



Chinese Garden Celebrates

The Chinese New Year and the Year of the
Dog brings a month of special events

See Focus inside

Week in
The Review

Alito Nomination Advances

The Judiciary Committee advanced Samuel Alito's Supreme Court nomination to the full Senate Tuesday, ensuring prospects the conservative jurist will join the high court bench. All 10 Republicans voted for Alito, while all eight Democrats voted against him.

Albertson's Sold

Albertson's, the food chain stores, announced Monday that it has entered into a definitive agreement to sell the entire company to Supervalu stores and a consortium of investors for approximately \$17.4 billion in cash, stock and assumed debt.

Belafonte Blasts Bush Again

Entertainer Harry Belafonte, one of the Bush administration's harshest critics, compared the Homeland Security Department to the Nazi Gestapo on Saturday and attacked the president as a liar. See story, page A2.



Rough Road for Ford

Ford Motor Co. announced Monday it would cut 25,000 to 30,000 jobs and close 14 facilities in North America. The automaker has been hurt by falling sales of its profitable sport utility vehicles, growing health care for its employees, materials costs, and labor contracts. See story, page A2.

Fat-Blocking Pill

A pharmaceutical company hopes to begin selling this year a fat-blocking pill directly to millions of overweight Americans who now only have access to a prescription version of the drug. The Food and Drug Administration could approve over-the-counter sales of orlistat in the next few months.

4 Killed in Plane Crash

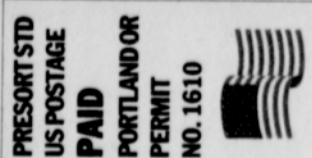
Federal officials say four people were killed in California when a twin-engine plane skidded off an airport runway Tuesday and burst into flames. The jet-engined Cessna 560 was landing at McClellan-Palomar Airport on a flight from Hailey, Idaho when it skidded off the end of a runway.

In Loving Memory

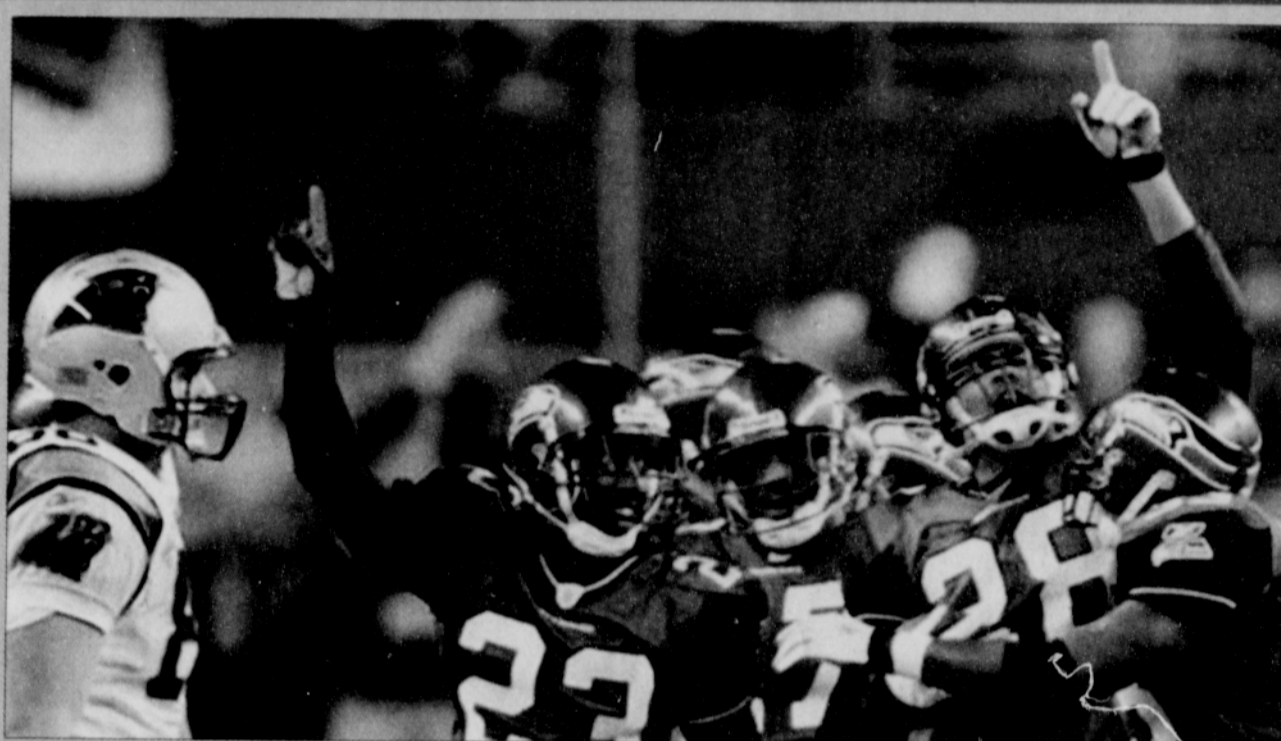


Joyce Washington, late publisher
of the Portland Observer

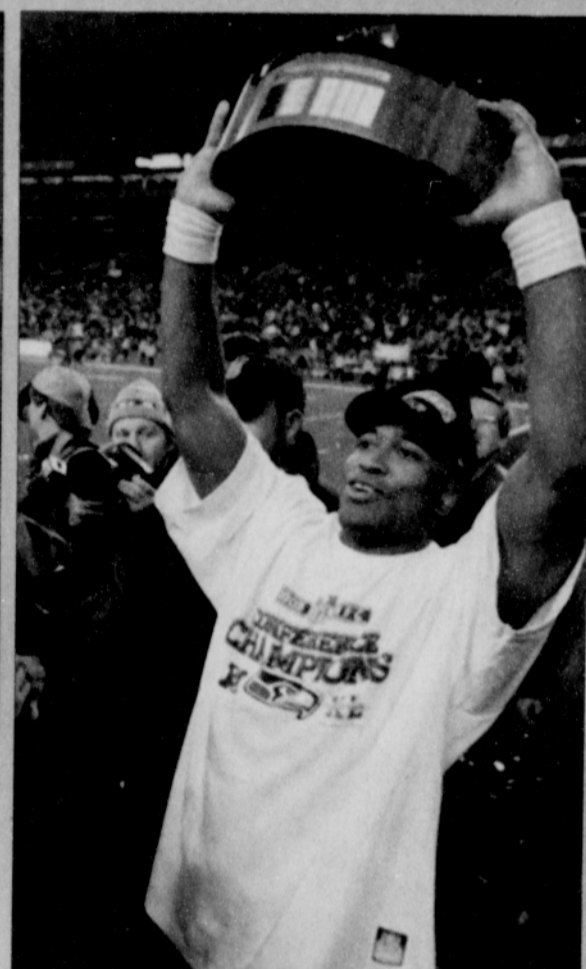
Born: Jan. 23, 1937
Died: March 15, 1996



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Seattle's defensive line celebrate a NFL Championship Sunday that clinched them a Feb. 5 date with Pittsburgh in the Super Bowl. It's the first time Seattle has advanced to the Super Bowl in Seahawks franchise history. See story in Sports, page A6. (AP photo)



Shaun Alexander holds up the NFC Championship trophy after Seattle beat the Carolina Panthers 34-14 Sunday to earn their spot in the Super Bowl, the first ever for the Seahawks. See story in Sports, page A6. (AP photo)

Seattle Seahawks
Super Bowl Bound

Outrage Deepens in Kendra James Case

Ruling called a
'great injustice'

BY SARAH BLOUNT

THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Community outrage deepened last week after another ruling in favor of the officer who shot and killed Kendra James.

Dr. LeRoy Haynes of the Albina Ministerial Alliance's Coalition for Justice said overturning Officer Scott McCollister's suspension was a great injustice.

"To rule on a technicality is a detriment to the total community," said Haynes. "It is clear there is no accountability, and that has to change."

McCollister was awarded back pay for his five and a half month suspension after the 2003 death. Former police chief Mark Kroeker called the shooting tactically unsound, reasoning not shared by Portland police training officers or state arbitrator John C. Truesdale.

Truesdale said the Portland Police Bureau failed to conduct a full internal affairs investigation. There was not enough information refuting testimony that the officer acted appropriately, he wrote.

Portland Police Chief Derrick Foxworth, who was assistant chief at the time of the shooting, had recommended McCollister's termination for unsatisfactory performance.

Foxworth responded to Thursday's ruling by the arbitrator in a statement:

"This incident caused tremendous emotion within the community, and I understand the frustration and hurt people felt in regard to this shooting," he said. "As chief, I respect the due process system and will abide with the arbitrator's decision."

James, 21, was shot on the morning of May 5, 2003 as she tried to drive away from a traffic stop on North Skidmore Street.



Kendra James



Dr. LeRoy Haynes

community groups called for McCollister's prosecution and the bureau disciplined him for exercising poor judgment. However, McCollister was cleared by a grand jury, and in 2005 a federal jury rejected a wrongful death suit brought by James' relatives.

Foxworth urges the community to move forward from the incident in a positive and constructive manner.

"I want to ensure the community and Bureau members that since this incident, the police bureau has implemented numerous changes in regard to its directives, training and use of force."

Foxworth credits the AMA and the community for progress within the bureau, but Haynes said more must be done. The AMA continues to monitor the bureau, and they expect a report soon from Foxworth tracking its progress.

"We are cautiously optimistic about bureau changes," Haynes said. "I think some fundamental changes have taken place, but there also have to be changes in the state law and grand jury system."

Potter
Confronts
Housing
Issues

BY SARAH BLOUNT

THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 was one of Martin Luther King Jr.'s last anti-discrimination initiatives, passed days after his assassination.

Today, fair and affordable housing opportunities remain a struggle for many Portland residents, an issue Mayor Tom Potter is making a priority.

Potter discussed strategies to advance equality in Portland's housing market with the Portland Observer.

He is pushing new efforts by the community, City Council and Portland Development Commission to increase the stock of low income and minority homeowners along with affordable rental housing.

A Homeownership Advisory Committee presentation to the City Council in August 2004 recognized a troubling racial housing

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Mayor Tom Potter attends a YWCA Meals on Wheels site helping Barbara Mahoney, the substitute center manager and kitchen manager Angie Boyd prepare lunch.

PHOTO BY ISAAH BOULE/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Children Come First for Mayor

Leads effort to
support schools

BY KHAYA DARKO

THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Mayor Tom Potter is putting children first as he begins a second year in office.

Potter is leading a local effort to either extend a temporary local income tax to support Portland Public Schools or find some other revenue to keep schools whole. He is working to make housing fair and affordable to low income and minority families and supports policies that reduce the number of children who lack good nutrition and medical care.

Every child deserves decent health, food and good schools, he told the Portland Observer in an exclusive interview.

A former police chief and career public servant, Potter finds himself battling what he sees as an amazing amount of local children that go to bed hungry, are homeless

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