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Make Your Vote Count

You must register to vote every time your address changes or your name changes. To check if your registration is current, call Multnomah County Elections at 503-988-3720.

Building our Economy

In-depth coverage for Minority Enterprise Development Week.

See special section B, inside

The Portland Observer

'City of Roses'

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Week in The Review

CBS Fined Maximum for Jackson Stunt

CBS got the bill for Janet Jackson's eye-catching flash dance during the Super Bowl halftime show: a record \$550,000. The Federal Communications Commission voted unanimously to fine each of the 20 CBS-owned television stations \$27,500, which is the maximum penalty for indecency.

Blair Acknowledges U.K. Divide on Iraq War

Prime Minister Tony Blair acknowledged that the war in Iraq has divided Britain but said he had no apologies for helping topple Saddam Hussein in a speech to his Labour Party, where he was met by angry delegates and hecklers.

White Supremacists Petition for Fair Booth

A white-supremacist organization is seeking permission to have a booth at next month's Mississippi State Fair featuring a suspect in the 1964 slayings of three civil rights workers. The state Fair Commission rejected the Nationalist Movement's application to operate a booth at the fair because of "typographical errors," but gave the group until Thursday to resubmit its request.

Hurricane Season Continues

The hurricane season in Florida has already exceeded all expectations. Four major hurricanes have hit the state in six weeks, a feat not seen in the United States since 1886. And it's not over yet. Two months still remain for hurricane season.

Lawyer Says Rosa Parks Unable to Testify

Civil rights pioneer Rosa Parks has dementia and should not be forced to answer questions in her lawsuit over a rap song named for her, her lawyers said in a court filing. See story on page A5.

U.S. Sues Tobacco Industry

Tobacco industry lawyers accused the government of relying on the past too heavily in a racketeering case that requires the Justice Department to show cigarette makers are likely to commit fraud in the future. The government is suing for \$280 billion in earnings the industry allegedly made by defrauding the public about the hazards of smoking and its efforts to addict children.

Faith Leaders Take Sides

NO On Constitutional Amendment 36 YES

'Constitution should protect civil rights'

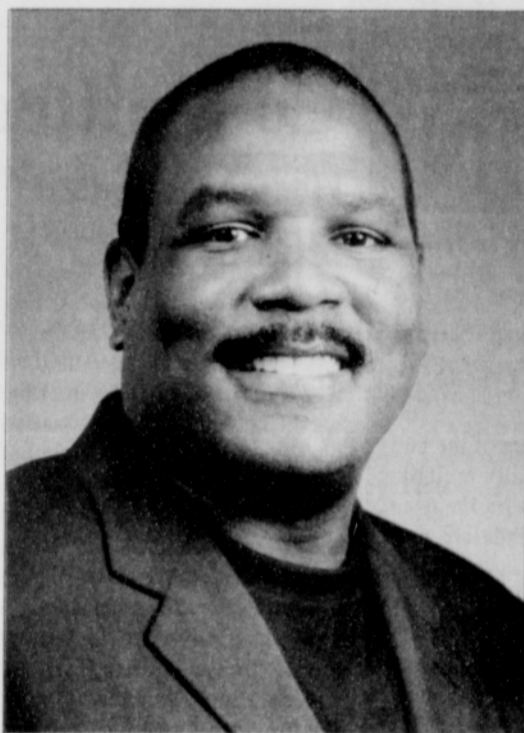
BY JAYMEE R. CUTI
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Pastor Matt Hennessee is in the difficult position of opposing a proposed Constitutional Amendment on same sex marriage, which he says flies in the face of the "Bible," the book of record in the Christian faith.

But according to Hennessee, this issue is in the "Constitutional arena."

"When looking at the 'Bible,' which is really the standard in the faith community, one would have no choice but to be against (same-sex marriage) because it speaks absolutely against issues of homosexuality," said Hennessee. "But this is an issue of the Constitutional arena."

"Constitutions of the state, the United States and the Declaration of Independence are documents one should refer to when thinking about this item and when thinking about them, I don't see how one can vote for (Measure 36)."



Pastor Matt Hennessee of St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church

Hennessee regards such documents as protecting individual's rights, not restricting them, and that is why he has aligned himself with the No on 36 campaign, joining various organizations, businesses and local leaders, including Portland African-American activist JoAnn Bowman, the voter project director for Oregon Action and a former



Pastor T. Allen Bethel of Maranatha Church of God.

state representative.

Same-sex marriage has drummed up controversy among many African Americans over whether it even should be treated as a civil rights issue.

"I have no problem seeing it as a civil

continued ▼ on page A5

'Marriage for one man and one woman'

Pastor T. Allen Bethel of Maranatha Church and president of the Albina Ministerial Alliance, says the debate over enacting a Constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriage is obvious.

"We're not seeking to change any law. In Oregon, a marriage is between one male and one female," he says. "We want it to be policy that that's the only union."

He speaks in absolutes about same-sex marriage not being a civil rights issue.

"It is definitely not a civil rights issue. If the opponents of 36 want to say it's equal to the violations and discrimination against African Americans, there's absolutely no way. Not even close," said Bethel, who is African American.

According to Bethel, people have never had the right to marry whomever they choose, and that's not wrong.

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Two views on same-sex marriage ban

Ballot Measure 36, a constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriage, is one of the most explosive election issues that voters will face in the November General Election. A "no" vote would defeat the proposal and a "yes" vote would dictate that marriage is only between one man and one woman.

Basic Rights Oregon, a nonprofit agency promoting gay rights, argues that only marriage provides the same full legal protections to same-sex couples and their families as are afforded to opposite-sex couples.

"Marriage offers more than 1,000 federal and 500 state legal protections and

rights, such as hospital visitation rights, inheritance rights and security protection for their children," according to the organization.

A central argument in favor of the measure calls it "common sense" that marriage is between one man and one woman and follows religious teachings

and the "laws of nature."

African-American Pastors Matt Hennessee of St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church and T. Allen Bethel of Maranatha Church of God are on opposite sides of the issue. They shared their unique points of view for the Portland Observer's coverage of the Ballot Measure 36 debate.



Spotlight on Business Entrepreneurs

Exodus Spa owner Esmeralda Caldera does Angelia Warren's nails as Lene Johnson looks on from the spa pedicure foot bath. The new business on North Interstate Avenue is one of the many minority and women-owned business featured in this issue's Minority Business Enterprises Week special edition. See story on page B7, inside.

Senator Demands Investigation

State hospital abuses draw fire

In response to recent documentation of sexual abuse at the adolescent ward at the Oregon State Hospital, a treatment center for children with mental illness, African-American state Sen. Avel Gordly is calling for an impartial, outside investigation of crimes and abuses at the facility.

"An independent investigation is the best way to get the complete truth about what has happened at the hospital," said Gordly, a Democrat who represents northeast and southeast Portland.

Gordly wants the U.S. Justice Department to look into violations of civil rights of current and former patients at the hospital.

"I am concerned that some state officials who have been decision makers over the past several years would also be involved in (a state) investigation, and it's not enough for government to investigate itself," Gordly said.

She said an outside investigation would be more aggressive and the best approach to making the changes necessary to protect and care for patients in the future.

Gordly also wants the federal investigation to include a swift timeline for making changes at the hospital and even consider closing the facility as an option.

The local lawmaker and Sen. Vicki Walker, a Eugene area Democrat, are also considering proposing a law to increase penalties for hospital staff who fail to report abuse.



Sen. Avel Gordly

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