



Merry Christmas

Happy New Year



The

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## Week in The Review

### Attack on U.S. Base Kills 24

An explosion ripped through a mess tent at a military base near Mosul, Iraq where hundreds of U.S. soldiers had just sat down to lunch Tuesday, killing 24 people and wounding more than 60, officials said. A radical Muslim group, the Ansar al-Sunnah Army, claimed responsibility for the deadliest attack on a U.S. base in Iraq.

### Annan Won't Resign

Secretary-General Kofi Annan reiterated Tuesday he has no intention of resigning over allegations of corruption in the U.N. oil-for-food program and plans to move ahead with sweeping changes at the United Nations.

### Slain Mother Knew Attacker

Bobbie Jo Stinnett and the woman accused of strangling her and cutting her baby from her womb were photographed together at a dog show months before last week's attack, a woman who attended the show said. Stinnett, 23, was eight months pregnant when she was strangled at the home in Skidmore, Mo.

### Military Accused in Cuba Abuse

A civil liberties group is charging that military interrogators at the U.S. prison at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba, some posing as FBI agents, humiliated and abused detainees, including inserting lit cigarettes in their ears.

### Mom Sues Wal-Mart Over Suicide

Shayla Stewart, a diagnosed manic-depressive and schizophrenic, assaulted police officers and was arrested for attacking a fellow customer at a Denton, Texas Wal-Mart where she had a prescription for anti-psychotic medication. Given those signs, her parents say, another Wal-Mart just seven miles away should have never sold her the shotgun she used to kill herself at age 24 in 2003.

### Sixth Harry Potter Book Coming

Get ready for publishing's ultimate blockbuster sequel: Harry Potter VI. The penultimate novel in J.K. Rowling's mega-selling series, "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince," will go on sale 12:01 a.m. on July 16 in the United States, Britain and four other countries.

## Get MADD for the Holidays



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Mothers Against Drunk Driving want to remind local residents that car keys only belong in the hands of sober drivers.

### Pledge to drive sober with red ribbons

Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) is asking drivers to take responsibility for their own safety and the safety of everyone on the road during the holiday season. By tying red ribbons to their cars, drivers can show a commitment to sober driving.

Tie One On For Safety is MADD's largest public awareness campaign, which began in 1986. The organization advocating for sober driving pleads with the public to "tie one on for safety" by attaching a red MADD ribbon to a visible location on their vehicles to pledge to drive safe, sober and buckled up because a seat belt is the best defense against a drunk driver.

Tie One On For Safety began on Thanksgiving and continues through New Year's Day—the heaviest travel season of the year and a time when drunk driving typically increases.

In Oregon, 40 percent of traffic deaths, 207 out of 521 people, were alcohol related in 2003.

Statistics show that those already convicted for drunk driving are particularly high-risk offenders.

According to a MADD study, 32 percent of second-time offenders with a suspended license and 61 percent of suspended third-time offenders received violations or were involved in crashes during their suspensions.

In 2002, MADD handed down grades, rating states on political will, leadership and resources dedicated to winning the war on drunk driving. Oregon received a B grade, upstaged only by California, which received the highest grade of a B+.

Nationally, the U.S. was handed a C.

For more information or to pick up a red ribbon, call the local Chapter of MADD Oregon at 503-723-5040.

## TriMet Called on Double Standard

King holiday not treated  
on par with others

BY JAYMEE R. CUTI  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

It may have started on a bus, but TriMet is refusing to recognize slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King's birthday with a full holiday schedule.

Although King Day was adopted as a full holiday on par with Christmas and Thanksgiving during union contract negotiations last March, TriMet will run extended Saturday service, a partial holiday schedule, instead of Sunday service as it adopts for every other full holiday.

"TriMet has made a separate holiday scheduling policy for this one holiday," said TriMet bus operator and local African-American resident Laverne Ballard.

She is calling her employers out on what she says is a double standard for the Monday, Jan. 17 holiday.

Ballard has a petition for TriMet employees and community members who believe King Day should be fully recognized by the transit agency.

"It's a community issue as well as from an employee standpoint. I think it's humiliating that the company, being a bus company of all things, is blatantly disrespecting his legacy," said Ballard.

Hundreds of TriMet employees, many with more than a decade of seniority, will be at work on King Day, including staffing agents, road supervisors, maintenance crews, fare inspectors, bus operators, dispatchers and rail operators.

According to TriMet, the modified Saturday schedule is a direct response to TriMet ridership on King Day, though ridership does not factor into closures on Christmas or other long-recognized holidays.

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## Keeping the Heat On



The heat will stay on after Ed Scarborough, owner of Dad's Oil make another delivery to a northeast Portland residence.

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

## Energy assistance a lifeline to many

Energy assistance programs are vital to taking care of a basic heating needs for some low-income families.

While the need to pay the high cost of electricity, oil and natural gas far exceeds the help available, state officials say, one program totaling \$16 million in relief for low-income households will help keep many houses warm through the winter.

Oregon Housing and Community Services' Low-Income Energy Assistance Funds (LIEAF) are available through the non-profits Portland Impact, Human Solutions, Albina Ministerial Alliance and

YWCA.

The funds can be applied to a wide range of heating sources including oil heat, wood, propane and Northwest Natural gas. Both renters and homeowners are eligible and must have documented energy costs. Applications are available through local community action agencies and local senior service agencies.

Energy assistance is also available from Portland General Electric and Pacific Power.

To be eligible, customers must meet income guidelines and show that they are in danger of having the electricity disconnected. The funds are distributed on a first-come, first-served basis.

In general, the amount of help available to pay for heating bills, depends on the

type of energy used as the primary heating source, the number of people in the household and whether the household currently receives subsidized housing. Priority is given to seniors, the disabled and households with young children.

Programs that distribute energy assistance funds in Multnomah County include:

Albina Ministerial Alliance at 503-285-0493; Human Solutions in east Multnomah County at 866-223-1359 or Gresham at 866-223-1359; IRCO - Asian Family Center at 503-235-9396; Portland Impact in southeast Portland at 503-988-6000 or northeast Portland at 503-988-6020; St. Vincent de Paul at 503-235-8431; The Salvation Army at 503-239-1266; and YWCA Housing Enrichment Resources at 503-721-6760.

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