

A Home For The Holidays

Start your new year off with a new family.



See *El Observador De Portland*, page B8.

Win! With Scratch It for Charities

Over \$11,000 was raised by 41 area charities during the fourth and final "Holiday Scratch-It for Charity"



See *Metro*, Section B

See Popeye's Coupon's Inside!

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The Legal Use of Marijuana



By YEMA MEASHO

With part of the Medical Marijuana Act in effect, state officials are developing policies and guidelines

for the medical community, law enforcement agencies and eligible users. The remaining part of the law will go into effect on May 1, 1999 when the Oregon Health Division adopts a package of rules. Beginning May, the division will begin issuing verifying registration cards to individuals with debilitating medical conditions, such as AIDS, HIV, cancer, severe pain, seizure and severe nausea, to possess and grow a limited amount of marijuana. The division is responsible not only for the issuance of registry cards to persons who meet the requirements of the law but also for reviewing and approving applications from individuals who believe their illness qualifies them to receive permits

to use marijuana.

According to Dr. Grant Higginson, state health officer and office of administration, the division is on the process of assembling a panel of experts to develop a scientific-based recommendation and rules for legal use of marijuana for medical purposes. This panel is composed of health experts, the justice community, and proponents of the act.

Until then, Dr. Higginson encourages eligible marijuana users to read the act thoroughly, advise lawyers, and contact the Oregon Health Division in order to avoid misunderstanding with law enforcement official. Qualified users should also obtain a written documentation from their

physician stating that the use of medical marijuana may help the patient's condition. Dr. Higginson also suggests that marijuana users should submit their application to his office to start the process. Before it begins the process, the division requires written notification from physicians, the physicians' name, telephone number, and address as well as identifying information of the patients.

Until the health division adopts rules this coming Spring, the Attorney General's office has issued a series of recommendations and guidelines for the implementation of the law that will give the state's law enforcement agen-

cies a uniform starting point. The guidelines assert that the right to use marijuana for medical purposes can be taken away from patients if patients engage in selling or growing more marijuana than the law allows. The act allows a patient to grow a maximum of four immature plants, three mature plants and up to one ounce of usable marijuana for each mature plant. These guidelines are said to be sufficient until the health division introduces the rules in May.

Although the law protects individuals who consume and possess marijuana for medical purposes, it does not allow the sale or cultivation of marijuana for medical purposes. ■

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

Censure Not Impeachment

Vice President Al Gore is recommending censure as a better option over impeachment. The president is accused of perjury, obstruction of justice and abuse of power. Gore is representing the majority of people who realize that the Monica Lewinsky affair was "terribly wrong" but don't want Clinton removed from office.

Internet Music Plan

Five of the largest recorded-music companies came together to propose a set of standards for secure delivery of music over the Internet to prevent piracy of copyrighted songs and broaden distribution. The companies involved are BMG Entertainment, EMI Recorded music, Sony, Universal and Warner.

Holiday Sales

Analysts are noticing signs of low-level Christmas sales this year that could force merchants to make big markdowns to clear out inventory. While shoppers like the extra savings, the price cuts would likely hurt profits for retailers. A lot of sales are made through Online and big discount stores throughout the country.

Hepatitis B Treatment

The Food and Drug Administration approved the first oral therapy for Hepatitis B today. It will be sold under its brand name, Epivir HBV and costs \$3.41 per dose. The drug has proven its effectiveness in decreasing the hepatitis in patients' blood and improve liver function.

Movie Toys

Movie related toy selling are part of a high-stakes business that caters to the whims of young kids. The "hottest" selling Christmas items for kids are the plush, stuffed pig from the movie "Babe" and "Bug's Life" related toys. "Rugrats" merchandise is also generating strong sales.

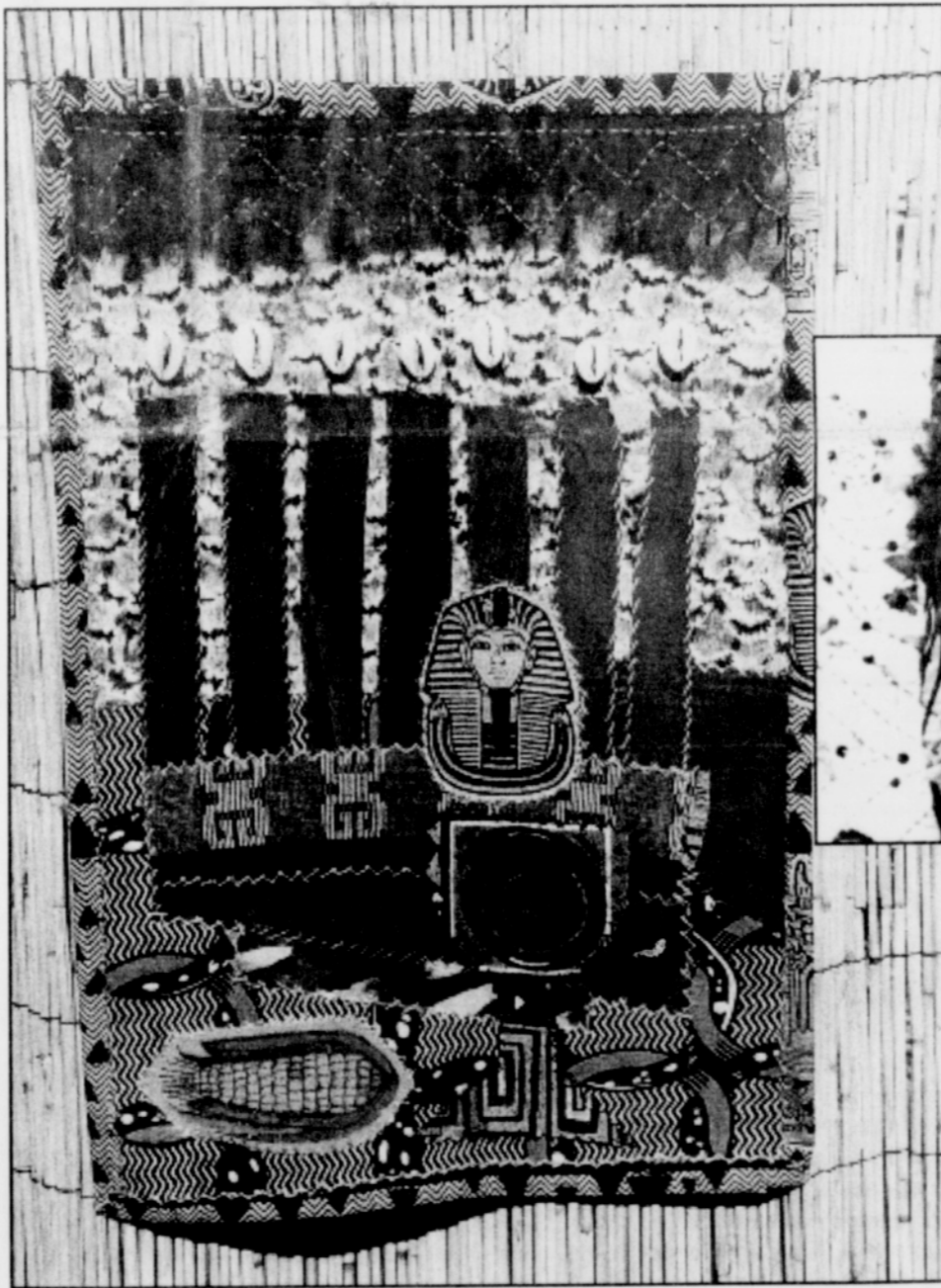
Urban Boundary Growth

Metro Council gave preliminary approval for the expansion of Portland area's urban growth boundary. Appraisers have determined that the land outside the boundary is worth a substantial amount if developed to provide housing. A final decision by Metro will be soon. Two of the most controversial properties are St. Mary's and a portion of the Stafford Basin.

"Kwanzaa: A Celebration of Life"

Art Exhibit and Workshops at North Portland Branch Library

Kwanzaa: A Celebration of Life," an exhibit of Portland artist Charlotte Lewis' paintings, quilts and assemblages will be on display at the North Portland Branch Library through the end of December. The exhibit is accompanied by a two-week series of Kwanzaa workshops illustrating the "Nguza Saba" or seven principles of Kwanzaa. Films, lectures, poetry readings and other activities will comprise the workshops to be held Tuesdays, 6 pm - 8 pm, Saturdays and Sundays, 2 pm - 4 pm, through December 20. "Kwanzaa is a non-religious event celebrated December 26 - January 1. It is based upon 'first fruits' agricultural celebrations held throughout the continent of Africa," Lewis told the audience at the opening reception. "These were times of harvest, ingathering, affirmation, commitment, and commemoration."



"Kwanzaa is not a replacement for Christmas, but a seven-day observance reclaiming a support system using the "Nguza Saba" ("Seven Principles") for guidance," Lewis continues. "The principles are UNITY (Umoja), SELF-DETERMINATION (Kujichagulia), COLLECTIVE WORK & RESPONSIBILITY (Ujima),



Charlotte Lewis

COOPERATIVE ECONOMICS (Ujamaa), PURPOSE (Nia), CREATIVITY (Kuumba), and FAITH (Imani). Kwanzaa was created by Dr. Maulana Karenga in 1966, and is celebrated throughout the world by millions of people of African descent." The North Portland Branch Library is located at 512 N. Killingsworth Avenue at Commercial. For further information on this and other December activities at the Branch, call 248-5394.

Holiday Express Takes Off With Christmas Tree Giveaway

The Portland Trail Blazers got in the holiday spirit Friday, when the Blazers Community Builders Holiday Express delivered more than 700 Christmas trees to families in the north/northeast Portland community.

Along with the distribution, head coach Mike Dunleavy, Team President and General Manager Bob Whitsitt, assistant coaches, front office staff, BlazerDancers, announcers and media celebrities hosted a Holiday party on the commons. It included local choirs, free hot drinks, cookies, a visit from Santa Claus and prizes at the Rose Quarter Commons. The public joined in on the festivities and brought canned food to benefit the Oregon Food Bank. The first 50 people who donated food got a free Christmas tree.

"This was a wonderful project and a unique way to bring holiday spirit to our neighbors in northeast Portland," said Bob Whitsitt, Blazers team president and general manager. "We were excited to partner with Beggs Trees for the first time. Their generosity had a great impact on families in this community."

Beggs Trees in Turner, Oregon donated 700 Christmas trees to the Blazers Community Builders Holiday Express project. The cooperative effort brings the Blazers together with charity organizations like Albina Head Start, Boys & Girls Clubs of Portland, Doernbecher Children's Hospital, The Urban League, among others, to offer Christmas trees to low-income families. ■



L.R. Krish Wise, Assistant Director of Public Relations, Brian Facchini, Marketing/PR Associate and Traci Rose, Assistant Director of Community Relations. (Photo by M. Washington)