



Merry Christmas
Happy Kwanzaa



The
City of Roses

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Week in The Review

Terror Alert Hiked

The head of the Department of Homeland Security on Monday urged people to "just go about your business" despite the decision to raise the national terror-attack warning to its second-highest level. Tom Ridge said the Bush administration wants people to "be vigilant and have a good communications plan under way."



Lee Boyd
Malvo

Malvo Sentenced to Life

The jury in the Washington sniper case Tuesday spared Lee Boyd Malvo from the fate awaiting his mentor John Allen Muhammad - the death penalty - after his lawyers portrayed him as an impressionable boy who had fallen under Muhammad's murderous spell. Malvo, 18, will be instead be locked away for the rest of his life.

Third 'Rings' Film Beats Out Predecessors

Movie audiences shelled out a king's ransom for one last trip to Middle-earth. "The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King" raked in \$73.6 million in its first weekend and put up a five-day haul of \$125.1 million since debuting last Wednesday.

Death Penalty for Saddam?

President Bush said Saddam Hussein deserves the "ultimate penalty" for his crimes, but he faced objections from European countries, the United Nations and the Vatican, which are adamantly opposed to capital punishment.

Green River Killer gets Life

Gary Ridgway, the Green River Killer who terrorized Seattle in the early 1980s, tearfully apologized for "killing all those young ladies" as a judge sentenced him to life in prison without the chance of release.

Quakes Rock California

More aftershocks rattled the area Tuesday following a magnitude-6.5 earthquake that jolted the central California coast, killing two people, injuring dozens and wrecking a landmark clock tower.

Jackson Charged With Child Molestation

Michael Jackson was formally charged with repeatedly molesting a cancer-stricken boy invited to his Neverland Ranch, setting the stage for what could become one of the most sensational celebrity cases this Internet-wired, 24-hour-cable world has ever seen. See story on page A7.

Clinic's Life Support on Ropes



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Nurse practitioner Mariah Taylor points to cost-cutting ways to keep her north Portland clinic open.

Goodwill health center faces financial crisis

BY JAYMEE R. CUTI
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The much beloved "clinic of last resort" for disadvantaged families in north and northeast Portland is facing its worst financial crisis yet.

Mariah Taylor has entertained the possibility of cutting staff to keep open her North Portland Nurse Practitioner Community Health Center at 5311 N. Vancouver.

"This is the most dire we've been in 24 years," said Taylor, a nurse practitioner who runs the health center serving Portland's neediest uninsured families and refusing to turn away anyone based on inability to pay.

The message is clear; the clinic will remain open, but it's in great need and services will be reduced.

"The clinic will look different in 2004," said Taylor.

The changes include implementing a sliding fee scale based on income, instead of a flat fee of \$20 for an exam, medication and referrals to a specialist. Many expensive specialist services will be cut as well, including magnetic resonance imaging (MRI).

Taylor frets that reduced services put patients at risk of misdiagnosis, and accepts the possibility that if financial support for the center doesn't improve, the clinic may be forced to turn away patients.

For this community health resource, with its own food bank, toy chest, clothes closet, vitamins and diapers, the wish list is long.

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Interstate Tests Bring Safety Alert

The inaugural test run of the Interstate Max train through north Portland has coincided with a TriMet safety campaign urging pedestrians and drivers to look both ways before crossing the tracks.

Deadly collisions with the commuter trains have occurred on the rail system in Gresham, Hillsboro and downtown Portland.

Max trains are quiet and often are hard to hear over regular traffic noise, making a visual lookout paramount.

TriMet also warns pedestrians not to stop on the tracks in the middle of the crossing and never to walk on the tracks or enter restricted trackways. Officials said transit police will be patrolling the line and will ticket trespassers.

The test trains are scheduled to run on the new alignment with more frequency in the next few weeks with many trains running on the line for testing purposes ahead of the May 1 opening for passenger service.

A Max train pulls up to the North Lombard station on Interstate Avenue during Friday's first test of the new 5.8-mile track between the Rose Quarter and Expo Center.

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER



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New Police Policies Pledge to Curb Profanity

Review board encourages use of respectful words

Area residents will begin the New Year under a new pledge on the use of profanity by Portland Police.

According to the Independent Police Review Division of the Office of the City Auditor Gary Blackmer, many of the complaints citizens lodge against police is because of the officers' use of profanity.

The review board investigated the complaints by interviewing po-

lice department staff, reviewing the policy and training manual, surveying other police agencies, collecting citizens' input at public forums and analyzing the circumstances when foul language was used.

The board questioned whether officers are following procedure and if not, what consequences they

face.

As a result, the Police Bureau adopted three policies recommended by the review board, including clarifying what constitutes profanity, requiring officers to self-report their use of profanity, and incorporating a segment on avoiding the use of profanity into police training.