Bring Troops Home

Local leaders say money can be better spent See Metro section

Soul-Stirring Christmas

Local choirs join Oregon
Symphony in concert
See Metro section



Fortland Observer

Volume XXXVI, Number 49

Established in 1970
Committed to Cultural Diversity

www.portlandobserver.com Wednesday • December 6, 2006

Week in Review

9 Awards for R&B Diva



Mary J. Blige's chart-topping comeback album "The Breakthrough" landed the R&B diva a leading nine honors at

this year's Billboard Music Awards, including R&B/Hip-Hop artist of the year, female R&B artist of the year and R&B/Hip-Hop album of the year. See story, page B6.

U.S. Jails Millions

A record seven million people — or one in every 32 American adults — were behind bars, on probation or on parole by the end of last year, according to the Justice Department. See story, page A2.

Shootings Probe Wanted



The Rev. Al Sharpton calledforacongressional probe of police shooting policies as he joined activists Sunday

outside the Atlanta, Ga. home of an elderly woman killed by narcotics police officers who burst into her home unannounced. See story, page A2.

Oregon Sallor Gullty

An Oregon sailor accused of stealing a Navy laptop and peddling its classified contents pleaded guilty Monday to espionage and other charges. Petty Officer 3rd Class Ariel J. Weinmann, 22, of Salem, faces life in prison without parole, a dishonorable discharge from the Navy and forfeiture of all pay.

Holiday Toy Safety

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission has issued its annual toy safety tips for consumer use during the holidays and throughout the year. See story, page A6.

Katrina Body Found

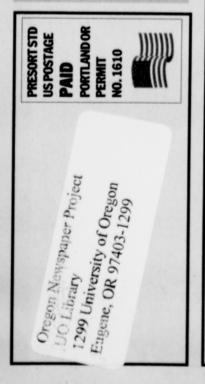
Workers demolishing houses in the 9th Ward of New Orleans found a body thought to be that of a Hurricane Katrina victim. The discovery could be the 28th Katrina body found in the city since March.

UN Ambassador Resigns



Unable to win Senate confirmation, U.N. Ambassador John Bolton will step down when his temporary ap-

pointment expires within weeks, the White House said Monday. Critics have questioned Bolton's brusque style.



Big Hit

Khalia Moore visits Chocolate Santa, aka Stanley Williams at the Miracles Club in northeast Portland.

PHOTO BY
ISAIAH BOUIE/
THE PORTLAND
OBSERVER

He calls himself Chocolate Santa and Stanley Williams has become a big hit with local children as well as bringing out the kid in adults.

Santa makes stops on weekends at the Miracles Club, 4069 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., to celebrate the Christmas season and is known to travel throughout the city, surprising anyone from college students to senior citi-

At Miracles, he poses for pictures

with photographer Tracey Stadamire, who welcomes a black Santa as an inspiration to the city's diverse culture.

Kids and adults can visit Chocolate Santa at the Miracles Club again this weekend.

Free Internet Begins

Wireless starts downtown and close-in eastside

A new wireless service that will eventually provide free internet access to almost every Portland resident was officially turned on in Portland Tuesday.

Initial coverage will include a two-square mile area of downtown centered on Pioneer Courthouse Square, as well as much of the Buckman, Lloyd and Kerns neighborhoods in inner southeast and northeast Portland.

The firm MetroFi is building the ad-supported network.

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Friends and supporters of civil liberties rally for justice Monday outside Pioneer Courthouse in the case of a Patrice Lumumba Ford, a local African American sentenced to 18 years in prison for sedition.

PHOTOS BY ISAIAH BOUIE/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Political Imprisonment Charged Local man called Mostly African American Muslims, were going Afghanistan to fight American forces. The mostly African American forces. The mostly African American forces. The mostly Afghanistan to fight American forces.

Victim in war on terror
BY SARAH BLOUNT

THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A federal appeals hearing took place in Portland on Monday for Patrice Lumumba Ford, one of the "Portland Six" who was sentenced to 18 years in a federal prison as one of the government's first victims in the war on terror.

Ford, a lifelong Portland resident, was charged with sedition for trying to unsuccessfully go to Afghanistan from China in Oct. 2001, before the U.S. invaded the country.

A full courtroom left many friends and supporters of civil liberties outside the Pioneer Courthouse to offer support to Ford's family, who for years have been politically active in Portland, including his father, Kent, who was a Black Panther.

Ford has been incarcerated since his initial arrest on Oct. 4, 2002. The U.S attorney who prosecuted the case argued he and five other men,



Patrice Lumumba Ford's father, Kent Ford of Portland, thanks supporters for their prayers.

mostly African American Muslims, were going to Afghanistan to fight American forces. The men claimed they merely wanted to help at the Afghani refugee camps

Ford was originally offered a five-year sentence in a plea bargain, but that offer was withdrawn, presumably after former Attorney General John Ashcroft's intervention, and he faced a maximum 20-year sentence.

The U.S. 9th Circuit Court has agreed to hear an appeal of Ford's sentence on grounds that it was excessive. He is being represented by a new lawyer, Shaun McCrea of Eugene. McCrea argued that the sentencing guidelines for treason were erroneously applied in Ford's case. Previously, Ford tried to obtain habeas relief on the grounds of ineffective assistance of counsel but the U.S. District Court denied that appeal.

The issue at Monday's hearing was whether the advice of Ford's former attorney affected the sentencing.

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