time you wish to visit our facilities.

And yet, the County's response to all of our efforts has been to treat us as though we have been adjudged

guilty of fraud and malfeasance, the sentence for which has been the denial of much needed support and funds as well as impairment of our strategies to stabilize our services in a changing and challenging health care environment.

As is well known, this changing environment has had a deleterious financial impact on community mental health centers throughout Oregon as well as the entire nation.

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Volunteers Of America Gives Children an Equal Start

Have you been worried about what the world is going to look like in the future? Are you concerned about the young hands that will be shaping that world? Through Volunteers of America, you have the chance to affect how well today's children will be able to handle the responsibility.

Volunteers of America is helping children get a good start in life during their early preschool years through two different programs.

At Common Bond, children and their parents attend weekly playgroups where children learn social and learning skills while parents receive valuable parenting information.

The Family Nursery provides a daycare where children participate in self-esteem building activities. Adults often work one-on-one with a child to help them improve any behavioral or learning difficulties, while parents receive some free time to relax and take care of themselves.

Research indicates that by the time a child reaches kindergarten, that child may have already encountered many obstacles to academic and personal success.

The Family Nursery and Common Bond are working to ensure that those obstacles are removed, and you can help. Both programs focus on the child and parent, and work to improve family relationships so that children are free to learn and grow.

You can change the future! If you would like to help Volunteers of America make a difference in a child's life, contact Stephanie at (503) 288-6996.