

# METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

## Community Calendar

## Adopt a Pet

The Oregon Humane Society is extending its outreach efforts to area pet stores this month. To help the Humane Society bring homeless pets into the community, call 503-285-7722, extension 204.

## Silver Jubilee

Come celebrate 25 years of Neighborhood Mediation services and give special recognition to Office of Neighborhood Involvement employee Eddie Collins for his 25 years of service. There will be refreshments, a celebration program, music and special guests. Visitors can also check out the new and improved King Facility during this event, scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 23 from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m., in the Community Court Room at 4815 N.E. 7th Ave.

## Asian Health Fair

On Saturday, Jan. 25 come from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. to the Asian Family Center, located at 4424 N.E. Glisan St., for free health screening services by professionals. A chiropractor, massage therapist, podiatrist and acupuncturist amongst other health care professionals will be on hand to give diabetes screening, blood pressure, heart rate and cholesterol checks, feet checks, and information on drug, alcohol and tobacco prevention, domestic violence prevention, breast and cervical cancer awareness. Someone will also check for head lice.

## Conference on Black Affairs

Oregon Assembly for Black Affairs will host the 2003 Call-To-Action Leadership Conference to discuss legislative and executive priorities of Oregon's African American community and the State of Oregon. Organizers hope to prepare a 2003 legislative agenda with strategies for implementation. The conference will be held Saturday, Jan. 25 at the Red Lion Hotel, in Salem from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Registration fee is \$50. The student fee is \$25.

## Free Training For Hospice Volunteers

Kaiser Permanente will provide free volunteer training to people willing to provide physical and emotional support for terminally ill hospice patients in the Portland area and respite for their caregivers. The training is in Portland on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. starting Jan. 30 through Feb. 27, with one Saturday session on Feb. 8 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call Kaiser Permanente's hospice volunteer coordinator Juanita Oliver at 503-499-5285.

## Chinese New Year Banquet

The Chinese New Year Cultural Fair is a community event to welcome the Year of the Sheep with a banquet and a traditional dragon dance. The annual celebration will be held at the Legin Restaurant, 8001 S.E. Division on Saturday, Feb. 1, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday, Feb. 2, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## Slavery Reparations

Randall Robison, author of several books on African American issues, will lead a lecture at the Kaul Auditorium at Reed College on Wednesday, Feb. 5 at 7:30 p.m. on what America Owes to Blacks. Robison is widely recognized for his leadership of the Free South Africa Movement to end apartheid in South Africa and his efforts to alert Americans to the causes and implications of America's burgeoning prison industrial complex.

## General Assistance Funds Dry Up

### Cuts to put more minorities in north and northeast Portland at risk

BY WYNDE DYER

THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Lana Centeno, 47, was released from the hospital the same day the mailman delivered the bad news.

Depressed, malnourished, anemic and suffering from cirrhosis of the liver caused by Hepatitis C, the letter Centeno held in her hand was as close to a death wish as the near-fatal bus accident that disabled her six years ago and left her scarred with post-traumatic stress syndrome.

"The program which allows you to get a cash payment and medical card each month is ending," read the notice delivered to more than 2,700 disabled Oregonians last week.

"The state no longer has the funding to provide the General Assistance program. It will end on Jan. 31."

The state's General Assistance program provides temporary cash aid of \$314 a month to disabled Oregonians who are waiting to qualify for monthly federal Social Security payments. Adults who qualify must be unable to work for a year and have less than \$50 in liquid assets. The state is then reimbursed for the funds once the social security qualifications are met.

For some of Oregon's most vulnerable individuals — seniors and those with mental and physical disabilities — \$314 from Oregon's General Assistance is the only income they receive.

"Getting by on that little money was pretty tight," Centeno said. "But without it I have no idea what I'm going to do. How am I supposed to survive?"

More critical to the issue of survival is the

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PHOTO BY WYNDE DYER/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Lana Centeno, 47, waits for her case manager at the Albina Avenue office of Multnomah County Aging and Disability Services. Centeno, along with 2,700 Oregonians who are unable to work and have less than \$50 in liquid assets, will lose monthly checks of \$314 when the state's General Assistance program ends Feb. 1.

Peace protesters file past 5th Avenue along Main Street in downtown Portland during Saturday's rally against a war in Iraq.

PHOTOS BY WYNDE DYER/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER



## THOUSANDS RALLY FOR PEACE



Emily Grant shouts out anti-war chants with fellow peace protesting cheerleaders on Saturday during the Dr. Martin Luther King-inspired rally for peace in downtown Portland. Event organizers estimated 25,000 people attended the protest, almost as many at the crowd of 30,000 who turned out at a similar event in Washington, D.C.

### Martin Luther King-inspired anti-war protest one of largest in Portland's history

BY DAVID PLECHL  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A crowd estimated to be between 20,000 and 25,000 members strong marched, stomped and sang through downtown streets of Portland Saturday afternoon, calling for a peaceful end to the conflict with Iraq.

Organizers scheduled the event as a way of honoring the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

George Cabrera wore his old Vietnam-era fatigues to the rally and carried a sign that simply read - PEACE. He said he came to march for the children of both Iraq and the United States that could suffer as a result of a war.

"It just doesn't solve anything," he said. "All we're doing is protecting our oil rights."

Over 140 groups took part in the rally that is thought to have rivaled the size of even the largest anti-Vietnam marches. The broad coalition of supporters included the Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon.

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## Making a Difference for Children and Families

### Kay Toran settles into role as President of Volunteers of America

BY DAVID PLECHL/  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

After 25 years in state government and five years as head of Oregon's Office of Services to Families and Children, Kay Toran was looking forward to taking some time off. She intended to write a book about her experiences.

"I want young people raised in this community that look like me to know that it is possible to aspire to a position of leadership and suc-

cess," she said.

Toran got a good jump-start on her book but shortly thereafter was contacted by Gerald McFadden, President of Volunteers of America in San Diego.

McFadden was familiar with her track record in Oregon and her knowledge of state and federal programs aimed at adult rehabilitation and children's services. He asked her if she might want to head up the Portland branch of Volunteers of



Kay Toran

America.

Toran weighed her options and decided she wouldn't pass up the opportunity to rally behind the protection of services to families on the community level.

"We provide services from birth to death," said Toran, of VOA's 16 service programs.

Rehabilitation centers, residential treatment facilities, employment services

and transitional housing programs serve thousands of clients a year.

"These programs really make a difference in people's lives," Toran said.

Parenting classes and programs for kids are focused on prevention and early intervention.

"Here we're able to intervene before they get to child protective services," she said.

Toran's experience as head of the state agency overseeing children gives her great appreciation for the decisions made on tough questions everyday.

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