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37
years of
community serviceSpecial
Coverage
IssueBlack
History
MonthTwo Hot Weeks
of Portland JazzFestival opens Friday with
Chick Corea and Gary Burton

See Metro inside

The
City of Roses

The Portland Observer

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Wednesday • February 14, 2007Week in
The ReviewNew
dollar
coin

New Dollar Coin Debuts

It's not easy overcoming people's indifference to dollar coins. An AP-Ipsos poll found that three-fourths of people surveyed oppose replacing the dollar bill with a dollar coin. A new version of the coin, paying tribute to American presidents, goes into general circulation Thursday.

Local Soldier Dies in Iraq

The Defense Department has announced the death of a Portland soldier in Afghanistan. Sgt. Long N. Nguyen, 27, died Feb. 10 of what officials called a "non-combat related wound." Nguyen was born in Vietnam but moved to America when he was 3. He graduated from Madison High School in 1996.

Fierce Debate on Iraq War

House members fiercely debated Iraq war policy Tuesday in an emotional and historic floor faceoff over a conflict that Speaker Nancy Pelosi lambasted as a U.S. commitment with "no end in sight." See story, page A2.

Bush Called an Alcoholic

Al-Qaida's No. 2 said President Bush was an alcoholic and a lying gambler who wagered on Iraq and lost, according to a new audiotape released Tuesday by a U.S. group that tracks extremist messages.

Frenzy over Playmate Death

Fans of Anna Nicole Smith aren't making pilgrimages to the place where she spent her final days.

They're not leaving flowers. They're not gathering in crowds to express their grief. Instead, emotions are being expressed on blogs, Web pages and online message boards. See story, page A2.

Marijuana Eases Foot Pain

Smoking marijuana eased HIV-related pain in some patients in a small study that nevertheless represented one of the few rigorous attempts to find out if the drug has medicinal benefits. See story, page A2.

Teen Goes on Rampage

An 18-year-old gunman killed five people and wounded four at a Salt Lake City shopping mall Monday before being shot dead by an off-duty police officer.

Sen. Obama Launches White House Bid

Evokes Lincoln to unite a nation

(AP) - Barack Obama announced his bid for president Saturday evoking Abraham Lincoln's ability to unite a nation and portraying himself as a fresh face capable of leading a new generation.

"Let us transform this nation," he told thousands shivering in the cold at the campaign's kickoff Saturday at the Old State Capitol in Springfield, Ill., the historic statehouse of Abraham Lincoln.

Obama, 45, began his elective career 10 years ago in the Illinois Legislature. The first-term U.S. senator sought to distinguish himself as a staunch opponent of the Iraq war and a White House hopeful whose lack of political experience is an asset.

"I know I haven't spent a lot of time learning the ways of Washington. But I've been there long enough to know that the ways of Washington must change," Obama said to some of the loudest applause of his 20-minute speech.

In his speech, Obama did not mention his roots as the son of a man from Kenya and a woman from Kansas, his childhood in Hawaii and Indonesia or the history he would make as the first African American to hold the highest office in the land if elected. That compelling biography has turned him into a political celebrity.



Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., waves to spectators as he arrives to announce his candidacy for president of the United States at the Old State Capitol in Springfield, Ill., the historic statehouse of Abraham Lincoln.

ling biography has turned him into a political celebrity.

Instead, he focused on his life in Illinois over the past two decades, beginning with a job as a community organizer with a \$13,000-a-year salary that strengthened his Christian faith. He said the struggles he saw people face inspired him to get

A Multicultural Life

See related story, page A5

a law degree and run for the Legislature, where he served eight years.

"We can build a more hopeful America. And that is why, in the

shadow of the Old State Capitol, where Lincoln once called on a

house divided to stand together, where common hopes and common

dreams still live, I stand before you today to announce my candidacy for President of the United States of America," Obama said. His voice rose to a shout as he spoke over the cheers from thousands who braved temperatures in the teens.

"I know it's a little chilly, but I'm fired up," Obama said as he took the podium with his wife Michelle and daughters Malia, 8, and Sasha, 5, with U2's "City of Blinding Lights" blaring on the speakers.

Obama gained national recognition with the publication of two best-selling books, "Dreams From My Father" and "The Audacity of Hope," and by delivering the keynote address at the Democratic National Convention in 2004 -- the same year he was elected to the Senate. His optimistic message and personal story immediately sparked talk of his White House potential.

He spoke of reshaping the economy for the digital age, investing in education, protecting employee benefits, insuring those who do not have health care, ending poverty, weaning America from foreign oil and fighting terrorism while rebuilding global alliances. But he said the first priority must be to end the war in Iraq.

"American lives can resolve the political disagreement that lies at the heart of someone else's civil

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Morning Star Church Rises from the Ashes

Faith community unites in the wake of tragedy

BY SARAH BLOUNT

THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A wind blew down northeast Portland on Sunday carrying the scent of charred rubble and mixed with the powerful words of a special service at Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church.

A makeshift tent stood just behind the burned out remains of the African American congregation's historic church at 106 N.E. Ivy St. The temporary canvas walls shook with the thunder of evangelical and community support.

Just a few days earlier, around midnight on Feb. 5, an explosion and nearly instant inferno brought a heavy toll. Investigators still cannot provide answers for the fire that destroyed the turn-of-the-century brick building. But the first Sunday service following the tragedy illustrated how the suffering of one congregation can bring an entire faith community together to recoup, rejoice and eventually rebuild.

Attendance at the church usually hovers around 140 to 170 people, but grew to nearly 500 when church members and leaders throughout north and northeast Portland joined the special service.

Following his early morning service, Pastor Mark Knutson of Augustana Lutheran



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Marci Jackson leads parishioners and visitors at Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church in prayer during a special Sunday service following a fire that destroyed the historical church in northeast Portland.

Church led members of his congregation from Northeast 15th Avenue and Knott to Morning Star, standing in solidarity with

Johnson, who is a fellow member of the

multi-congregation Albina Ministerial Alliance.

"They've been inspirational to us," Knutson said. "Every congregation shud-

ders to think this could happen to them, but what they did in the midst was a great

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Father Says Son was Tortured to Death

Wants police limits on use of force

BY WILLIAM MCCALL

Calling it a "tortured death," the family of a mentally ill Portland man who died in police custody have filed a federal lawsuit seeking to change the city's policy on the use of force.

The complaint seeks changes to limit the use of deadly force and foot pursuits. It also seeks to establish an independent

oversight panel for reviewing deaths in custody, along with an intervention system to monitor officers who use excessive force.

A request for damages for alleged civil rights violations and wrongful death would be determined at trial.

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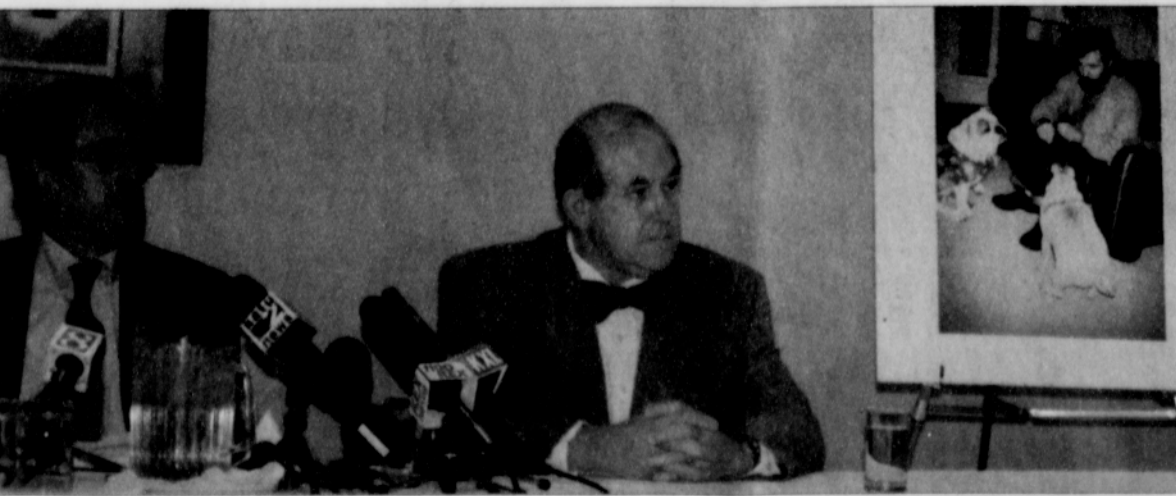


PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

James Chasse Sr. (left) with his family's attorney Tom Steenson hold a press conference Thursday to address a federal court lawsuit they have filed over the police custody death of Chasse's mentally ill son. A picture of James A. Chasse Jr. hangs on the wall.

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