

RELIGION

Prayers at Dawn

Men pray to the Hindu sun god, during the religious festival Chhat Puja in Guwahati, the main city of the eastern Indian state of Assam. The ritual is performed after women break a three-day fast and pray for the well-being of their husbands and sons. (AP photo)



EL OBSERVADOR

Less Discrimination Found in Housing

HUD report shows declining trends but more work to be done

A study released by the Department of Housing and Urban Development shows that housing discrimination nationwide against prospective African American and Hispanic homeowners is down more than 25 percent since 1989.

For those seeking to rent a unit, housing discrimination against African Americans is down 18 percent, but remains unchanged for Hispanics, HUD officials said.

"These results illustrate that we are making efforts but there is still work to be done," said Housing and Urban Development Secretary Mel Martinez. "Every American should have equal access to housing opportunities."

The study is the most ambitious effort to date to measure the extent of housing discrimination in the United States against persons because of their race or ethnicity.

HUD will use the research to document the nation's progress in reducing housing discrimination, but also to better target education and enforcement resources.

Since 1989, HUD has been competitively awarding grants to public and private fair housing groups as well as to state and local agencies under the Fair Housing Initiatives Program. Groups use the money to educate the public and housing industry about discrimination laws, to promote fair housing and to investigate allegations of housing discrimination.

"The increased homeownership rates for African Americans and Hispanics in the third quarter of 2002 reflect that we are knocking down barriers and opening doors for more minorities," Martinez said.

Anyone who believes they have experienced housing discrimination is asked to call HUD's Housing Discrimination Hotline at 1-800-669-9777. They can also visit HUD's fair housing website at <http://www.hud.gov/complaints/housediscrim.cfm>.

INS Benefit Status Now Online

The Immigration and Naturalization Service announced the implementation of Case Status Online, a program the agency hopes will improve its commitment to customer service.

Customers who have a receipt number for an application or petition filed at an INS Service Center can check the status of their pending case online through the website and avoid prolonged waits on the phone or at a local office.

"We shared the frustration of customers and employees who complained that there was no easy way to check the status of a pending case," said INS Commissioner James Ziglar. "We expect that the availability of Case Status Online will reduce the number of customers who need to call or visit INS in person for this information."

Customers who do not have a receipt number will continue to receive information about their case by calling the National Customer Service Center at 1-800-375-5283 or by visiting their local INS field office.

Brothers Set Thanksgiving Table

Brothers on the Move welcome the public to the fifth annual Thanksgiving Dinner Saturday, Nov. 23 from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Corner Stone Community Church of God in Christ, Inc. located at 2216 N.E. Killingsworth.

Free rides will be offered from Third Avenue and Burnside at 11 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 2 p.m., 3:30 p.m. and from Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Wygant at 11:30 a.m., 1 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.

For more information, call 503-281-4587.

St. Andrew Thanksgiving

St. Andrew Catholic Church will offer its annual free Thanksgiving Feast from noon to 3 p.m. on Thanksgiving Day at the church's community center located at 4940 N.E. 8th Ave.

Volunteers from the community who may wish to donate time, money or food are asked to contact Greg McNamara, St. Andrew's emergency services coordinator, at 971-244-0339.

The event will serve an estimated 400 people from the surrounding neighborhoods of north and northeast Portland who may not otherwise be able to celebrate Thanksgiving.

"Israel Today" Lecture Series

Middle East experts discuss current affairs facing Jewish state

Jewish National Fund and Jewish Federation of Portland join together to present the second lecture of the "Israel Today" series focusing on domestic and international challenges facing the Jewish state.

The Dec. 9 forum features Jonathan Livny, a prominent attorney practicing in Jerusalem. Livny is an expert in the legal ramifications of separating church and state as well as the law of return. He frequently represents Israel at various international conferences and serves as a legal advisor to Israel's parliament.

The event will be begin at 7 p.m. at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center, 6651 S.W. Capitol Hwy. For tickets and more information, call 1-800-247-2818.

Bethesda Christian Hosts First Bazaar

The Bethesda Christian Church will hold its first annual Community Bazaar on Saturday, Nov. 23 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 109 N. Emerson.

The event will feature crafts, food, health care screenings, a children's winter coat give away, fun for the whole family all day long and a special treat for children at noon.

For more information, call 503-288-2663.

Whoever believes in Him will not be disappointed.

Romans 10:11

gospel.spots.com

The *Soul-Filled Messiah* featuring The Disciples in Song, Portland State Chamber Choir, Choral Cross-Ties

~directed by Dr. Bruce Browne~
special guests Marilyn Keller and Darrell Grant

Nov. 30 at First United Methodist Church, 8 p.m.
Dec. 1 and 2 at Augustana Lutheran Church, 7 p.m.

General Admission \$15 Student/Seniors \$10
Tickets available at Ticketmaster or at the door

For more info call FUMC at 228-3195 or ALC at 288-6174

FIRST FRIDAYS OF PORTLAND

First Fridays is a National Organization, Designed to Bring African American Professionals Together to Meet, Greet, Make Connections and Have Fun.

Are You New to the Portland Area? Want to Meet Positive People? Looking for Someone Special? Whatever the Need, There's a Chance You'll Find It!

Our Next Gathering Will be Friday, November 1st, 6:30PM . . .Until

FREE To ALL, So Invite a Friend

Join Us at the
BLUEHOUR, 250 NW 13TH AVE, DOWNTOWN PORTLAND
FOR DIRECTIONS CALL 503-226-3394

SEE YA THERE—Don't Forget To Bring Plenty of Business Cards!

Event Line 503-237-8980

AFFORDABLE
JJ
LOCK & KEY



FULL LOCKSMITH - SERVICE
RE-KEY AND INSTALL LOCKS
LOCKED OUT? WE MAKE KEYS FROM SCRATCH
HOUSE, OFFICE OR CAR

Two Locations:
Portland 503-284-9582
Oregon City 503-656-2116

Serving Portland/Metro area (N, NE, SE, SW & NW)

Advertise with diversity in

The Portland Observer

call 503.288.0033

or email: ads@portlandobserver.com