



Festival to Bloom

Rose Festival begins Thursday,
'Good in the 'Hood' on deck
See Metro section, inside

American Idol

Entertainment winner
coming to Portland
See Focus, Page B3



The Portland Observer

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Week in The Review

Canada Eases Possession

Canada proposed a new marijuana law Tuesday that would eliminate a criminal record for possession of small amounts while spending millions to spread an anti-pot message. U.S. officials have warned the move could lead to tighter border security to prevent more Canadian-grown marijuana from entering the country. Under the measure introduced in Parliament, getting caught with 15 grams - about half an ounce - or less of marijuana would bring a citation akin to a traffic ticket, not a criminal record.

Family Leave Expanded

The Supreme Court upheld the rights of state workers under a federal law guaranteeing time off to care for children or ailing relatives, a departure from the court's line of cases that expand state rights at the expense of federal power or laws passed by Congress. State employees can sue in federal court to enforce their rights under the Family and Medical Leave Act. The ruling upholds the reach of the 1993 law, which grants 12 weeks of unpaid leave for family emergencies or the birth or adoption of children.

Drivers Admit Road Risks

A majority of drivers admit they routinely speed, eat or even read while driving in a new poll designed to measure drivers' attitudes about safety. Ninety-one percent of drivers of all ages acknowledged at least one risky activity in the previous six months, including 59 percent who ate while driving; 37 percent who used a cell phone and 28 percent who wore no seatbelt. Fourteen percent admitted to reading while driving.

Iraq Firefight Fatalities

Gunmen opened fire on American troops at a checkpoint early Tuesday, killing two U.S. soldiers and wounding nine others in the troubled town of Fallujah - a hotbed of support for Saddam Hussein's fallen Baath Party, the U.S. military said. U.S. troops returned fire, killing two attackers and capturing six Iraqis for questioning.

\$330B in Tax Cuts Passes

Congress gave its final approval Friday to \$330 billion in new tax cuts for families, investors and businesses, handing President Bush a victory despite sharply curtailing his plan for lifting the economy from its knees. The Republican-led Senate approved the measure by 51-50, with Vice President Dick Cheney casting the decisive vote.

United for Justice



Rev. Benny Moore prays for justice on North Skidmore Street at the conclusion of a march for justice Saturday in memory of Kendra James, the 21-year-old mother shot and killed May 5 during a traffic stop on the Skidmore overpass. A crowd estimated at between 1,500 and 2,000 attended the rally.

Marchers demand police accountability

BY WYNDE DYER
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Overcast skies did not cool the spirit of marchers who gathered Saturday to call out for justice in the name of Kendra James, a 21-year-old mother shot by police, and to demand changes in Oregon's law on the use of deadly force.

The most culturally diverse march and rally in years, started at Alberta Park at noon with signs reading "Police Justice Now" and "Stop the Killing" and speeches by various religious and community leaders.

Sen. Margaret Carter and Sen. Avel Gordly, both African Americans from north and northeast Portland, vowed to work within the Legislature to bring the state's outdated deadly force law up to par with other states. Ignoring the verbal taunts from mostly peaceful protestors - including one from a man wearing a pig snout, motor police guided the march down Killingsworth Street where supporters cheered from their yards and porches and held posters reading "God Bless Kendra James."

Led by a truck full of gospel singers and church dignitaries, marchers joined in the

continued ▼ on page A

African Americans Point to Flawed System

Deadly force policy called vague and outdated

BY JAYMEE R. CUTI
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Leaders of Portland's African-American community are attacking a police bureau policy on deadly force that leading criminologists have called vague and outdated.

A Multnomah County Grand Jury decided last week that Portland Police Officer Scott McCollister acted within the law, and would not face criminal charges for the May 5 shooting death of Kendra James, a 21-year-old African-American mother.

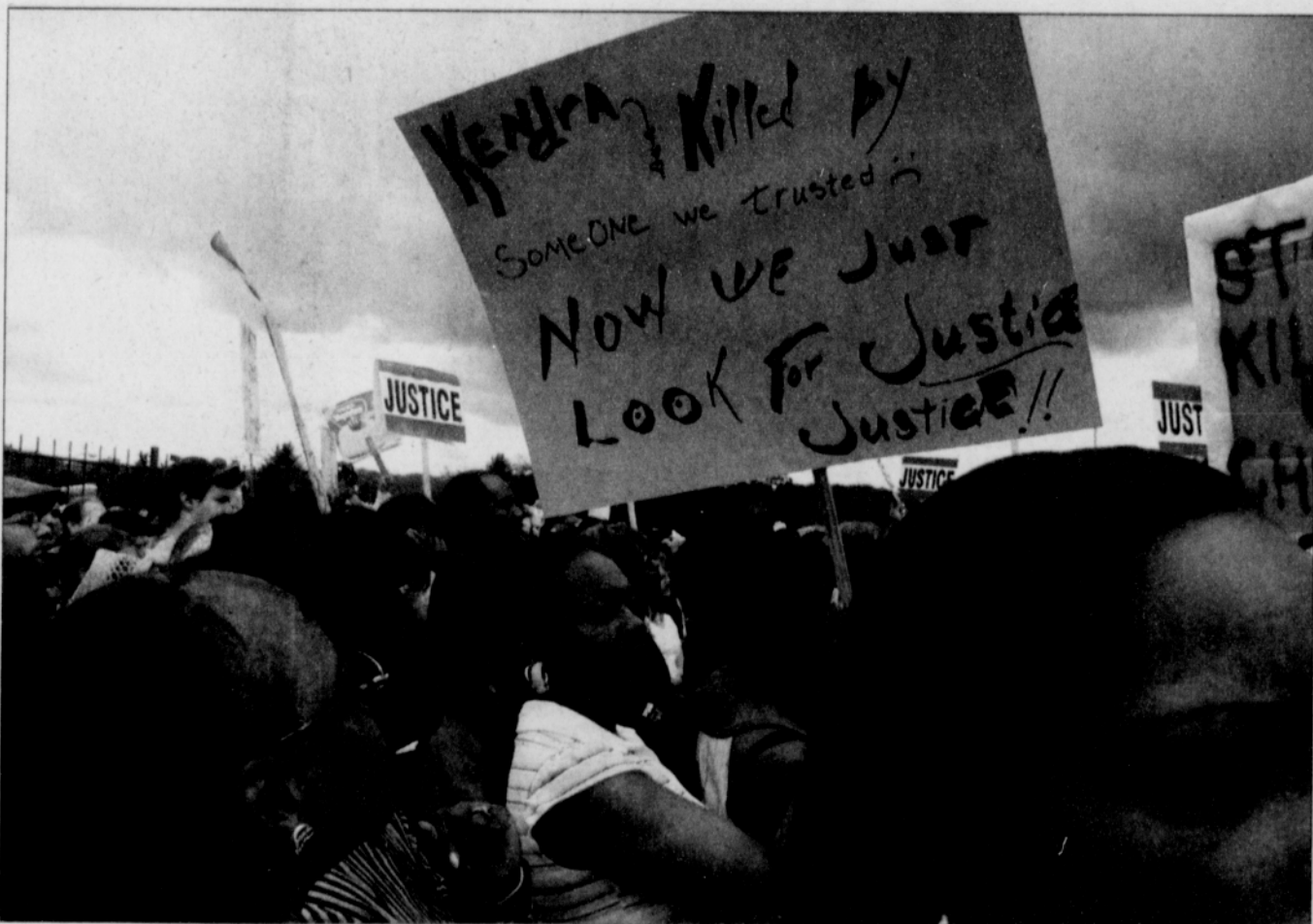
The James family has filed an intent to sue to city for wrongful death. They have up to one year to file the civil suit.

Ken Walker, the James family attorney, said the family has not decided on a dollar figure on damages, but they have an interest in working with the police chief to change the bureau's deadly force policy.

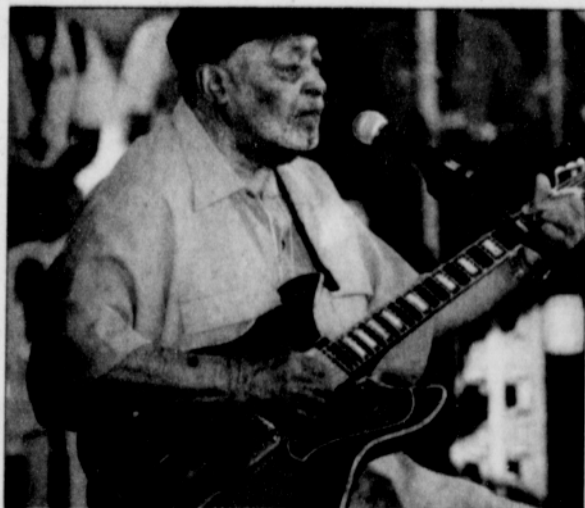
Police Chief Mark Kroeker told Walker he would meet with the family after the department concludes its internal investigation.

In addition, prominent African American community groups, including the NAACP, the Urban League, the African American

continued ▼ on page A3



Bambi Thompson holds up a sign asking for justice in the police shooting death of Kendra James. 'Just because you do drugs doesn't mean you have to die for it - at least not at the hands of the police,' Thompson said.



Legendary blues artist Robert Lockwood Jr. will perform at the fourth annual Willamette Delta Showcase Friday at the Portland Art Museum

Yesterday's Blues Showcase

Blues legend keeps on strumming

Blues fans have a chance to pay homage to the legends that helped shape the sound of today's blues at the fourth annual Willamette Delta Showcase on Friday, May 30, at the Portland Art Museum.

This year's headliner is Robert Lockwood Jr. of Turkey Scratch, Ark., one of the first rural musicians to use an electric guitar.

Even at 88-years-old, Lockwood is one of the few blues players to work exclusively with a 12-string guitar. Besides performing with many of the most recognized names in Blues, Lockwood has been honored with the National Heritage Fellowship, the highest award given by American people for work in the arts.

Harmonica ace Johnny Dyer will also perform at the showcase. Originally from the Stovall Plantation on the Mississippi Delta, Dyer developed a passion for the harmonica, earning him a prominent place among the harmonica elite.

Rounding out this all-star lineup will be Portland's own Peter Damman on guitar, David Vest on keyboards, Albert Reda on bass and Jimi Bott on drums. Acoustic guitarist Michael "Hawkeye" Herman will open the evening's festivities.

Herman earned a place in blues history by pioneering the national Blues in the Schools program, for which he was awarded the Memphis-based Blues Foundation's Keeping the Blues Alive award in 1998.

The musical showcase begins at 8 p.m. at the Portland Art Museum's Music Stage at 1119 S.W. Park Ave.

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