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'City of Roses'
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Rosa Parks Plaza Coming
Investor also petitions to rename Sandy Boulevard to honor civil rights pioneer
See story in Metro, back page



Week in The Review

Miners Trapped

Potentially deadly carbon monoxide levels have disappointed rescuers at a mine in Tallmansville, W. Va., where 13 miners have been trapped for more than 30 hours since an explosion two miles into the mine tunnel.

Lobbyist Pleads Guilty



High-powered lobbyist Jack Abramoff pleaded guilty Tuesday to conspiracy, fraud and tax evasion charges, agreeing to cooperate in a federal corruption probe that involves powerful members of Congress. See story, page A2.

Kerry Options Open

John Kerry says he's keeping his options open and won't rule out another bid for president. The Massachusetts Democrat, defeated by Bush in 2004, insists it is far too early to talk about the 2008 race, but some analysts assume he has already positioning himself for another shot at the White House.

Marion Barry Robbed

Former Washington, D.C. Mayor Marion Barry was robbed at gunpoint Monday night. Barry says some young men robbed him at his Washington apartment after helping him carry groceries into the building. He gave them a couple of dollars for the help and they left. A short time later, the men knocked at his door, came in, pressed a gun to his head and took his wallet.

U.S. Airstrikes Launched

The U.S. military carried out a series of airstrikes and raids against insurgents north of Baghdad, Iraq and is investigating reports that one of those airstrikes killed six family members.

Saints to Return Home

The new Orleans Saints will return to Louisiana this year, that much seem certain. Exactly when and where they will play gets a little fuzzier, but the owner says maybe as early as September in the hurricane-ravaged Superdome.

Floods Hit California

Flooding and fast-moving waters from recent storms are causing flooding problems in both northern and southern California. The California Highway Patrol warned motorists in Monterey County that long delays were possible after northbound lanes of Highway 101 were blocked Tuesday.

Project Homeless Connect

Groups mobilize to meet needs

Hundreds of volunteers and community groups are combining forces to connect with homeless residents and care for people in need. On Tuesday, Jan. 17 at Memorial Coliseum, representatives from over 40 companies and social agencies will match people in need of assistance to various on-site services.

Project Homeless Connect was inspired by the way the community mobilized to welcome and care for evacuees from Hurricane Katrina, mobilizing citizens to directly link compassion and essential services to people in dire straits.

Much needed medical, dental, legal, addiction and housing counseling services will be provided by professional volunteers during the event. Other services like long distance phone calls will be available thanks to the donations of a growing list of corporate sponsors.

Mayor Tom Potter, City Commissioner Erik Sten and County Commissioner Serena Cruz Walsh are putting the full force of local governments behind the effort.

"This event coincides with the one year mark of Portland and Multnomah County's 10 Year

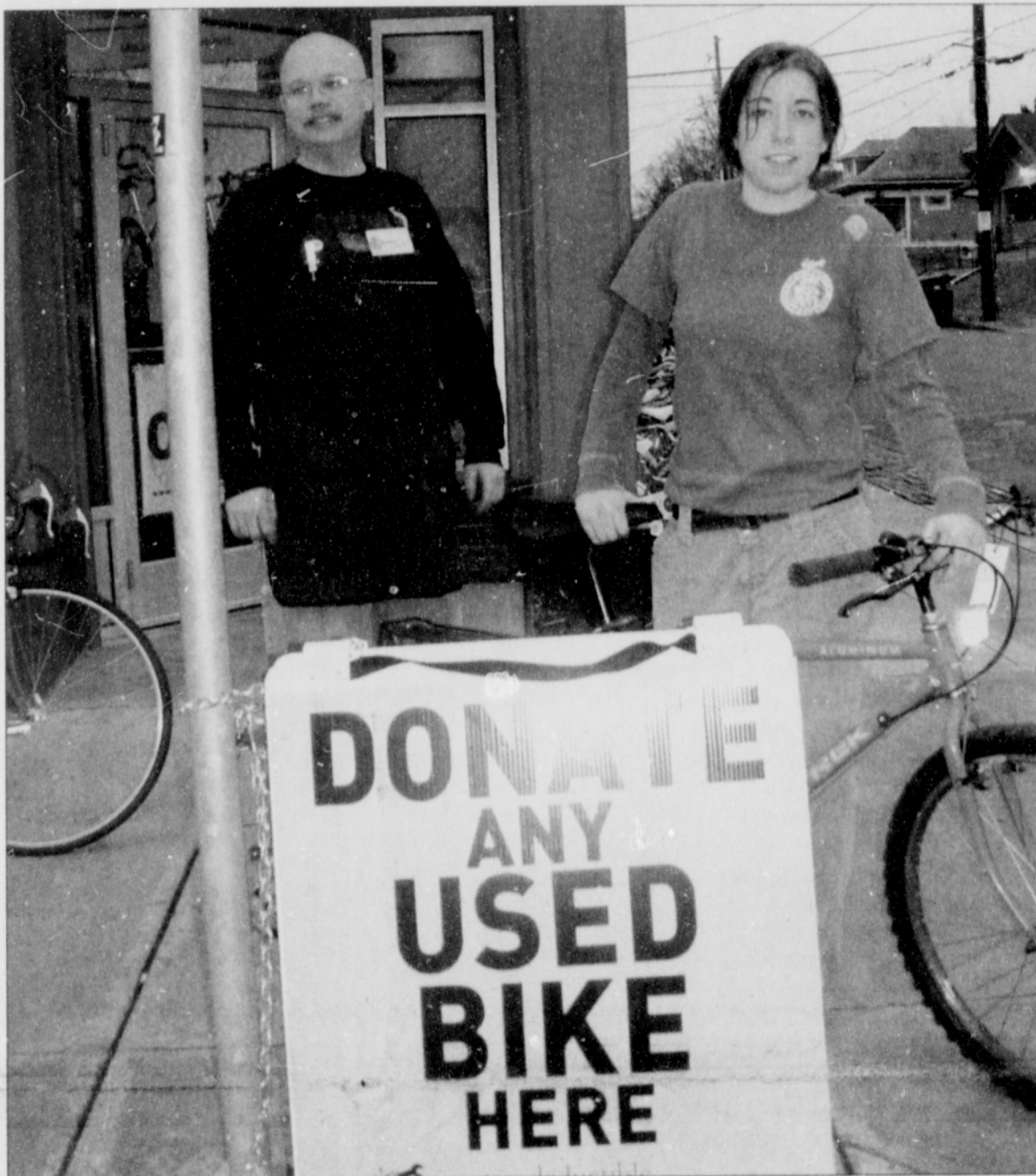


PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
Sara Loreno and Larry Meyers of the Community Cycling Center on Northeast Alberta Street make bicycles a transportation option for the homeless or anyone in need of affordable transportation. The center is volunteering its services to a new effort to end homelessness in Portland.

Plan to End Chronic Homelessness," said Mayor Tom Potter.

"With the resources the city invested last year in this effort and the phenomenal work of our local service agencies, we have far surpassed our initial goals of getting long-term homeless people directly off the street and in to supportive housing," added Sten.

Walsh said solving the problem of homelessness "is not only the humane thing to do, but it will reduce all of our costs for public safety, health care, and social services in the long run."

According to officials, there are over 2,300 people on Portland streets any given night.

Project Homeless Connect taps into the energy and commitment of ordinary individuals to help find creative solutions to end homelessness. It is based on the successful experience of San Francisco, where six of these events have been held in the past year and homelessness has been reduced as new housing resources have been identified.

At the beginning of the Project Homeless Connect day, homeless clients will be briefly interviewed as to their current situation and immediate needs. Hands On Portland is recruiting volunteers who are encouraged to sign up through the website portlandhomelessconnect.com.

The growing list of sponsors
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Annual King Tribute Keeps Dream Alive

Celebration sets return to Jefferson auditorium

Greater Portland will join hands to celebrate the life and work of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on Monday, Jan. 16, beginning with a noon National Bell Ringing Ceremony, National Anthems and Color Guards.

World Arts Foundation, Inc. is proud to produce its 21st consecutive tribute to this great American. The program, widely celebrated for its powerful display of diverse local and regional talent, will return to the newly dedicated stage at the Robert Grady



Linda Hornbuckle

Ford Auditorium on the campus of Portland Public School's Jefferson High School Center for the Performing Arts.

This program continues to be recognized locally and nationally as one of the finest community-based celebrations in the U.S. Commemorating the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., "Keep Alive the Dream" strives humbly to give voice to common citizens and acknowledge the ongoing achievements "against all odds" for civil rights and human dignity.

The new Robert Grady Ford Auditorium



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
Portland's annual tribute to Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. returns to the Jefferson High School and a newly dedicated stage at the Robert Grady Ford Auditorium on Monday, Jan. 16.

stage provides a specially suited showcase to feature this year's stars: Saxophonist Dennis Springer who originated with Portland's premier R&B group, Pleasure, and has performed with the likes of Woody Shaw and Grover Washington Jr. His recent albums "On The Path" and "Jazz Gumbo" turn heads as well as hearts with the original melodies and modern jazz technique that is his uniquely. World tour artist Jeffery Minnieweather and local legends Janice Scroggins and Linda Hornbuckle will also take the stage.

A Royal Priesthood from Seattle will return by popular demand with its powerful pulse of gospel and "down home" rhythms. The group has skyrocketed since their performance at last year's "Keep Alive the Dream" celebration.

With great Gospel music being the main currency of the Portland celebration again this year, organizers are delighted to welcome another historic mass choir performance by "Inspirational Sounds and University of Oregon" from Eugene.

"Keep Alive the Dream" reminds us, as

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. did so eloquently and so powerfully, that "we are all bound together in a single garment of destiny; What affects one, affects us all;" and that "Freedom is never free."

Featured speaker Eddie Faye Gates, president emeritus of the North Tulsa Historical Society, the host of the Black Wall Street Exhibit, will address the indomitable spirit of the American people in the active pursuit of justice and democracy.

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