

50¢

35
years of
community service

The Portland Observer

'City of Roses'

Volume XXXV, Number 47

Established in 1970

Committed to Cultural Diversity

Winter Freeze Possible

The National Weather Service warns that snow or freezing rain is possible Wednesday night and Thursday



Three Nights of Extraordinary Dance

Lonzo King's Lines Ballet coming to Portland State University's Lincoln Hall See Focus, page A5



www.portlandobserver.com

Wednesday • November 30, 2005

Week in The Review

Hostages Held in Iraq

Al-Jazeera broadcast video Tuesday of four Western peace activists held hostage by a previously unknown group, part of a new wave of kidnappings police fear is aimed at disrupting next month's elections. The captives - an American, a Briton and two Canadians - were members of the Chicago-based aid group Christian Peacemaker Teams, which confirmed they disappeared Saturday.

Bush: Withdrawal a Mistake

President Bush said Tuesday that "it would be a terrible mistake" to pull U.S. forces out of Iraq. The argument was echoed in Washington by Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld, who said, "Quitting is not an exit strategy."

Hurricane Season Ends

The busiest and costliest hurricane season on record finally ends Wednesday. But as the deadly six-month season closes, tens of thousands of Americans are still dealing with the devastation from Hurricanes Wilma, Rita and Katrina, the nation's worst natural disaster in modern times.



Panda Cub Debuts

Tai Shan, the giant panda cub, showed Tuesday that he is a quick study, prancing about in his den and otherwise mugging for hordes of camera crews for his first public display for reporters at the National Zoo in Washington, D.C..

Town Scraps King Statue

After two years of wrangling about what a statue of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. should look like, a North Carolina town has decided to scrap the project. The Rocky Mount City Council will instead spend the \$45,000 set aside for the statue on winter heating assistance and other local needs.

Midwest Highways Reopen

Crews on Tuesday gradually reopened major highways in the Midwest that had been closed by the Plains' first blizzard of the season, stranding post-Thanksgiving travelers. A death toll of five is blamed on slippery roads.

New Orleans Free Wireless

In an attempt to boost its stalled economy, the hurricane-ravaged city of New Orleans is starting the nation's first free wireless Internet network owned and run by a major city. Similar projects elsewhere have been stalled by stiff opposition from telephone and cable television companies.

PRESORT STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
PORTLAND OR
PERMIT
NO. 1610



University of Oregon
Knight Library
1299 University of Oregon
Eugene, OR 97403-1205



Holiday Season Welcome

A giant Christmas tree in Pioneer Courthouse Square ushers in the holiday spirit with hundreds of lights, bright enough to bring a cheer even with a damp and gloomy day.

PHOTO BY ISAIAH BOUIE/
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Perez Death Again Called Justified

Foxworth issues 'report to the community'

BY MICHAEL LEIGHTON
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Portland Police Chief Derrick Foxworth has approved of the actions of two police officers in last year's shooting death of an unarmed African American motorist in north Portland.

The conclusion was part of a "report to the community" that

Foxworth released on Monday. It came just one week before the family of the motorist goes to federal court claiming Portland's police bureau policy on deadly force is unconstitutional.

James Jahar Perez was killed March 26, 2004 when officers stopped his car in the St. Johns neighborhood and were unable to take him into custody for not having a driver's license.

Police said they had been following Perez, 28, because his 1997 Mitsubishi with tinted windows and chrome wheels stood out as



Derrick Foxworth

a luxury sedan in a working class neighborhood.

In a public inquest following the death, police claimed they pulled Perez over after he failed to signal at least 100 feet before making a turn.

Former officer Jason Sery testified that he shot Perez when he saw

him pull a clenched fist from his right pocket, thinking he was pulling a gun out. Another officer, Sean Macomber then fired his Taser gun at Perez.

Foxworth's 27-page report gives an overview of the incident, addresses issues related to the Inquest and a Grand Jury investigation and describes changes to the Police Bureau's policies and procedures since the shooting.

He said the report available online at www.portlandpolice.com reflects the police bureau's ongoing commitment to an open dialogue with the community it serves.

The grand jury that reviewed the shooting in 2004 urged the bureau to rethink its training.

In the meantime, Foxworth has ordered changes in training, tactics and police policies that stemmed

from the Perez shooting and other controversial shootings.

Portland police officers are now taught to use control holds to get an uncooperative occupants out of a vehicle. They are taught to try to get the driver to hand over the keys and reminded never to reach or lean into a vehicle.

Portland Copwatch, a local peace and justice group, issued a statement Monday saying they found nothing new in the community report, but were pleased to see it noted that the FBI has completed its civil rights investigation into the death and is considering whether to press charges.

Perez' family argues its case before U.S. District Judge Michael Mosman Monday as part of a \$10 million civil rights suit against the city.

Killingsworth Station Next to Max Put on Hold

A centerpiece of economic development along the new Interstate Max line in north Portland has been dumped by the developer after years of planning and months after an entire city block was cleared for the project.

Killingsworth Station was scheduled to bring a mix of apartments, condos and town homes to the corner of Killingsworth Street and Interstate Avenue, adjacent to a Max Yellow Line station for boarding and departing light-rail trains.

Developer Max Kemper recently notified the Portland Development Commission that he has no interest in pursuing the four-story apartment building and five-story condo project, a \$18 million project that was originally billed as bringing a down-



PHOTO BY ISAIAH BOUIE/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A swath of land sits vacant at the intersection of North Killingsworth Street and Interstate Avenue. The site is part of an entire block awaiting development next to a new light-rail station.

town flavor to the neighborhood.

PDC officials said the public subsidy to develop the project was growing more costly every day with rising construction costs.

The commission owns all the properties on the block. Five homes and an upholstery shop were removed for the development.

PDC officials said Tuesday they were looking at the project's setback as an opportunity to fine tune community desires with long term goals for attractive development next to the Max line.

The agency said a range of alternatives for the site is being considered with its community partners Metro and TriMet, including the possibility of opening bids for a new developer. Meetings with local business and community leaders are planned in the next few weeks.