



# Remember to Vote!

## Ballots Due Tuesday, May 18



# The Portland Observer

'City of Roses'

Volume XXXIV • Number 19

Established in 1970

Committed to Cultural Diversity

www.portlandobserver.com

Wednesday • May 12, 2004

## Week in The Review

### Mandela Criticizes War in Iraq

Nelson Mandela looked frail and joked about being an old man, but the former South African president remained combative Monday, lashing out at the United States and Britain over Iraq in a speech billed as his swan song before Parliament.

### Teen Chooses Not to Blow Himself Up

A Palestinian teenager who decided against blowing himself up in Jerusalem caused panic in a West Bank security office when he went for help.

### Dispute Over Custody of Saddam

The United States has pledged to hand over Saddam Hussein and dozens of other suspects to Iraqi authorities by the time the U.S.-led coalition transfers power to Iraq next month, the head of Iraq's war crimes tribunal said Tuesday. The Pentagon disputed the report.

### Poll: British Want Troops Out of Iraq

A majority of Britons surveyed in an opinion poll published Monday want British troops to leave Iraq by the end of June.

### Red Cross: Iraqi Abuse Widespread

A Red Cross report disclosed Monday that U.S. officers mistreated inmates at the notorious Abu Ghraib prison by keeping them naked in totally dark, empty cells. While many detainees were quickly released or no longer mistreated after interrogation, high-ranking officials in Saddam Hussein's government - including those listed on the U.S. military's deck of cards - were held for months in solitary confinement.

### Newspapers Sue Over Erasure

The Associated Press and the Hattiesburg American filed a lawsuit Monday against the U.S. Marshals Service over an incident in April in which a federal marshal erased reporters' recordings of a speech Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia gave to high school students.

### Economic Productivity Rises

The productivity of America's companies rose solidly in the opening quarter of this year, and new filings for jobless benefits plunged last week to their lowest level in more than three years, good news for the country's economic health.



Superintendent Chuck Moore shows off New Columbia's paved streets and infrastructure with Shelly Marchesi of the Housing Authority of Portland and Leslie Esinga, the project's resident community liaison. The new roads are connected to streets in the surrounding neighborhoods, eliminating the isolation of the now demolished Columbia Villa.

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

## New Columbia Construction Begins

### Neighborhood designed for pride, high morale

BY JAYMEE R. CUTI  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The biggest neighborhood redevelopment in the history of the Housing Authority of Portland is moving into its next phase: construction.

Demolition is complete for Columbia Villa's 462 units in north Portland, making way for New Columbia, which aims to de-

concentrate poverty by building a mixed-economy development including market rate and affordable homes for sale, apartments and duplexes, public housing and section-8 units — 850 homes in all.

"You'll live in a neighborhood where you're not distinguished by your income," said Shelly Marchesi, Housing Authority communication director.

A Columbia Villa reunion planned for July 21 is an opportunity for staff to touch base with former tenants, ask them about their current housing and whether they plan to return to New Columbia in 2005. A poll taken last summer indicated that 70 percent of Columbia Villa residents wished

to return after renovations were complete.

Officials at the Housing Authority identified relocation as their biggest challenge with the project and appointed a relocation manager to ease the process.

With relocation behind them, one of the latest challenges to strike the housing agency was not receiving an expected \$6.4 million demolition grant.

To recoup costs, Marchesi said the budget was reconfigured, using more demolition and less deconstruction.

Despite that multi-million dollar setback, New Columbia is right on target, according to Marchesi, on schedule and on budget. The project is scheduled for completion in

2006, with re-occupancy beginning in the summer of 2005.

Besides a federal Hope VI grant, totaling \$35 million, the City of Portland has pledged \$20 million to the project and the Housing Authority has procured \$90 million of investment from public, private and charitable sources. The project is at \$145 million of its projected \$150 million budget.

Besides sound plumbing, electrical, ventilation, fire safety and disabled accessibility, New Columbia Residents can expect vast neighborhood improvements from Columbia Villa.

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## Investments to Boost Northeast

### Aimed at revitalizing Martin Luther King Boulevard properties

Tax credits and loans totaling \$100 million are earmarked to revitalize areas along Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and other parts of northeast Portland.

ing and Shaver streets. The Family of Funds organization will take up residency there, fueling a mixed-use commercial retail project now possible by having a tenant.

Money will also be allotted to various projects along a 12-block span on King, including the Vanport Square project between Alberta and Killingsworth Streets and investment in Lents, Interstate Av-



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Civic leader Carl Talton and Bridget Bayer of the Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods welcome a commitment of federal funds to revitalize properties along Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard.

Mayor Vera Katz made the announcement last week of the \$196.5 million of federal tax credits allocated to the city, \$100 million will go to the Portland Family of Funds, an investment bank created by the Portland Development Commission for projects in northeast Portland.

The money will be filtered through equity investments and low-interest loans, beginning with the historic Heritage Building on the boulevard between Fair-

venue and in other low-income neighborhoods.

The Vanport project, under the direction of African American business leader Ray Leary, is a major focus of the urban development effort with plans to make several blocks into a shopping district with a major retail store as magnet to shoppers.

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PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Roosevelt High School mural artists Alex Clay (from left), Ashley Elliott, school monitor Phil Thompson, Bounmy Sittthiso, Steve Him and Jamele Sanders.

## Roosevelt Diversity Celebrated

### Students, faculty create timeless mural

A new mural at Roosevelt High School is dedicated to the diversity of students and faculty, past and present.

The mural painting project began in 2001, with a service learning project collaboration between Roosevelt's painting class and University of Portland students.

The mural has since evolved into a tribute to Roosevelt's diversity with the images of people who makeup the school's multicultural population and an image of the St. Johns

Bridge as a symbol of the school as a bridge to a greater world.

The faces are semi-portraits, largely based on real Roosevelt students. One recognizable figure in the mural is Phil Thompson, the school's campus monitor, who is retiring after many years.

The mural, which was recently completed, was designed and created by noted muralist Isaka Shamsud-din from Portland State University and students of Roger Friedel, the art teacher at Roosevelt.

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