

Week in
The Review

Iraq Insurgents Kill 25

With car bombs, assassinations and raids on Iraqi police stations, insurgents killed at least 25 people across the volatile Sunni Triangle on Tuesday, and a militant group claimed it executed eight Iraqi employees of an American security company.

Southern Cal Gets Soaked

Pouring rain caused highway-blocking mudslides Tuesday in Southern California, and as much as a foot of rain was possible in one mountain area as a powerful storm moved along the coast.

Burgerville Founder Dead at 90

Burgerville founder George Propstra, a Vancouver man who distinguished the chain by using only Northwest ingredients to support local suppliers, died early Sunday. He was 90.

GOP Considers Challenge

Republicans are demanding a list of voters in Washington state's most populous county as the GOP considers a court challenge of Democrat Christine Gregoire's razor-thin victory in the governor's race, officials said Monday.

Closer Vote in Ohio Recount

Election officials finished the presidential recount in Ohio on Tuesday, with the final tally shaving about 300 votes off President Bush's six-figure margin of victory in the state that gave him a second term. The recount shows Bush winning Ohio by 118,457 votes over John Kerry.

Investigation Ordered

The nation's top transportation official ordered an investigation of two airlines that canceled hundreds of flights over the holiday weekend because of computer and staffing problems, stranding thousands of travelers.

Surrogate Mother has Triplets

A 55-year-old woman acting as a surrogate for her daughter gave birth to triplets Tuesday in Richmond, Va. She had carried the babies for her oldest daughter who suffers from endometriosis, a condition affecting the lining of the uterus that makes it difficult to become pregnant.

2004 in Review

Vera Katz
leaves a legacy

Vera Katz moved to Portland from New York City 40 years ago.

"New York at that time was getting a little bit difficult to live in," said Katz, who retires Friday after 12 years as mayor and more than 35 years in local politics.

New York's loss became Portland's gain. Katz is credited with making her new home exceedingly easy to live in.

Born in Dusseldorf, Germany, in 1933, the year Adolf Hitler rose to power, Vera Pistrak fled to Paris with her Jewish family when she was 2 months old. After France's defeat by the Nazis, the 7-year-old girl, her older sister and their parents walked from southern France across the Pyrenees to Spain. They arrived in New York City aboard a ship on Columbus Day, 1940.

With a graduate degree in art from Brooklyn College, Katz moved to Portland in 1964 with her then-husband, Mel Katz.

She became a political activist, stuffing envelopes for Democratic presidential hopeful Robert F. Kennedy in 1968. She picketed supermarkets over the treatment of grape and lettuce pickers, and staged sit-ins at downtown lunchrooms over women's rights.

Elected to the Oregon House of Representatives in 1972, Katz became the first female speaker of the House in 1985. She was elected Portland mayor in 1992.

Katz recently announced she would join the College of Urban and Public Affairs at Portland State University as an unpaid visiting fellow. At the school, she will be consulting with students and faculty on a variety of projects, including program development, writing, research and guest lecturing. She also plans to volunteer for Start Making A Reader Today, a program she helped create.

The mayor has spent much of her three terms building on Portland's reputation as one of the most livable cities in the country - adding a streetcar loop, expanding the light rail system and sprucing up the waterfront of the Willamette River, which runs through Portland.



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Jan. 14, 2004 - Mayor Vera Katz enters her last year in office with a legacy shaped by Dr. Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and other civil rights leaders who influenced her life. The Portland Observer looks back on 2004 inside.

She has led the fight against gang violence in north and northeast Portland and has successfully led campaigns to bailout cash-strapped inner city schools. Katz successfully pushed to transform the city's crumbling northern industrial zone into the trendy Pearl District, now bustling with upscale apartments, galleries and restaurants.

She is also a champion of civil rights for women, minorities, and gays and lesbians.

Katz's health has suffered recently. She was diagnosed with a rare form of cancer of the reproductive system in June, and has seen endured monthly chemotherapy and weekly kidney dialysis. This is Katz's second brush with cancer. She beat breast cancer four years ago.

Associated Press contributed to this report.

Stage Set for
King Tribute

Inspirational celebration
keeps 'dream' alive

Thousands of champions for Martin Luther King will converge on Jefferson High School's Robert G. Ford Auditorium, 5210 N. Kerby, on Monday, Jan. 17 for a "Keep Alive-the Dream" tribute to the slain civil rights leader.

This is the 20th anniversary of the first King event by World Arts Foundation, which works to weave artists and performers into messages and a consciousness inspired by King.

"If we keep on dreaming, we never wake up," said Ken Berry, secretary of World Arts Foundation. "We need to keep alive the dream through our demonstrated actions so we are still modeling the beliefs and principles that Dr. King so nobly left for us."

This year's event will include 20 speakers, 2,000 performers, 250 volunteers and 35 vendors to represent all cultures in the largest Martin Luther King celebration in Oregon.

This event has highly significant cultural enrichment power all year long, as it becomes the subject of school-based focus groups, community cultural exchanges and sets the stage for cross-cultural interactions and engagements of different ethnic and racial groups in mutual activities.

Multnomah County is bringing together a diverse gathering of young people for a discussion at the King event, encouraging students to set their own goals in cultural understanding.

Besides the expected live audience of 4,000 people, "Keep Living the Dream" will be simulcast live on Portland Community Media channel 11, Portland Public Schools Television Services channel 28 and KBOO radio 90.7FM.

All events are documented on broadcast-quality digital film, in hopes of preserving the legacy for education within the community and in the classroom.

"Our goal at World Arts is to preserve as much as we can," Berry said.

The event also aims to provide a forum for community members to meet and network. To accommodate all participants, the main speaking events and performances will take place in the auditorium but the Jefferson High School cafeteria will provide space for building relationships, enjoying various exhibits and receiving information about voting and many other groups.

A donation of \$3 or three cans of non-perishable food is suggested. Visit www.worldartsfoundation.org.

South Asia Catastrophe

Staggering losses from killer tsunamis



People displaced by the tsunami mourn their losses inside a relief camp at a temple in Varichikudi, about 125 miles south of Madras, India. (AP photo)

(AP)—Mourners in Sri Lanka used their bare hands to dig graves Tuesday while hungry islanders in Indonesia turned to looting in the aftermath of Asia's devastating tsunamis. Thousands more bodies were found in Indonesia, dramatically increasing the death toll across 11 nations to around 52,000.

Sunday's massive quake of 9.0 magnitude off the Indonesian island of Sumatra sent 500-mph waves surging across the Indian Ocean and Bay of Bengal in the deadliest known tsunami since the one that devastated the Portuguese capital of Lisbon in 1755 and killed an estimated 60,000 people.

In the latest destruction, emergency workers found that 10,000 people had been killed in a single town at the northern tip of Sumatra island, the hardest hit region in Indonesia. Another 9,000 were confirmed dead in the provincial capital, Banda Aceh, and surrounding towns.

The World Health Organization warned on Tuesday that disease in the aftermath of the disaster could kill as many people as the deadly waves and earthquake have.

In Sri Lanka, around 1,000 people were dead or missing from a train that was flung off its tracks when the gigantic waves hit. Rescuers pulled 204 bodies from the train's eight carriages - reduced to twisted metal - and cremated or buried them.

More than 18,700 people died in Sri Lanka, more than 4,400 in India and more than 1,500 in Thailand, with numbers expected to rise. Scores were also killed in Malaysia, Myanmar, Bangladesh, the Maldives. The giant waves raced nearly 3,000 miles to east Africa, causing deaths in Somalia, Tanzania and Seychelles.

A police official said 8,000 people were missing and possibly dead in India's remote Andaman and Nicobar Islands, located just north of Sumatra.

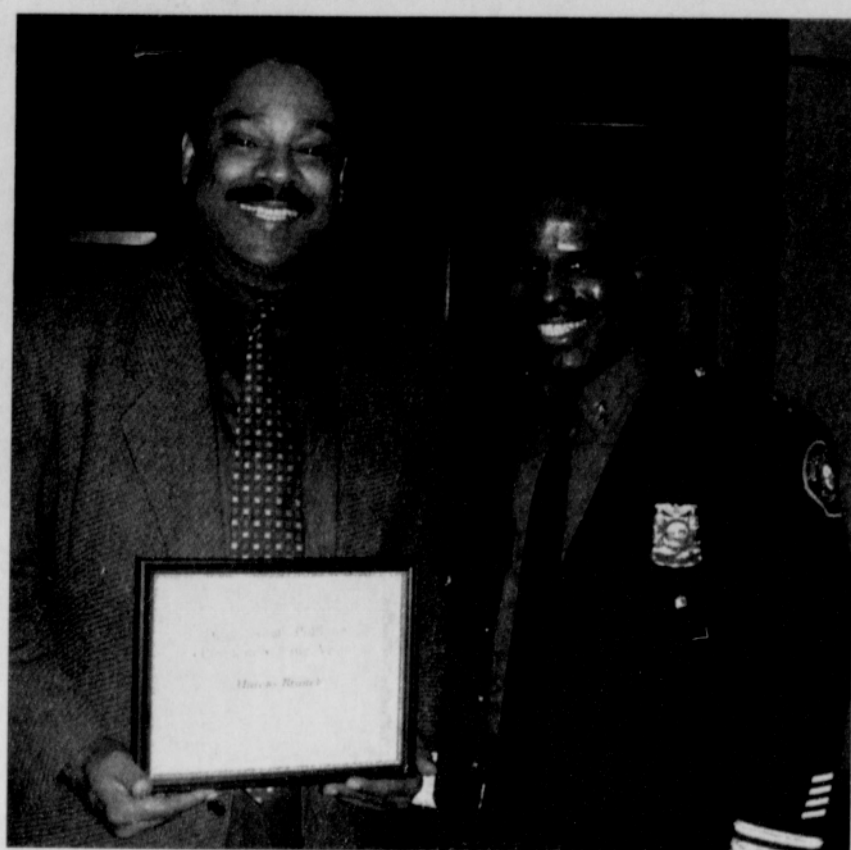


PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Effort Builds
Better Community

Marcus Branch of Services for Humanity receives a Community Policing Problem Solving Award from Police Chief Derrick Foxworth. Branch was recognized for his preventive problem solving techniques and devotion to serving youth, helping reduce crime and the fear of crime.

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