

The Portland Observer

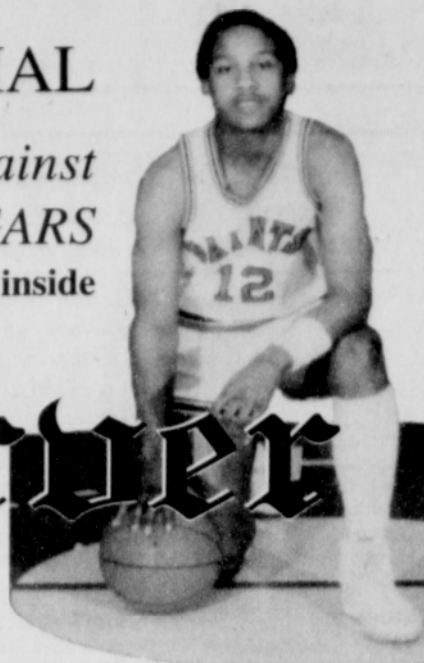
'City of Roses'

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Week in
The Review

8 Soldiers Killed in 2 Days

A car bomb exploded Tuesday near a Baghdad junior high school for girls, killing six people, and eight American soldiers were killed in two days of insurgent attacks in and around Baghdad, the military said. The military announced that 13 American troops have been killed since Sunday.

Website says al-Zarqawi Wounded in Battle

Al-Qaida's branch in Iraq, blamed for numerous terror attacks on U.S. and Iraqi targets, said Tuesday in an Internet posting that its leader, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, had been wounded and called on supporters to pray for his recovery.

Girl, 8, Found Buried Alive

An 8-year-old girl who was raped and buried alive told a friend she remembers her attacker towering over her before she passed out, then awoke seven hours later beneath a pile of rocks and concrete blocks when she heard the voices of rescuers. The girl was hospitalized in good condition Monday and a teenage boy who also had been staying at the home was arrested.

Leno Suspicious of Accuser

"Tonight Show" host Jay Leno testified Tuesday that the boy who is now accusing Michael Jackson of molestation was "overly effusive" and sounded suspicious in phone calls to him but never asked for money. Jackson's defense called Leno to support its claim that the boy's family schemed to get money from celebrities and Jackson became one of their targets.

Customer Records Stolen

More than 100,000 customers of Wachovia Corp. and Bank of America Corp. have been notified that bank employees may have stolen their financial records and sold them to collection agencies.

Parent Slams Van into School

A woman apparently upset over the treatment of her children by other students rammed her minivan into the front of their Philadelphia school Tuesday. No children were injured, but a bus attendant standing inside the school was slightly injured when the van with the woman and three children crashed into the front door of the school.

'Star Wars' Earns Record

Moviegoers have turned out in full force for the final chapter of the "Star Wars" saga, Episode III - Revenge of the Sith, which took in \$158 million since its opening Thursday to shatter three-day and four-day box office records.

Hennessee to be Installed Church Pastor
Coretta Scott King to participate in ceremoniesBY KATHERINE KOVACICH
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Rev. Matt Hennessee, a high-profile local businessman and civil leader with political buzz around his ears is going to have Coretta Scott King, widow of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. by his side when he's installed as Pastor of Vancouver Avenue First Baptist Church this weekend.

"She's got a heart full of love and she doesn't meet any strangers," Hennessee said. "She carried on the work of her husband in the most stoic and powerful way possible. Leaders of countries have sought her advice."

When King found out that Hennessee was going to seek pastor of the north Portland church, one of the city's oldest African-American congregations, she wrote an unsolicited letter to the church recommending him for the post.

The letter was "warm, cordial and glowing," he said.

Hennessee first met the King family 15 years ago when he was assistant city manager in Saginaw, Mich. King eventually took him under her wing like a son. She's never missed his birthday.

"She is a very special woman. I think of her world and all the things she's got on her mind and yet she's always treated me as though I am a member of her very close family," Hennessee said.

King originally had plans to attend the ceremony simply as a member of the congregation, but the dates were moved after she was asked to speak on Hennessee's behalf.

She's proud of him, and for good reason.

Hennessee has been an active member of the Portland church community. Since being elected pastor at Vancouver Avenue First Baptist Church on Dec. 29 and beginning his Sunday preaching duties on Jan. 15, more than 80 people have joined the church. He baptized 23 members only two Sundays ago.

Without any outreach yet from the pastor himself, people are joining simply by word of mouth, via friends and family.

"The whole thing is amazing. There's a wonderful spirit," he said. "I see this as a vision to really rebuild our stature as a church in this community."

"Rebuilding our youth and education programs, opportunities to develop scholarships in high school, building youth choirs, and the dance team. It's also a time of real support to put our arms around the senior citizens so they know that in the twilight of their lives we're taking care of and supporting them."

Explaining the process of an installation, he



PHOTO BY ANTONIO HARRIS

Portland civic leader Rev. Matt Hennessee will be installed this weekend as pastor of Vancouver Avenue First Baptist Church, one of Portland's oldest African-American congregations.

said, "The pastor is elected by the people and selected by God. There is a period of time between the time the person's elected and the person's installed where both parties can see God's work in the church and to determine if the two will get along with each other." Apparently they're getting along just fine.

"We're seeing young people, we're seeing families. It's not about color, it's about people," said Della Frazier, the church's announcing clerk and coordinator of the installment. "Matt is being instrumental in

working with the children, getting the young couples and all nationalities to come into church. We saw that he had a vision to take it in a new direction."

Becoming pastor will come one week after another milestone for the 46-year-old.

Matt and Sharon Hennessee were married last Saturday. She's involved in the church's Sunday school program.

"That's where she sees as her calling,"

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Coretta Scott King

A Civil Rights
Legend by her
Own Right

Coretta Scott King, the widow of the late Civil Rights champion Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., has been involved with civil rights since her youth.

At her alma mater, Antioch College, she was a member of the NAACP and the college's race relations and civil liberties committees.

She met her future husband in 1951 when she arrived in Boston to finish her musical training at New England Conservatory. He was a young minister studying for his Ph.D. at Boston University at the time. Two years later, they were married.

The couple then returned to the South to fight for the civil liberties of black Americans.

By 1964, King's husband won the Nobel Peace Prize and they'd had four children. She became active in the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and eventually gave solo speeches when she wasn't at her husband's side.

On April 4, 1968, King received news that her husband was shot and killed while giving a speech from a hotel balcony. While this broke her heart, she continued to be strong and work for civil rights.

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There Goes the Neighborhood
Maintaining properties require responsibilityBY NICOLE HOOPER
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Home gardeners feel joy in planting greenery, flowers and mowing their lawns. Many homeowners take pride in the way their yard appears and it says a lot about the character of the residents. But in almost every neighborhood there is always one eyesore yard and house. It's the house that looks as if the owners don't care.

Yards become quickly overgrown during the spring growing season without regular maintenance violating Portland's nuisance ordinance.

PHOTO BY NICOLE HOOPER/
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A particular home in your own neighborhood probably comes to mind. The house may have a car in the yard, foot high grass or peeling paint. The house gives the look of being completely vacant, but people live there.

There are noise nuisances in effort to prevent late night partying, but there is also a housing nuisance law to protect your neighborhoods appearance and safety. For example, grass that is taller than 10 inches is not only undesirable but also a fire hazard.

As outlined on the city of Portland's website, exterior property areas "shall be maintained in a clean and sanitary condition." There's no use for a washing machine on the back porch. Anything that is not suited for outdoor use should not be on a lawn. A car that sits on private property for more than one week is violation of City Code Title 29.

Nuisance complaints trigger a city inspection. A notice is

posted to the property address and on a website called portlandmaps.com. If the homeowner or renter is at fault they have 15 days to correct the situation. If it is not corrected they get a second notice and finally a court warrant or lien against the property assessing costs for cleanup.

Elderly homeowners may not be able to do strenuous yard work, but there are options for them to get assistance with yard maintenance.

"We have a network of nonprofits and community organizations that will do work at no cost. Getting assistance from a religious or neighborhood association. We screen to see if they are of limited income and the City of Portland would assist to a certain point," said Crystal Cowen, an administrative supervisor for the neighborhood inspection office.

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