

Community Calendar

continued from Metro

EL OBSERVADOR

Prostrate Cancer Prevention

The Providence Integrative Medicine Program is offering a new class for reducing the risk of prostate cancer on Thursday, March 27 from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at 4805 N.E. Glisan in the Providence Social Room. The class, called 'Can Diet, Supplements and Herbs Reduce the Risk of Prostate Cancer?' will be lead by Dr. Miles Hassell, director of the Integrative Medicine Program and Providence. For more information, call 503-216-4687.

Community Wellness Fair

Holladay Plaza Park, located across from the Lloyd Center, will host a community wellness fair on Friday, March 28 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will be several guest speakers and workshops line up throughout the day to discuss with attendees such topics as healthy cooking, blood pressure and diagnostic screening, fitness and glucose testing as well as alternative and oriental medicine. There will be refreshments, door prizes, raffles and giveaways throughout the day. For more information, call 503-280-2221.

Learn to Sing at MHCC

The Mount Hood Community College is always looking to add voices to its community-based choir. No audition is required. Those interested can share their joy for music while learning to sight-read, improve vocal technique, explore choral literature and perform. The class begins March 31 and meets Mondays from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Gresham campus. For more information or to register, call 503-491-7571.

Help Needed for Women's

continued on page B7



Reed Boat Departs on Pacific Adventure

The Viracocha Sun God, the reed boat of American adventurer Phil Buck, sails off Las Salinas beach in Vina del Mar, Chile, Monday. Buck plans to be the first person to sail across the Pacific Ocean from Chile to Australia in a reed boat. (AP photo)

Lawsuit Filed Against Kroeker in Mejia Shooting

Family claims officers used unreasonable and excessive force

(AP)—The family of a Mexican national who was killed by Portland police last year has filed a \$10 million civil rights lawsuit against Portland Police Chief Mark Kroeker and two officers.

The lawsuit was filed Thursday in U.S. District Court in Portland.

The family claims the officers used unreasonable and excessive force against Jose Mejia Poot, who was shot to death at a Portland psychiatric hospital. They also allege that Kroeker failed to adequately train the officers to deal with people suffering from mental illness and allowed policies that amount to indifference to the use of excessive force.

The federal complaint marks the second time the family has filed a civil lawsuit seeking damages for Mejia's death.

In October 2001, the family accepted a \$750,000 settlement agreement with BHC-Pacific Gateway Hospital and Providence Health System after a filing a negligence claim.

Portland police shot and killed Mejia, 29, who the family says suffered an epileptic seizure, on April 1, 2001, after he escaped from a seclusion room at BHC-Pacific Gateway psychiatric hospital. He had threatened officers with a 40-inch aluminum bar.

Police officers on the scene decided jointly to use deadly force, even though Mejia posed no realistic threat, the lawsuit contends.

A grand jury cleared the officers of wrongdoing, and also found significant safety lapses at the hospital. The complaint also alleges that Kroeker and the officers violated the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Last fall, Kroeker was sharply criticized by Latino activists after awarding medals to the police officers for their actions in the fatal shooting.

Spanish-Language Job Listings Added

The Oregon Employment Department currently provides many services to Hispanic customers in their own language.

Now entire job listings on the department's website, www.WorkingInOregon.org, are translated into Spanish. The service utilizes a state of the art computer translation program along with a customized dictionary of terms.

Users can see the new Spanish job listings by clicking the 'Espanol' link.

In the past, only job titles were translated. Now the entire job order appears in Spanish. Many Hispanic job seekers are able to speak enough English to get and hold a job, but the ability to read the job listing in Spanish greatly enhances their ability to find suitable work.

Credit Union Caters to Latinos

Hacienda serves state's fastest growing minority

(AP) — The first time Carlos Quezada bought a used car, he borrowed \$8,000 and paid 30 percent interest on it over two years. The interest rate on his second used car wasn't much better — 29 percent.

Portland area lending agencies told the Mexico City native that the high interest was necessary because he couldn't prove legal residence here and he didn't have a credit history.

"Lenders are afraid that someone without legal papers will leave the country, but I have my whole family here," said the 23-year-old Quezada.

And then along came the Hacienda Community Credit Union, the first Hispanic credit

union in Oregon.

Willing to look past a client's immigration status, and focused on the financial needs of the Hispanic community, Hacienda refinanced Quezada's loan and offered

Hispanics are the state's fastest-growing minority, and a huge potential market for companies that tailor their businesses to them.

Since opening, Hacienda has 366 members and has pro-

Portland-area counties.

Hacienda's three staff members, along with its two volunteers, are bilingual and of Hispanic origin. When evaluating a loan application, they look at who might be a flight risk and who has obviously settled in the state, regardless of legal residence.

Quezada, for example, has lived in Portland eight years and works at a pizza restaurant. He is married and has two children who were born in Portland.

When making a loan decision, Hacienda also takes into account letters from employers and testimonies from friends and relatives.

For identification, the credit union accepts the 'matricula consular' or a tax number, issued by the IRS to workers who don't have a Social Security number.

We will see more and more businesses embracing the Hispanic consumer.

— Samuel Davila, executive director of the Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs

him 10 percent interest — dropping his \$200 monthly payment to \$130.

"Within a year I think Hacienda's business will grow faster than any" of the lenders in the state, Quezada said.

A year might be a conservative estimate.

cessed 51 loans worth \$313,000.

It serves clients in Multnomah, Washington and Clackamas counties, but people from other parts of the state can become members if they have a relative who is a member and lives in one of the

Mexicana Airlines Expands Service to Portland

Residents of Oregon and southwest Washington will soon, and for the first time ever, have regularly scheduled nonstop air service to Mexico.

Mexicana Airlines announced last week plans to begin new nonstop service as early as May between Portland International Airport and Guadalajara with direct service to Mexico City and Morelia.

The flight will operate on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays using Mexicana's new Airbus A319 aircraft with a capacity of 120 passengers, arriving at PDX at noon and departing at 1:30 p.m.

"This is a fantastic new opportunity for travelers from Oregon and Southwest Washington, and we owe a great debt of gratitude to Mexicana Airlines," said Bill Wyatt,

Port of Portland Executive Director. "This new air service offers a tremendous convenience and time savings for travelers at PDX."

"We have been impressed with the strong sense of community that exists in the greater Portland/Vancouver region," said Antonio Martinez, Mexicana Airlines Executive Vice President of Sales & Marketing. "We have received many let-

ters and calls encouraging us to provide this air service, and we are proud to now be part of your community."

"While Mexicana's new service will especially benefit those visiting family and friends, it also facilitates travel and trade opportunities for regional companies looking to expand internationally," said Gale Castillo, Hispanic Metropolitan Chamber Executive Director.

YOU'VE HEARD ABOUT US, NOW COME KICK IT WITH US!

24 SEVEN CAR CLUB PRESENTS...

SPRING FLING 2003.

WHEN: SUNDAY, MARCH 23, 2003

**WHERE: BOOKIES SPORTS BAR
736 NORTH LOMBARD STREET
PORTLAND, OR**

TIME: 8:00 PM-UNTIL WITH DJ J-SMOOTH

TICKETS: \$10 EACH OR \$15 AT THE DOOR

TICKET LOCATIONS:

**BOOKIES SPORTS BAR, DORIS'S CAFE
GENEVA'S, KAY KAY BARBER SHOP**

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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