



In a Man's World
Tradeswoman
overcomes obstacles
to succeed
See story, Metro section inside



Super Bowl
Faceoff



Seattle, Pittsburgh match-up profiled
See page A7

The

Portland Observer

'City of Roses'
Volume XXXVI, Number 4

Established in 1970
Committed to Cultural Diversity

www.portlandobserver.com
Wednesday • February 1, 2006

Week in The Review

Ex-Postal Worker Kills Six
A female ex-postal worker opened fire at a mail processing plant in Southern California, killing six people and critically wounding another before committing suicide, authorities said Tuesday. See story, page A2.

Alito Wins Senate Fight



Samuel Anthony Alito Jr. was sworn in as the nation's 110th Supreme Court justice on Tuesday after being confirmed by the Senate in one of the most partisan victories in modern history. Alito was opposed by most Democrats, the NAACP and civil rights groups. See story, page A2

'Brokeback Gets 8 Oscar Nods

The cowboy love story "Brokeback Mountain" led the Academy Awards field Tuesday with eight nominations. Also nominated for best picture were the Truman Capote story "Capote"; the ensemble drama "Crash"; the Edward R. Murrow chronicle "Good Night, and Good Luck"; and the assassination thriller "Munich."

Document Ties Iran to Bomb

A document obtained by Iran on the nuclear black market serves no other purpose than to make an atomic bomb, the International Atomic Energy Agency said Tuesday.

Wage Increases are Small

Wages and benefits paid to civilian workers rose last year by the smallest amount in nine years, the government reported Tuesday. The Labor Department said that employee compensation was up 3.1 percent in 2005, an increase that was slower than the 3.7 percent rise in 2004.

Fed Raises Interest Rate

The Federal Reserve on Tuesday nudged a key interest rate up to the highest level in nearly five years and left the door open for at least one more rate hike as Alan Greenspan brought his long tenure as chairman to a close.

Olympic Villages Open

The three Olympic villages that will house some 5,000 athletes and officials during the Winter Games opened Tuesday, 10 days before the Turin Games opening ceremony.

Oil Workers Released

An American and three other foreign oil workers held hostage for two weeks were released Monday after a secessionist leader appealed to their captors, who had demanded southern Nigerians benefit more from their region's energy wealth.

First Lady of Peace



Coretta Scott King, pictured May 16, 2004 at commencement exercises at Northeast Conservatory of Music in Boston, battled to preserve the legacy of her slain husband, civil rights legend Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

World mourns Coretta Scott King

(AP) — Coretta Scott King, who turned a life shattered by her husband's assassination into one devoted to enshrining his legacy of human rights and equality, is being remembered as one of the most influential woman leaders in our world today.

The wife of slain civil rights leader Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. died Tuesday at the age of 78.

"We appreciate the prayers and condolences from people across the country," the King family said in a statement.

Mrs. King suffered a serious stroke and heart attack last August.

"It's a bleak morning for me and for many people and yet it's a great morning because we have a chance to look at her and see what she did and who she was," poet Maya Angelou said on ABC's "Good Morning America."

"It's bleak because I can't - many of us can't hear her sweet voice - but it's great because she did live, and she was ours. I mean African-Americans and white Americans and Asians, Spanish-speaking - she belonged to us and that's a great thing," Angelou said.

King died at Santa Monica Hospital, a

holistic health center in Rosarito Beach, Mexico, 16 miles south of San Diego, said her sister, Edythe Scott Bagley of Cheyney, Penn. She had gone to California to rest and be with family, according to Former Atlanta Mayor Andrew Young, who broke the news on NBC's "Today" show. At a news conference, Young said Coretta King's fortitude rivaled that of her husband.

"She was strong if not stronger than he was," Young said. "She lived a graceful and beautiful life, and in spite of all of the difficulties, she managed a graceful and beautiful passing."

She was a supportive lieutenant to her husband during the most tumultuous days of the American civil rights movement, and after his assassination in Memphis, Tenn., on April 4, 1968, she kept his dream alive while also raising their four children.

"I'm more determined than ever that my husband's dream will become a reality," King said soon after his slaying. She goaded and pulled for more than a decade to have her husband's birthday observed as a national holiday, first celebrated in 1986.

continued ▼ on page A5

Black History Month Special

Promoting Equal Justice for 61 Years

Urban League of Portland adjusts mission to endure

BY SARAH BLOUNT
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The Urban League of Portland, entering its 61st year, has endured a tumultuous history of fighting racism, as discrimination has reared its head in many different shapes and forms.

When the National Urban League opened an office in Portland in 1945, the city was relatively inexperienced in racial issues. Scarce post-war employment had introduced tensions between the recent influx of southern black citizens, who had immigrated to Portland for the war shipbuilding business.

In 1945, a local alliance of black business leaders, including Dr. DeNorval Unthank, recruited Edwin C. "Bill" Berry from the National Ur-



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Vanessa Gaston is Chief Executive Officer for the Urban League of Portland, the city's premier civil rights organization.

ban League in New York. The national organization was created in 1910 to enable economic self-reliance, parity and civil rights.

Throughout the 1940s, Berry helped Portland's African Americans find jobs in a community holding on to its "white only" attitude.

The league's evolving role in Portland over the next 60 years plays like different chapters of a novel; each decade brought about radical new struggles and anti-discrimination victories, but putting an end to racism has been the common thread of every social agenda.

The league's spent its first 20 years focusing on fair employment and housing discrimination. By the 1960s, the local organization had developed as an active arm in the Civil Rights movement. As the dust of that decade settled and legally sanctioned racism began to wane, the government launched a war on poverty. An influx of government funding allowed the league to

create a number of social programs to help disadvantaged youth.

Gangs, skinheads and ensuing drug problems of the 1980s permanently altered Portland's streets, and this new set of social strife created a long-standing rift between the community and Portland police. The league, enjoying an increase in government and corporate funding, created several programs aimed at environmental, health and educational justice.

By the end of the 1990s, however, social programs across the nation were losing the government's investment. By 1999, mismanaged funds and a thinly spread focus nearly forced the Portland league to shut its doors.

In the past few years, the league has taken on an almost tunnel-vision approach to reverse its decline and ensure survival in an era of competitive non-profits and dwindling funds.

In 2003, new Chief Executive Of-

continued ▼ on page A6

Killingsworth Chapel to Become Brewpub

McMenamin's adds site to its empire

BY SARAH BLOUNT
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

In the tradition of serving up microbrews at historic locales, local pub kings Mike and Brian McMenamin are setting up shop at the Killingsworth Little Chapel of the Chimes, an iconic building that recently ended its services as a funeral home.

Along with a new restaurant and bar, McMenamin's is relocating its Northeast

Glisan headquarters to the chapel at 430 N. Killingsworth, citing a need for more space.

McMenamin's marketing director Renee Rank said the Killingsworth pub will seat 100, with a full bar and outdoor patio.

Unfortunately they can't call it the Little Chapel of the Chimes under a purchasing agreement for the 1933 building, and a new name and theme has yet to be determined, Rank said.

The pub will join 52 other McMenamin pubs and hotels across Oregon and Washington, including the popular McMenamin Kennedy School on Northeast 33rd Avenue.



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The microbrew restaurants giant McMenamin's has purchased the historic Killingsworth Little Chapel of the Chimes.

The company expects to complete the move by late spring or early summer.

The Killingsworth chapel was closed on

Aug. 15 with funeral services consolidated with the Ross Hollywood Chapel at 4733 N.E. Thompson St.

PRESORTED STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
PORTLAND, OR
PERMIT
NO. 1610



Oregon Newspaper Project
UO Library
1299 University of Oregon
Eugene, OR 97403-1299