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'City of Roses'

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Week in
The Review

1946 Lynching Re-enacted

Civil rights activists marked the 59th anniversary of an unsolved lynching Monday by re-enacting the brutal slayings of two black couples who were forced out of their car by a mob of white men and killed. The activists were trying to gain support for the prosecution of anyone who may have been involved in what they called the last mass public lynching in the United States. See story on page A2.

Shuttle Discovery In Orbit

Discovery and seven astronauts blasted into orbit Tuesday on America's first manned space shot since the 2003 Columbia disaster. Space program employees and relatives of both the Discovery and Columbia crews watched nervously as the shuttle rose from its pad, climbed into a hazy midsummer sky, skirted two decks of clouds and headed out over the ocean.



Blistering Heat Causes Misery

Temperatures soared past 100 in several cities and the National Weather Service posted excessive heat warnings and advisories from Illinois to Louisiana and from Nebraska to the District of Columbia. Some 200 cities in the West hit daily record highs last week, including Las Vegas at 117 and Death Valley at 129.

Eminem 'Taking a Break'

Is Eminem headed for retirement or just taking a break? Earlier this month, reports from his hometown of Detroit quoted sources as saying the 32-year-old rapper would play his last concert at Slane Castle in Dublin, Ireland, on Sept. 17, at the end of "Anger Management" tour. Eminem, whose real name is Marshall Mathers, is quoted as saying: "When I say I'm taking a break, I'm taking a break from my music to go in the studio and produce my other artists and put their albums out."

Disability Timeline Revamped

People seeking disability benefits from Social Security can expect to spend less time waiting for a decision under changes rolled out Tuesday on the anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Social Security Commissioner Jo Anne Barnhart said clearly disabled individuals could be approved for benefits in as little as 20 days under the new procedures, which the agency expects to start putting into action next spring.



A Tri Met bus transports First Step cleaning crew members from stop to stop on its mission to clean adjacent sidewalks and parking lots as they gain valuable skills from adult mentors.

Job Program Helps
Youth Take 'First Step'

BY KATHERINE BLACKMORE
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

They move quickly and quietly from bus stop to bus stop, picking up trash and keeping the towns and neighborhoods along TriMet bus routes beautiful. They're the youth involved in First Step, a summer job and mentorship program based out of north Portland's University Park Community Center.

"It's the first step into the real world," said Robert Harding, First Step assistant director. "It gives them a chance to see things other than the 'hood to broaden their horizons."

The decade-old program not only allows them a chance to give back to the community, but to gain skills needed later in life.

"The main thing we stress is teamwork, honesty and being real - not just with your friends, but with yourself - to find out what shortcomings you have and how you can deal with them," Harding said.

About 20 teens from local high schools are involved. Their day begins at 7 a.m. exactly (no exceptions are made for being late) and ends at 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. They exercise in the morning, have meaningful discussions and work hard.

"If you can get through this program, you can get through life," said Marsha Jones, safety coordinator and youth supervisor for First Step.

Jones said that many youth



PHOTOS BY KATHERINE BLACKMORE/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
First Step workers beautify Portland by cleaning up trash around local bus stops.

come into the program with a weak work ethic that is shaped up through strict discipline. Learning to respect others helps the teens respect themselves. This is especially important, she said, considering the ages of 14 to 18 can be confusing and impressionable, with problems at home or among friends. Making sure grades stay up is also a requirement.

"They need to show improvement over the years. If I can catch

them, I want to be able to help them," Jones said.

Through mentoring and activities like basketball, kickball and soccer, those involved also get the opportunity to be productive with their summer, a time of lull for many high school students. They're staying on track.

"We've got northeast kids that are hardly ever out of the city limits that are working together as a team. It's incredible the way all these kids come together," Jones said.

Local Muslims
Call for Unity

Saturday rally downtown to condemn bombings

BY NICOLE HOOPER
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Expressing outrage in regards to the recent terrorist bombings in London, local Muslims have facilitated a rally that will take place Saturday.

Leaders of the faith said they feel it is their duty to let the world know that Muslims do not condone violence. The rally is titled a "Day of Condemnation, Not in My Name," to debunk the assumption that all terrorists are Muslims.

Amir (Administrator) Shaheed Haamid of the Muslim Community Center of Portland on Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard invites people of all religious faiths to attend the downtown rally and protest non-violently.

"Everyone that is for equal justice is invited. We hope the level of attendance will be overwhelming

in a positive way," said Haamid.

According to Haamid, there are almost 10,000 Muslims in the Portland and southwest Washington area. He said their religion is often misunderstood and has the potential to turn into fear and prejudice.

"It shows a lack of understanding of what Islam is," said Haamid. "We don't want to be silent we want to let everyone know that as American citizens we object this type of behavior. Muslims that do participate in terrorist attacks don't realize that it hurts the community."

The Day of Condemnation Rally begins at noon and will last until 3pm and will take place at the Terry Schunk Plaza located at Southwest Third Street and Madison Avenue. For more information call The Muslim Community Center at 503-281-7691.

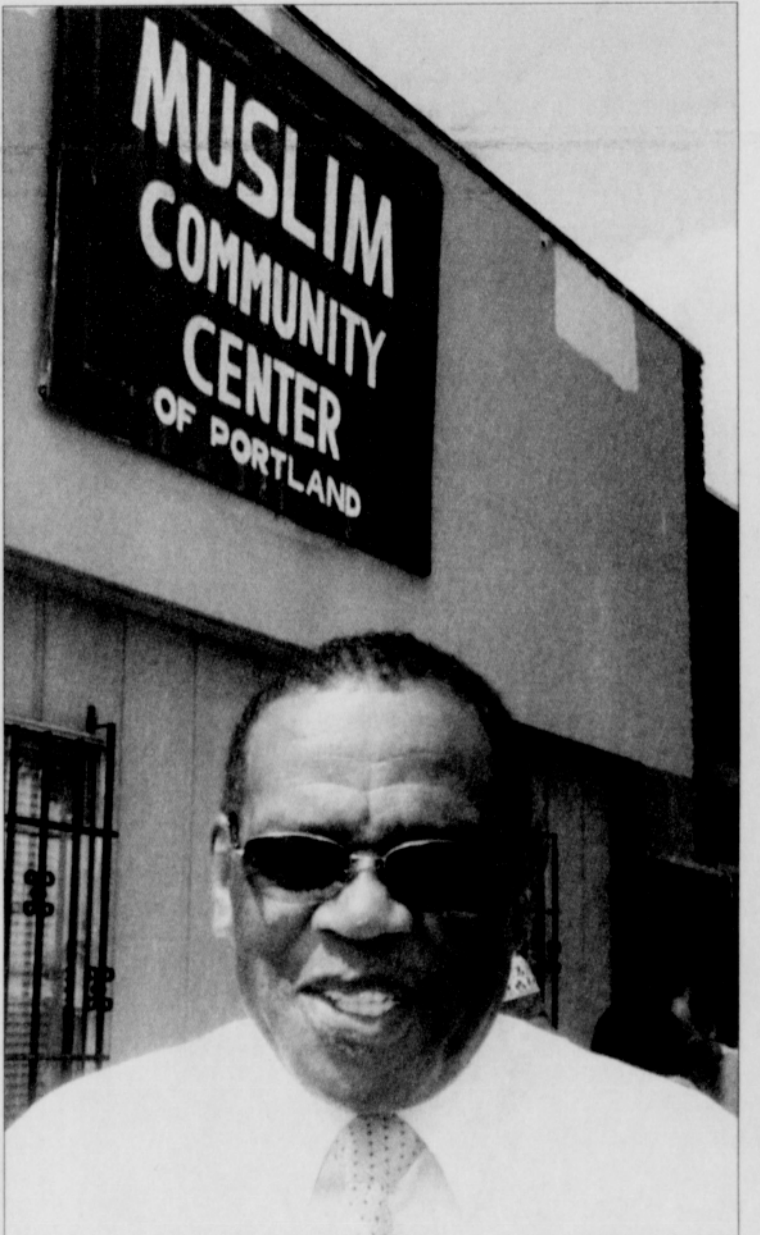


PHOTO BY NICOLE HOOPER/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
Amir Shaheed Haamid, outside the Muslim Community Center on Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, encourages Muslims and others to condemn terrorism.

Mental Health Hotline Help is Just a Call Away



PHOTO BY KATHERINE BLACKMORE/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
Rotating staff at the Multnomah County Mental Health and Addictions Services Crisis Hotline answer calls 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

BY KATHERINE BLACKMORE
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

It's usually easy to notice and take care of a person if they're physically harmed. If a someone is in an accident, for example, they might bleed, 9-1-1 is called to transport them to a hospital, and they're taken care of.

But when something is out of whack with a person's thoughts or well-being, it's not always so apparent. Not being aware of mental health warning signs can lead to self-inflicted harm or harm to others. Nothing's worse than a life-threatening conflict that could've been prevented with a little attention, care and support.

Offering that support is the Multnomah County Mental Health and Addictions Services Division, with a

hotline to call that's basically a one-stop shop for mental health resources and counseling.

"If you're feeling at your wits end and aren't sure if you're going to harm yourself, you can really get lost in the system if you don't know who to call," said Heeseung Kang, a supervisor with the county's Mental Health Crisis Hotline.

Open 24-hours a day, seven days a week, the call center is set up to assist those with issues such as severe anxiety, depression or thoughts of suicide. Beyond urgent care, the center also helps family members and friends access resources for supportive help.

In the last fiscal year alone, the center had accepted more than 50,000 calls from

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