

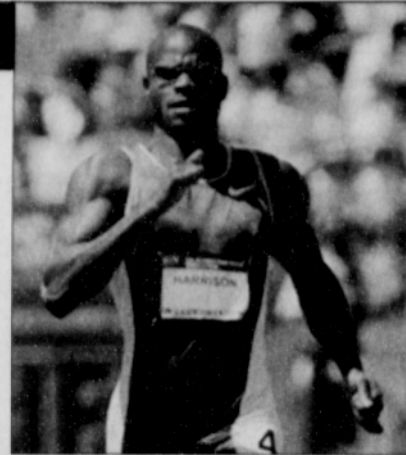
# METRO

The Portland Observer

## Olympic Team Setback

Doping violation makes star sprinter ineligible for Athens Games

See Sports, page B2



SECTION B

### Community Calendar

#### Alberta Farm Market

Providing healthy, affordable, high quality food, the Alberta Cooperative Grocery offers seasonal produce from local growers, ready-to-eat food and weekly entertainment. Open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. daily, located on 1500 N.E. Alberta Street. For more information, call 503-287-4333.

#### The Sabbath

Spend your weekend well at the Israelite Church of God and Jesus Christ, 309 N. E. Wygant St., for the Sabbath. Friday service begins at 7 p.m. and Saturday service is at 8:30 a.m.

#### Fair Housing

Join the Fair Housing Council on Aug. 12 for a discussion titled Interpretation of Fair Housing Laws at the Woodstock Library, 6008 S. E. 49th Ave, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Aug. 12. Register by calling 503-772-8825

#### Humane and Bazaar

The Oregon Humane Society hosts a summer craft bazaar and pet fair on Saturday, Aug. 14 and Sunday, Aug. 15 at 1067 N. E. Columbia Blvd.

#### Ready for School

Back to the Future School Supplies Give-A-Way is from 1 to 5 p.m. on Aug. 29 at the Chevron Gas Station parking lot at 3435 Martin Luther King Blvd. at Fremont. Get supplies while they last. Call 503-890-0070.

#### World of Voices

Sun Hak International Children's Choir performs songs from around the world from 3 to 5 p.m. Aug. 8 at Mount Sinal Freedom Assembly at 936 N. E. Beech St. Free. For information, call 503-490-8535.

#### Attention Bookworms!

Contact the nearest public library near you and take advantage of fun summer reading programs open to all ages or take free computer classes. Learn about e-mail, web searching, spreadsheets, word processing and more. To learn more, visit online at <http://www.multicolib.org>.

#### Writing Seminar

Free your writing spirit with a free writing workshop by Write Around Portland through Aug. 12 at locations in and around north Portland. To register or contribute, call 503-796-9224.

#### Interest in Adoption?

A free information meeting for prospective adoptive parents is held the third Wednesday of every month from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Belmont Public Library, 1038 S.E. 39th Ave. For more information, call 503-226-4870 or visit [www.openadopt.com](http://www.openadopt.com).

#### Stay Healthy

Sankofaa Health Institute offers a free diabetes support group from 6 to 7:30 p.m. every third Thursday at Alberta Simmons Plaza, 6707 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. For more information, call 503-285-2484.

#### Work For Change

Community Advocates invites those interested in protecting children from abuse to become an event volunteer, event outreach, technology expert, graphic artists or office support team member. For more information, call 503-280-1388.

#### NAACP Meetings

The Portland Branch of the NAACP holds two monthly executive committee meetings, on the second Thursday of the month and the Thursday before the fourth Saturday of the month. General membership meetings are held on the fourth Saturday of each month. For more information, call 503-284-7722.

# born to breastfeed



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Jovan Young nurses her seven-month-old daughter, Denali. She recently spoke at a Nursing Mothers Counsel event, saying, "Why wouldn't I breastfeed?"

## Group spearheads campaign to increase nursing among minorities

With childhood obesity frequenting the headlines, one organization believes mothers can nip it and a variety of respiratory

problems in the bud through breastfeeding. People of color are less likely to take advantage of this healthy and economical way of bonding with their babies, according to research from the U.S. Office of Women's Health.

Studies indicate that racial and ethnic disparities in breastfeeding rates are large, revealing particularly low rates among African Americans.

The Nursing Mothers Counsel of Oregon

aims to increase the number of Oregon children who are breastfed, reducing their risk of recurrent ear infections, severe diarrhea and hospitalization for respiratory diseases such as pneumonia and childhood obesity.

The group spoke at a breastfeeding awareness conference at Healthy Birth Initiative in northeast Portland last week to spread the message.

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## New Director for Latino Network

Latino Network Executive Director María Lisa Johnson (left) strategizes with María Avila, a community health worker about issues affecting Latinos.



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

## María Lisa Johnson brings vision and experience

In a unanimous decision, the Latino Network Board of Directors appointed María Lisa Johnson as their new executive director.

The Latino Network has been active in Multnomah County for the past ten years, bringing together individuals and community organizations to advocate for the Latino community, educate and inform public policy and serve as a force for social change.

For the last two years, Johnson has served as a community planner, organizer and program manager for the Latino Network. Her appointment signals a new direc-

tion for the organization.

"One of the principle goals is to work toward unity in our community. I hope to work more closely with service providers and strategize with my board to be more effective advocates to issues important to

*She will not only be a great asset for the Latino Network, but for all who are attempting to develop better working relations and build a bridge of understanding with the Latino community.*

—Martín González, Latino Network president

Latinos," said Johnson.

Some of the issues on the forefront, from Johnson's perspective, include access to healthcare, youth violence, education, em-

ployment, immigration and civil right.

Martín González, president of the board, stated that the Latino Network is embarking on a major effort to establish stronger partnerships with Latino service providers, expand its alliances with communities of color, and promote initiatives with public officials and administrators to respond more effectively to Latino community needs.

"María Lisa's appointment will lead us in that new direction. She is highly respected for her work, brings a vision of inclusivity, and can effectively convene a broad range of individuals to work together toward a common good," said González. "She will not only be a great asset for the Latino Network, but for all who are attempting to develop better working relations and build a bridge of understanding with the Latino community."

Johnson holds a master's degrees in pub-

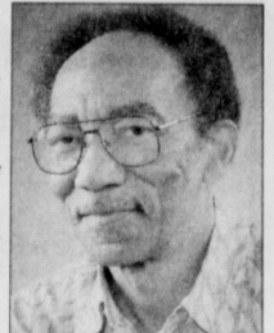
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## More Minority Organ Donations

### Giving the gift of life to people of color

National Minority Donation Awareness Month is an ideal time for people of all racial and ethnic groups to consider organ and tissue donation.

Few people in the Portland area know about the critical need for organ and tissue donors. More than 85,000 men, women and children in the United States are waiting for an organ transplant. Almost 2,000 of those people reside in the Pacific Northwest. Tragically, 17 people die each day due to a



Luther Lockett was given years of life because of an organ donation he received.

lack of an organ donor.

For the African-American community, the situation is more dramatic because over the past decade there has been a 166 percent increase in the number of African Americans waiting for organ transplants. And while black people comprise 26 percent of individuals on the national transplant waiting list, they only represent 13 percent of organ donors.

In August, the nation celebrates National Minority Donor Awareness Month, but it's individuals such as north Portland resident Luther Lockett, who knows just how real the gift of an organ transplant is.

"It's been 17 years since my heart transplant, and I'm still going strong," said Lockett. "These extra years have given me

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