



The



'City of Roses'

# Portland Observer

Established in 1970

Committed to Cultural Diversity

www.portlandobserver.com

Wednesday • October 16, 2002

## THE WEEK IN REVIEW

### Sisters In Action



Sisters in Action attend an afternoon of live music, dance, raps, poems and skits designed to dispel the myths about Christopher Columbus and expose the truth behind what the group considers to be the myth of revitalization in north and northeast Portland. See story inside on page A5.

### 9th killing linked to sniper

An FBI analyst killed Monday night by a shot to her head is the ninth victim of a sniper who has terrorized the nation's capital region, police said Tuesday. Linda Franklin, 47, of Arlington, died as she and her husband loaded packages into their car.

### Eleven bodies found in railroad car in Iowa

Workers at a grain elevator were cracking open rail cars left in storage when they came across a grisly discovery: Eleven decomposing bodies. After Monday's discovery, the rail car was sealed and shipped to Des Moines for examination by criminal investigators and the state medical examiner.

### Early presidential letters found at Oregon Historical Society

The Oregon Historical Society has found letters in its vault from presidents Thomas Jefferson, John Adams and James Madison, 19th century statesman Henry Clay, and Roger B. Taney, the former chief justice who handed down the 1857 Dred Scott decision that in essence upheld slavery.

### Study finds duct tape effective in removal of warts

Duct tape, the all-purpose household fix-it with hundreds of uses, can also remove warts. Research at Madigan Army Medical Center near Tacoma, Wash., found that over-the-warehouse-counter duct tape is a more effective, less painful alternative to liquid nitrogen, which is used to freeze warts.

### Smith, Mannix targeted

Supporters of the landmark Oregon law allowing physician-assisted suicide launched a campaign on Monday to raise voter awareness about opposition to the law from Republican U.S. Sen. Gordon Smith and Kevin Mannix, the GOP candidate for governor.

### Correction

The Portland Observer regrets that the wrong name was attributed to a quote in an Oct. 9 front-page story on the Black Club. We sincerely apologize to Florence Paul for the error and problem it may have caused.



Louise and Willie Owens have received Meals on Wheels deliveries for just over a month. "It's quite handy," said Louise.

PHOTO BY DAVID PLECHL/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

## Meal Deliveries Enrich Lives

### Loaves and Fishes helps seniors with more than a meal

By DAVID PLECHL  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Tyesis Gamble has worked for Loaves and Fishes for eight years and has been manager of its northeast center for five. She has witnessed the plight of the elderly in Portland up close and personal.

With the help of dozens of volunteers, the local center delivers about

200 meals to homebound seniors daily.

The cost of each meal is \$2.25, but participants are encouraged to pay only what they can afford.

"A lot of seniors in the area are not aware of the services provided and that they are eligible for Meals on Wheels," says Gamble.

Marjery Russell is one senior Gamble has managed to find and help with the Meals on Wheels program. Russell is wheelchair bound and depends on the daily deliveries as a source of nutritious food.

"This takes a big worry off your head and keeps you healthy," she said.

The daily deliveries also put family minds at ease.

"My daughter is happier now because she knows I am being checked up on," Russell said.

Even though all seniors receive their meals daily, Gamble is trying hard to keep up with volunteer drivers. She often drives routes that aren't covered.

Betsy Weinstein volunteers every Thursday and delivers to about 20 seniors on her route in northeast Portland. Weinstein thinks more people should volunteer. She enjoys talking with the people along her route, which

continued ▼ on page A3

## Appeals Judge Sides with Carter

### Lawmaker wins second round in Census undercount fight

(AP)—An African American lawmaker from northeast Portland has won a second round in court in her effort to open up Census records and bring equity to undercounted minority populations.

The federal appeals court last week ruled the U.S. Census Bureau must release its statistically adjusted count of Americans, rejecting government arguments it would cause political battles over federal funding.

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruling upheld U.S. District Judge James A. Redden, who ordered the government to release what is often called the "undercount" of minorities and other groups, such as renters.

Sen. Margaret Carter, who represents north and northeast Portland, and State School Superintendent-elect Susan Castillo, both Democrats, had filed a Freedom of Information Act request to see the adjusted population count for the 2000 Census but the Census Bureau had tried to keep it secret, seeking an exception to federal law that Castillo and Carter argued requires public access to the figures.

The U.S. Justice Department had argued that releasing the numbers would be disruptive politically and could affect the way the Census Bureau makes decisions about analyzing the population count.

But the 9th Circuit rejected those arguments and ruled that discussions and recommendations on handling the adjusted figures did not fall under the protection of federal law that allows agency administrators to keep secret their reasoning for making a decision.

The Oregon case marked the first time a federal judge had ruled that the adjusted 2000 counts for every state, county and neighborhood must be made public.

## I-5 Pedestrian Bridge Reconnects Neighbors

### Inner-city link is open again after decade-old closure

A community celebration Saturday marked the reopening of the Failing Street pedestrian bridge over I-5, re-connecting the Boise and Overlook neighborhoods of inner north Portland after more than a decade.

Officials from the Oregon Department of Transportation, city of Portland, TriMet and Kaiser Permanente joined area residents to mark the occasion with a "Hands Across the Interstate" reopening program.

The pedestrian bridge closed in October 1991 after complaints about crime in the area. But since that time, crime rates on both sides of the bridge have gone down dramatically. In 1998, ODOT determined that 61 percent of those responding to outreach efforts favored reopening.

The bridge is the closest route for people on the eastside of I-5 to reach Kaiser Permanente medical office on the westside. It's also the shortest route to TriMet's #5 bus and the new Overlook transit station under construction as part of the Interstate Light Rail project. The bridge is also the closest route for westside residents to visit emerging businesses in the Mississippi Historic District.

The Failing Street Bridge was built in the 1950s and named for its location at Failing Street, which was named in honor of Josiah Failing, Portland's third mayor and the father of public education in Portland. This year, the bridge became one of the five freeway overpasses raised to meet state and federal height requirements as part of a \$28 million I-5 Preservation project.



Carol Jones-Williams who works at Kaiser Permanente on the westside of the I-5 freeway joins hands with her eastside I-5 neighbor Rance Spruill of the Albina Youth Opportunity School during a community celebration Saturday marking the reopening of Failing Street pedestrian bridge

PHOTOS BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Aysia King is one of the first local residents to enjoy the revamped Failing Street pedestrian bridge connecting the Boise and Overlook neighborhoods of inner north Portland. The bridge was reconstructed and reopened as part of the I-5 Preservation Project, after being locked up because of crime complaints more than a decade ago.



PREPAID  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
PORTLAND, OR  
PERMIT  
NO. 1610

Knight Library  
1299 University of Oregon  
Eugene OR 97403-1205