

## Ecumenical Ministries Takes a Stand Against Gambling

Group thinks state should end reliance on gaming revenue

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon's executive committee has reaffirmed its longstanding opposition to legalized gambling.

The action was taken after Gov. Ted Kulongoski rejected a proposal to build a casino in Portland as part of a deal to build a stadium in Portland for Major League Baseball.

The ministries' executive committee also urged state legislators and the governor to pursue policies that reduce the state's reliance on revenue derived from the lottery, video poker and other gaming sources.

"While the state expands its advertising and marketing of the lottery and develops new schemes to entice Oregonians to gamble, it continues to fail to address the needs of vulnerable Oregonians with the development of a more sustainable stable tax structure," said David Leslie, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon executive.

EMO expressed concern that

the expansion construction of tribal casinos in Portland off reservation lands could spur the rush to build casinos throughout the state.

"To make gambling more accessible statewide sends the wrong image about Oregon," Leslie said. "Gambling addiction is destructive to families, individuals and local commu-

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nities."

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon is a statewide association of 17 Christian denominations including Protestant, Roman Catholic and Orthodox bodies working together to improve the lives of Oregonians through theological education, dialogue, public policy advocacy and community ministry programs.



## Construction to Change MLK Landscape

Portland road crews direct traffic around construction on Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard between Northeast Killingsworth and Ainsworth Monday. The section of roadway is getting new sidewalks and new landscaping. The area will also get a new, wider medium that promises to make it safer for pedestrians to cross the street. The changes, expected to be completed by mid-April, are part of the city's MLK Street Improvement Project.

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER



# REACH

Racial & Ethnic Approaches to Community Health  
A program of the African American Health Coalition, Inc.  
Sponsored by the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

## Wellness Within REACH: Mind, Body, and Soul Activity Calendar

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
<b>Matt Dishman</b> 77 NE Knott	Strength Training 8-9am and 2-3pm Brown		Strength Training 8-9am and 2-3pm Brown		Strength Training 8-9am and 2-3pm Brown Chicago Step 6:00-7:00pm Kendrick	African Dance 10:00-11:00am Addo
<b>Salvation Army</b> 5325 N Williams	Salsa 6:30-7:30pm Begin 3/2/03 Sign Up ASAP Haugland	Water Aerobics 2:00 - 3:00pm Hampton		Water Aerobics 2:00 - 3:00pm Hampton		
<b>Nature's</b> 3535 NE 15th		Yoga 7:30-8:30 pm O'Rourke		Yoga O'Rourke 7:45-8:45 pm (begins 3/27/03)		Body Conditioning 9:30-10:30am Nickerson
<b>Peninsula Park</b> 700 N Portland		Walking Group 6:00-7:00 pm Nickerson (Meet inside the Lloyd Center in front of Sears)				Walking Group 12:30 pm Nickerson
<b>Madley Avenue Christian Church (Gym)</b> 126 NE Alberta	Aerobics 6:30-7:30pm Nickerson		Aerobics 6:30-7:30pm Nickerson		Aerobics 6:30-7:30pm Nickerson	
<b>Highland United Church of Christ</b> 4635 NE 9th Ave	Aerobics 6:00-7:00am Pierce	Aerobics 6:00-7:00pm Keller	Aerobics 6:00-7:00am Pierce	Aerobics 6:00-7:00pm Keller		

\*\*Must be 21 or older to participate. Please check with AAHC before showing up to the first class 503-413-1850. Please receive approval from your doctor before beginning exercise class. All classes are free of charge!



**African American Health Coalition, Inc.**

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## Anti-Martin Luther King Jr. Leaflets Cause Stir

(AP) — Leaflets attacking the late civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. showed up on cars in a residential neighborhood in Springfield, bearing the stamp of Volksfront, a secretive skinhead group.

The leaflets called for the repeal of the national holiday in King's honor.

Springfield recently considered renaming its portion of Centennial Boulevard after King, and many in the neighborhood believed the leafletting was prompted by that idea.

Springfield Mayor Sid Leiken said Thursday his city won't rename the street, but nearby Eugene officials will still consider renaming their portion of Centennial.

"It's sad there are still people who live in so much fear that they have to attack other people," said Susan Edson, who lives in the neighborhood.

Greg Rikhoff, a human-rights advocate in Eugene, said Volksfront is "probably the most active hate group in Oregon for the last two years or so."

The group has about 30 to 40 members statewide, Rikhoff said,

*This type of hate is not going to be tolerated.*

— Springfield Mayor Sid Leiken

and it claims to "set the international standard for pro-white activism."

In response to an e-mail inquiry sent to the group's Web site, someone who identified himself as Volksfront press secretary Erik Sorrensen wrote back, "We've had no sanctioned activities in Springfield recently."

Police recorded the incident, but don't plan to investigate.

"Putting the fliers out is not a crime — you have to have a victim," Sgt. Mike McCarthy said. "It's freedom of speech. If you get one of these fliers and you disagree with it, just throw it away."

Leiken said he would like to do more, although he accepts the constitutional protections afforded to anyone with an opinion. He planned to discuss the matter with the police department and the city's human rights representative. He urged anyone to call if they have information on who distributed the fliers.

"The old saying of Springfield from decades ago, where a minority coming through at night wasn't in a safe place, has reversed itself 180 percent," Leiken said. "This type of hate is not going to be tolerated."

## State Advocacy Office Expands

New staff will help Oregonians affected by budget cuts

Five new staff positions, two additional phone lines and expanded hours of operations are coming to the Governor's Advocacy Office, which serves citizens experiencing a problem with or seeking information about programs or services provided by the Oregon Department of Human Services.

"Compared with the same period of time last year, we have seen more than a 500 percent increase in the volume of calls received by this office," said Gin Denison, who is the DHS governor's advocate and children's ombudsman. "The volume is up, the stories are worse and the solutions are not as easy."

The office oversees issues of child and elder abuse and neglect, access to health and dental programs, homelessness, personal or family crisis, drug and alcohol treat-

ment, mental health programs and services for people with developmental disabilities.

Denison said the majority of the calls are regarding health issues, including loss of prescription drug benefits.

"I have never heard so much pain, so much helplessness," she said. "The loss of hope is what is most frightening."

The Governor's Advocacy Office can be reached by calling toll 1-800-442-5238 or sending an email to dhs.info@state.or.us.

## St. Johns Bridge Repairs will Interrupt Bus Service

TriMet lines 4 and 40 will serve St. Johns in the absence of line 17

Starting Tuesday, March 25, TriMet will not run early morning and evening trips over the St. Johns Bridge while the bridge is closed for nighttime repairs from 8 p.m. to 5 p.m. for about a year.

The closures will cause Line 17-NW 21st/St Helens Rd buses to run only on the west side of the Willamette River to Sauvie Island and will not cross over the bridge to serve St. Johns. The first Line 17 weekday morning trip to Portland

at 4:53 a.m. will not serve St. Johns and the last five weekday and Saturday Line 17 trips to and from Portland will not serve St. Johns. The last No. 17 bus leaving Portland to St. Johns will be at 6:45 p.m. and the last No. 17 bus to Portland will leave St. Johns about 7 p.m.

Alternative bus service between St. Johns and downtown Portland is available on lines 4-Fessenden and 40-Mocks Crest. Once downtown, riders can transfer to Line 17 for service to Northwest Portland.

In May or June, the St. Johns Bridge will be closed completely for seven weeks.

## Free HIV Testing in NE Portland

Tuesday and Thursday Evenings

5:00-8:00 p.m.

(last check in at 7:30 p.m.)

NE Health Center

MLK Jr. Blvd. And NE Killingsworth

(Enter in rear door near Emerson, go to 2nd floor)

Se habla español los Martes

For more information on HIV and testing

Call the Oregon AIDS Hotline 1-800-777-AIDS



Multnomah County Health Department

