

Creative recycling
found at local
warehouse

See story, Metro section inside

Local casting
company seeks
people of color

See story, Metro section inside

The Portland Observer

'City of Roses'

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Week in The Review

Five Bombings Kill 18, Wound 67 in Iraq

Four apparently coordinated bombings in seven minutes Tuesday killed 18 people and wounded 39 in northern Iraq, while a car bomb in Baghdad injured 28, ending a relative lull in violence. Hundreds of U.S. and Iraqi soldiers descended on the remote northern city of Tal Afar near the Syrian border, launching a major operation against insurgents following weeks of attacks against Iraqi security services there, military officials said.



Prosecutions Unlikely of Medical Pot Users

Anyone who lights up a joint for medicinal purposes isn't likely to be pursued by federal authorities, despite a Supreme Court ruling that these marijuana users could face federal charges, people on both sides of the issue say. In a 6-3 decision, the court on Monday said those who smoke marijuana because their doctors recommend it to ease pain can be prosecuted for violating federal drug laws, overriding medical marijuana statutes in 10 states.

Jackson Trial Jury Resumes Deliberations

The jury resumed deliberations Tuesday in the child molestation case against pop star Michael Jackson. The jury, which put in about two hours after getting the case Friday afternoon, completed its first full day of deliberation on Monday. The jury has followed the trial schedule of a six-hour day, including three 10-minute breaks but no lunch break. If convicted on the molestation counts, Jackson could get several years in prison.

General Motors Plans to Cut 25,000 U.S. Jobs

General Motors Corp. plans to eliminate 25,000 manufacturing jobs in the United States by 2008 and close plants as part of a strategy to revive North American business at the world's largest automaker, its chairman said on Tuesday. Chairman and Chief Executive Rick Wagoner said the capacity and job cuts should generate annual savings of roughly \$2.5 billion. GM now employs 111,000 hourly workers in the United States.

\$1 Trillion Military Spending

For the first time since the Cold War, global military spending exceeded \$1 trillion in 2004, nearly half of it by the United States.



PHOTO BY STEVE DIPAOLO

Year End Tug of Fun

Students from Boise-Eliot Elementary in north Portland find sweetness in victory after a tug-of-war competition on Friday at the Nike campus in Beaverton. The entire school was invited to the NikeGo Field Day to commemorate the end of the school year and the completion of nearly 100 physical education classes taught by Nike volunteers. See additional photo in Sports, page B6.

Queen Crowned, Gardens Bloom



PHOTO BY PRINTS CHARMING PHOTOGRAPHY
Central Catholic High School
Senior Katelyn Callaghan was
crowned Rose Festival Queen
during a coronation ceremony
Thursday. She was chosen from
a group of 14 Rose Festival
Ambassadors from 14 Portland
high schools.



PHOTO BY ISAAH BOUJE/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Roses are finally in bloom all over Portland, with a variety of styles and colors to be admired.



PHOTO BY ISAAH BOUJE/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Portland's Rose Festival finds a pet's shiny coat matching the brilliance of the roses at the International Test Rose Garden in Washington Park. The garden is considered to be the oldest official, continually operated public rose test garden in the United States.

Project Clean Slate

Goal is fresh start
from legal past

BY NICOLE HOOPER
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Area residents who are attempting to get a fresh start from legal problems can find help from Project Clean Slate, a program launched by the African-American Chamber of Commerce.

The mission is to help those with past criminal and civil records start over and become productive members of the community.



Chamber President Roy Jay

Jay said the project has won overwhelming support since it was announced two months ago, including from the district attorney's office, circuit court judges, public defenders, private attorneys and social services agencies.

Project Clean Slate is going to do their best at breaking the cycle for Portland's former inmates.

People in the criminal justice system who have been paroled and paid their debt to society face major hurdles, including the stigma of being a convicted felon. It's a definite catch 22, because they are expected to get a job and rejoin society but finding resources for help is null. In times of stress, this can lead to a cycle of imprisonment.

A resource fair has been scheduled on Saturday, July 9 at the north Portland Cascade Campus of Portland Community College to provide help to those who want to clean up their past for a promising future.

The chamber decided to forgo its annual awards banquet to put resources into helping those in a legal morass.

"There will be counselors and resources on site for everything from credit, housing, education, drug abuse and employment," said Jay.

Those attending the event should also feel confident that they can seek help without worrying if they are going to be arrested, according to JoAnn Bowman of Oregon Action, a past state lawmaker who is helping coordinate the event.

Even if a person has outstanding warrants, they can still attend, Bowman said. This is also a chance for those who have a criminal record to make a fresh start without paying legal fees.

"We don't want money to be a factor for people getting their lives back in order," said Bowman. "Often traffic fees can double while a person is in prison and makes it difficult to pay them off."

Bowman added that PCC has been very helpful in supporting Project Clean Slate and is a partner in the effort. Safeway Foods is also a major sponsor.

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